

WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY



We recently shared the story of Amanda, one of our case management clients who was committed to changing her circumstances. This past spring, we shared how Amanda had passed her High School Equivalency exam through the support of Sr. Binh Nguyen, CCWVa McDowell County Case Manager. Her accomplishments didn't end there, and we have an update on her progress.

After graduation, Amanda secured a part-time job at the local Wal-Mart pharmacy, and then set a new goal. Amanda is now a certified pharmacy technician, and works full-time in the pharmacy at Wal-Mart. When asked about her self-motivation, Amanda responded, "At the lowest point in my life, I asked myself if I wanted to be like this for the rest of my life, and the answer was no. I then decided I

had to take the steps to make positive changes."

Amanda refuses to be held hostage by her past, but is instead motivated toward creating a better future for herself and her family. She firmly sets realistic goals, and makes great efforts to accomplish them. Her success is inspirational, especially for her own teenagers, who are very proud of their mother. Her accomplishments under difficult situations prove the old saying, "Where there's a will, there's a way."

BECKLEY DAY OF HOPE AND BACKPACK PROGRAM

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa)'s Southern Region was one of over 35 vendors from local churches, businesses and social service agencies who participated in the Beckley Day of Hope in August. Approximately 3,000 people attended the event, along with 1,000 volunteers. The event included free refreshments, a children's carnival area, medical and dental services, job placement, family portraits, haircuts, and distribution of 35,000 pounds of food. Those in attendance were encouraged to overcome their obstacles, as organizations worked with them to find solutions for the challenges before them. Catholic Charities, along with volunteers from St. Francis de Sales Church in Beckley, distributed brochures outlining the services offered in Raleigh County, and also distributed backpacks stuffed with school supplies to 100 children.



In addition to distributing backpacks at the Beckley Day of Hope, CCWVa also provided 400 backpacks stuffed with school supplies to needy children in Greenbrier, Raleigh, McDowell and Summers counties. Regional Director, Carol Bailey, commented, "This program provides school supplies for children who otherwise may not have the tools necessary to succeed in school." Thanks to all who provided generous donations, both in-kind and monetary, and to our area partner agencies who assisted with distribution.

WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY

GAUDIOSA
 (gow-de-o-sa) n. Joyous Feast

2016

Saturday, April 16

Contact Jasmine Lo for tickets & sponsorship info.
 800.888.2586 or gaudiosa@wju.edu

VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING SERVICE

July – September 2015

Volunteers: 115

Service Hours: 1131

FAMILIES RECEIVING SERVICE

July – September 2015

Food: 1,623 Families

Utilities: 139 Families

Housing: 4 Families

Other: 208 Families

Total 1,770 Families

Working to reduce poverty in WV Counties of

Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Raleigh, Summers & Wyoming

Princeton (304) 425-4306 | Eckman (304) 862-3320 | Hinton (304) 466-2110

Greenbrier (304) 536-4177 | Beckley (304) 425-4306

MCDOWELL CASE MANAGEMENT FAMILIES REAP THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR

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.

Volunteer Opportunities
Regional Advisory Council
Parish Social Ministry
Food pantry volunteer
Office support
Mentor

Needed Supplies
Non-perishable food
Cleaning supplies
Personal hygiene items
School supplies

Mail donations to Southern Region Office
at
PO Box 386
Princeton, WV 24740

or by credit card online at

CatholicCharitiesWV.org
1-888-900-2989



Three McDowell County case management families have taken the initial steps on their journey to becoming self-sufficient by meeting with McDowell County organic farmers Sky Edwards, Johnathan Steven Cox, and Felicia Noelle Blevins. The farmers shared their expertise on organic farming with the families, who were eager to start their own home-grown organic vegetable gardens.

Sky explained how important it is to see, witness, and most importantly, to experience the process. The harvest has a great impact when grown from seed to nourishment. He stressed the fact that the seeds, like human's DNA, would carry on to the next generation. The seeds for the next season would come from the seeds of this season. The

most important reason to plant organic gardens are the benefits to our health.

Sr. Binh Nguyen, OP, McDowell County Case Manager, remarked, "We are excited to begin this project, which we hope will carry on to future generations." At the end of gardening season, a potluck dinner was held, with each family preparing a dish utilizing vegetables from their gardens.

One case management family commented, "We enjoyed planting and watching our garden grow, and our children looked forward to harvesting the vegetables. We look forward to next year's planting season." The project has received a generous donation from the McDowell County Catholic Social Ministry Fund held at the Sacred Heart Church in Powhatan.



MCDOWELL AND MERCER COUNTY REPAIRS

A mission team consisting of 17 youth and adults from St. Joseph's Parish in Milton, Pennsylvania, provided repairs for a McDowell County case management family, whose home had numerous deferred maintenance issues. The youth scraped peeling paint and painted stained ceilings. The adults repaired leaky water pipes in the kitchen and bathroom, installed a new shower and ceiling fan, and also donated a new couch to the family.



Sr. Binh Nguyen, McDowell County case manager, was instrumental in connecting the mission team with the family, and expressed thanks from the family to the volunteers.

The mission team also ministered to needy families in Mercer County by distributing school backpacks and clothing to children grades K-8th through the Bluefield Sacred Heart Parish. Non-perishable food items were also donated to the parish's food pantry. St. Joseph's Parish held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser and solicited monetary and in-kind donations from other area churches in order to fund the mission trip to West Virginia.

SOUTHERN REGION STAFF

Regional Director, Carol Bailey; Program Assistant, Nancy Blankenship
Hinton Outreach Coordinator, Earl "Buck" Dodd; Hinton Outreach Worker, Angela Meadows; Greenbrier Case Manager, Peter Hoeman;
McDowell Case Manager, Sister Binh Nguyen; Adult Basic Education Instructor, Gwenn Mayhew; Stevens Correctional Adult Basic Education Instructor, Johnathan Phillips

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.