

MCDOWELL AND RALEIGH COUNTIES INSPIRE HOPE

The McDowell County Community Empowerment Expo, sponsored by McDowell County Delegate Clif Moore, Herbert Henderson from the Office of Minority Affairs, and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, was held at the Welch National Guard Armory on August 12. The Expo is an opportunity to showcase the wonderful resources available in the area, and bring people together in one venue to learn about everything McDowell County has to offer. Information and resources from various health and social service agencies was provided to empower citizens to improve their health and well-being.



Beckley Day of Hope

Another recent community event was the 4th annual Beckley Day of Hope, which was held on August 13 at the Raleigh County Armory. The event was sponsored by representatives from local churches, social service agencies, and law enforcement members, in conjunction with Convoy of Hope, a Christian-based, humanitarian relief organization. Volunteers, businesses, churches, and civic organizations provided free haircuts, shoes, and family portraits, along with health and dental screenings. Staff from the Catholic Charities West Virginia's Southern Regional Office participated in the events and provided school supplies along with information regarding services offered to address the challenges families are facing in McDowell and Raleigh Counties. The events touched the lives of over 3,000 individuals, offering to not only meet the immediate needs they're facing, but to also provide resources for them to build hope for the future.



McDowell County Community Empowerment Expo

FLOOD RECOVERY CONTINUES

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.

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 return them to safe, secure, and stable housing as they re-establish their lives.

VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING SERVICE

July – September 2016

Volunteers:	26
Service Hours:	96

FAMILIES RECEIVING SERVICE

July – September 2016

Food:	743 Families
Utilities:	77 Families
Other:	22 Families
Total	842 Families

Working to reduce poverty in WV Counties of

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

Princeton (304) 425-4306 | Welch (304) 436-4796

Hinton (304) 466-2110 | Beckley (304) 425-4306



Fall 2016

SOUTHERN REGION
Princeton + Welch + Hinton + Beckley

A HELPING HAND

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.

Many clients come to Catholic Charities offices on a daily basis requesting assistance with basic needs. One such client recently visited the Princeton Regional Office to request assistance with a utility termination. Once the immediate need was met, the obviously distraught client relayed her situation to Program Assistant, Nancy Blankenship. Only two weeks from completing her Master's Degree in Social Work, she had unsuccessfully searched for employment, and did not know where to turn. After lending a compassionate ear, Blankenship immediately began addressing this issue by providing assistance with navigating various employment websites. The search identified several positions available in the area; and after assisting with the online application process, Blankenship then connected her with a local agency that provides appropriate business attire for job interviews.

As a direct result of Catholic Charities West Virginia's assistance, the client has now secured a full-time position, which will allow her to sustain a living wage and become self-sufficient. Catholic Charities outreach staff are able to develop supportive relationships with those who seek their help by showing concern and compassion, assisting them in navigating a complex system of care, and simply offering a helping hand.

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



EXPERIENCE WORKS CREATES POSITIVE EFFECT IN SUMMERS COUNTY

The Loaves and Fishes Office in Hinton has been providing basic needs services to the residents of Summers County for the past 30 years. The thrift store, which offers gently used clothing, household items, furniture and appliances; and the weekly food pantry, are bustling with activity and require substantial manpower to operate efficiently.

Thanks to a partnership with Experience Works, Loaves and Fishes utilizes the skill sets of three individuals to better serve the community. Experience Works is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of older people through training, community, service and employment. Through the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), eligible individuals over 55 participate in paid community service assignments at local public and nonprofit organizations. The SCSEP is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, and no fees are charged for the workers' services.

Experience Works participants Anna (Ann) Graham, Charles (Ray) Meadows and Josephine Ward bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to assist with the day-to-day operation of the thrift store and food pantry. Their responsibilities vary from day to day and include operating the thrift store cash register, picking up and sorting donations and assisting with the food pantry.

Graham remarked, "I'm a people person and enjoy interacting with area residents who frequent the thrift store," while Meadows and Ward expressed a need to be productive and active. They all agreed that Loaves and Fishes has provided them the opportunity to learn new skills while making a positive contribution to the community.



*Loaves and Fishes Experience Works Participants
Ray Meadows, Ann Graham, and Josephine Ward*

SOUTHERN REGION STAFF

Regional Director, Carol Bailey; Program Assistant, Nancy Blankenship; Hinton Outreach Coordinator, Earl "Buck" Dodd; Hinton Outreach Worker, Angela Meadows; Adult Basic Education Instructor, Gwenn Mayhew

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.