

LONG-TERM FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS CONTINUE

West Virginia is continuing long-term flood recovery efforts, and coordination of recovery cases is imperative to reaching every survivor and ensuring resources are available for the duration. There are eight county-wide Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs), which work to ensure that recovery efforts are coordinated and collaborative. CCWVa is a partner agency of several of the LTRCs, and as such, staff sit on the LTRC and help with the coordination of case information and disaster case management. In addition, as the LTRCs are beginning to assign volunteer work teams to cases, CCWVa is providing seed funds to the LTRCs to use for building supplies for the work teams to complete their assigned job.



Volunteers hang drywall in a flood-damaged home in Richwood



Volunteers work under a damaged mobile home to restore its foundation blocks and replace insulation

As long-term recovery advances, more intensive disaster case management is crucial. LTRC partner agencies Disaster Case Managers (DCM) are assigned to cases by the LTRC. The DCMs work with the survivors to develop their plan to recovery. They walk with the survivors throughout the recovery process and help with volunteer labor and funding for building materials, personal property replacements (e.g. appliances), and contractors when projects require more skilled labor.

CCWVa is well-positioned to help people in the long-term, and the agency is committed to ensuring that all of the flood-affected areas throughout the state receive the help they need for recovery.

KEEPING CHRIST IN CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

In the Catholic Church, our liturgical calendar is coming to an end. We are gearing up for our New Year; the beginning of Advent. It is important to take stock at the beginning of the year – secular and religious – and so we offer this reflection...

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we partner with other faith organizations, secular organizations, and the state and federal government. But what does it mean to be “Catholic” when so many of our staff, volunteers, partners and clients do not identify as such? Most importantly, we are guided by the teaching of the Church; we are called to *do* certain things, and *prohibited* from doing others. More generally, and on a day-to-day basis, we use the following values as our measuring stick. We invite you, our supporters, to join us in reflecting on these values.

Dignity	How do I show my family, friends, clients and colleagues that I honor them?
Justice	In what ways do I work for justice within my role in my family and in society?
Compassion	The root of the word compassion means to “suffer with.” How do I care for those around me in such a way that shows my acceptance of their suffering as if it was my own?
Hope	What hope am I able to offer? What hope do I receive from others?
Charity	Charity is love. In what ways do I show generous charity to everyone I encounter?
Quality	How do I use and expand my knowledge, skills, and talents to carry out my responsibility to my neighbors?

So often, people involved in the mission of CCWVa are asked whether we serve non-Catholics. The answer is: OF COURSE! At CCWVa, our Catholic identity is *why* we serve, and has no bearing on *who* we serve. The root of the word “Catholic” is “Universal” --- and we strive to live this fully!

AGENCY INVITES ALL TO 'BE WITH US' THROUGH APPEAL

Catholic Charities
West Virginia is open to all people regardless of their race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, marital or family status.

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) annual appeal is underway, and the agency is inviting all people to join in its vision of hope for West Virginia by contributing to its 'Be With Us' appeal.

"We invite all people to be with us in charity and in our mission to alleviate poverty, distress and injustice," said Mark Sliter, executive director of CCWVa. "Through the generosity of our donors, we are able to create and provide sustainable and comprehensive social services in many West Virginia communities."

"Annual contributions to this appeal directly impact the amount of assistance CCWVa offers to those in need and those seeking to improve their lives," said Patti Phillips, director of development and marketing of CCWVa.

"This year Mother Teresa was canonized St. Teresa of Calcutta. Throughout her life St. Teresa was a champion of the poor," said Sliter. "Let us be inspired by her legacy, and serve the poor, making room at the table for everyone."

"Through this appeal, we are asking you to 'Be With Us' and help improve the well-being of all people in need," said Phillips.

The traditional second collection at Christmas liturgies throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will go toward this appeal.

Donations can also be made online at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org, or by calling 1-888-900-2989.



Needed Items
Canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix & syrup, dried beans, soups, crackers, coffee, tea, dry pasta, personal and cleaning supplies

WellnessWorks:
Low-sodium products, sugar free products, whole grain pastas, canned fruits in light syrup, fresh produce

Deliver donations to
1226 Market St.
Parkersburg, WV
26101

or by credit card online at
CatholicCharitiesWV.org
1-888-900-2989



UNITED WAY PARTNERSHIPS INTEGRAL TO CCWVA

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) services that aim to alleviate, prevent and reduce poverty in West Virginia rely on many partnerships and collaborations to ensure it is addressing the real and unique issues and needs of a particular local community. CCWVa local outreach staff and United Way agencies throughout the state work in partnership with other community stakeholders to identify broad community needs, develop networks of assistance to improve the lives of the people in each community and look to affect lasting change for the better.

These partnerships create opportunities for CCWVa to build comprehensive service networks that make the most of resources by linking clients to other assistance partners that may be able to address the sometimes complex and varied needs of those seeking assistance. In addition, CCWVa enjoys being a funded partner with eight United Way agencies for 14 counties. These grant funds provide valuable resources for specific and localized CCWVa programs and services. Lastly, annual donor-designated charitable gift payroll deductions that are available to employees of United Way corporate partners offer both localized funding and broad or greatest need funding for CCWVa.

CCWVa sees partnerships as an integral part of ensuring that resources, both human and fiscal, are maximized, and that programs are addressing the complex and specific needs of the people in rural and populated communities throughout the state. CCWVa enjoys great partnerships with United Way agencies in the local communities and with the larger agency to ensure needs are met, and the relationships endure.

PARKERSBURG REGION STAFF

Regional Director, Deborah Shaffer; Program Assistant, Mara Capati; New Martinsville Outreach Coordinator, Chasity Means; AmeriCorps Member, David Joy

Our Mission is to alleviate poverty, distress, and injustice by providing comprehensive social services to the poor and vulnerable, advocating for social justice, and calling all people of good will, especially those of the Church, to service.