

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES WORKS TO PROVIDE COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY

Several programs fall under the umbrella of Catholic Charities WV and now two of those programs in the Parkersburg Region are working together to meet the needs of the less fortunate. The Homemaker and Case Management program provides in-home care for elderly and disabled individuals. It is a comfort to the clients and their families when our certified staff makes regular visits to the home to assist with daily personal care as well as to check on their loved ones. The regional office was recently able to put a son who lived out of town in touch with the local Meals For Wheels program for a family member. The regional office also contacts the Homemakers staff when calls are received for referrals for in-home care and the Homemaker staff contacts the regional office if a need for food or help with utility bills arises.



The two programs are currently in the planning phase for a new program that will use volunteers from local parishes to do minor home repairs for clients of the Homemaker and Case Management Program. The idea was first suggested by Fred Esker, a member of the Catholic Charities Regional Advisory Council. Volunteers will be recruited and trained on the social teachings and mission of Catholic Charities as well as all volunteers will be required to take the VIRTUS training and submit to a background check. Typical tasks may include the repair of a broken window pane, a toilet or faucet drip, and change light bulbs and batteries in smoke detectors. Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer can call the Parkersburg regional office at 304-424-3457 Ext. 130.

## REGIONAL OFFICE CALLED INTO ACTION FOR CHARLESTON WATER CRISIS

The Parkersburg Regional Office responded to the call for assistance during the Charleston water crisis. Deborah Shaffer, Regional Director and Luke Sulfridge, Mobile Outreach Coordinator drove to Charleston on Saturday, January 11 with the Mobile Outreach van filled with 85 cases of water, 20 gallons of distilled water for medical devices, and 150 containers of hand sanitizers. The supplies were delivered to the Rev. Msgr. Edward Sadie at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. The supplies were used by the downtown soup kitchen as well as others in need within the community.



A special thanks is extended to the two Parkersburg Wal-Mart stores for water donations. This was the fourth disaster the office has responded to in the past nineteen months.

## NEW MARTINSVILLE OFFICE PROVIDES FOR ALL AGES

The New Martinsville office has made a big impact on the lives of folks in Wetzel and Tyler Counties. Pam Billeter, outreach worker, coordinates the outreach efforts with 20 area churches and organizations to meet the needs of the people who walk through the door. The office, located on the campus of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, is open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 9 am - 4 pm and provides assistance with utilities and food. Pam also annually coordinates a community supported backpack program, Secret Santa, and Easter basket drive. More than 325 children received Christmas gifts in 2013 thanks to her efforts.

Serving Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wetzel, Wirt & Wood Counties

**Parkersburg (304) 424-3457**

**New Martinsville (304) 455-9740**

www.catholiccharitieswv.org



Spring 2014

Parkersburg + New Martinsville

**PARKERSBURG REGION**

## HOW CAN I HELP?

Catholic Charities West Virginia honors the dignity of the human person and embraces society with our doors open to all regardless of religious, ethnic or social background. We work together and offer our compassion while standing for justice and peace.

Your contribution is essential to our efforts to reduce poverty in the Mountain State; whether you serve in diocesan parish ministries, as a community volunteer, as a donor to Catholic Charities WV, or in prayer for the poor and vulnerable in our midst.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Fundraising  
Assist with installation of community garden  
Food drives

### Needed Supplies

Non-perishable food  
Personal hygiene items  
Laminator

Donations can be made to the Parkersburg Region Office at

521 Market Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101

or by credit card online at [www.catholiccharitieswv.org](http://www.catholiccharitieswv.org)

or call 1-888-900-2989



or join us on Facebook

## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY EXPANDS

After many months of planning, the Mobile Outreach and WellnessWorks Food Pantry offered the first food distribution at the Greenwood Fire Department in Doddridge County on March 25. Twelve volunteers were trained earlier in the month to offer this service. It is anticipated this will quickly become one of the largest mobile food pantry sites as 60 families have already been identified as in need of the service.



### Feinstein Foundation Annual \$1 Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger

Join the Feinstein Challenge! All donations to CCWVa designated for hunger relief during March & April of this year may be matched by the Feinstein Foundation. Donations to CCWVa's food pantries will be counted and included in CCWVa's application for the matching grant.

## WE ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE

The Parkersburg Regional staff recently had the opportunity to partner with two groups to raise awareness about social and legislative issues that affect our most vulnerable population, the children. A **Cost Of Poverty Experience** was sponsored for the community by the AmeriCorps workers and the Circles Campaign of the Mid-Ohio Valley. Catholic Charities provided assistance with the event by serving as role players. The event gave people the opportunity to simulate a month in the life of a person who lives below the poverty level. Tina Thomas, a local woman became involved with the Circles Campaign through a referral from Catholic Charities. She is now serving as an AmeriCorps worker with the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Dept. Tina attributes her climb from poverty to self-sufficiency to CCWVa's referral.



*AmeriCorps worker Tina Thomas and her family*

In February, CCWVa, also, co-hosted a public forum with *Our Children...Our Future*. The forum addressed legislative issues that would affect the children of WV. State Senator Donna Boley and

House of Delegate Tom Azinger attended the event and presented their views of the issues. Some of the legislative issues that were supported by the initiative included the elimination of soda pop from the approved SNAP food list and the addition of 30 minutes of physical activity to the school schedule.

Catholic Charities will continue to look for ways to improve the lives of the residents in our communities.

## PARKERSBURG REGION STAFF

**Regional Office**—521 Market St., Parkersburg, WV 26101 (304) 424-3457 Ext. 130  
Deborah Shaffer, MA, Regional Director

Luke Sufridge, MA, MS, Mobile Outreach Coordinator

Karen Matthews, LifeBridge AmeriCorps Member

Pam Billeter, Outreach Worker

*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.