

ADULT EDUCATION STUDENTS CELEBRATE GRADUATION



2015 Stevens Correctional Center Adult Education Graduates

Graduation ceremonies were held for eight students of Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa)'s Adult Education Program on November 20, 2015, at Steven's Correctional Center. Family and friends celebrated this educational achievement with the students as they were presented with their high school equivalency diplomas. Dictionaries were also presented to each graduate. Individual awards for outstanding achievement were presented to William Adkins - Perseverance; Michael Brackenridge - Reading; Jonathan Butts - Highest Score; Ethan Chic-Colbert - Writing; Jackie Hemphill - Math; John McNeely - Science; Edward Stephens - Social Studies; and David Thornton - Enthusiasm.

Rev. Pruitt, Steven's Correctional Center Chaplain, offered the invocation, and Debra Beebe, Steven's Correctional Center Teacher, welcomed those in attendance. Speakers included Jonathan Phillips and Virginia Green, ABE Instructors for Steven's Correctional Center; Patrick Murphy, Director of Education; Nancy Shannon, RESA 1; and Carol Bailey, CCWVa Southern Regional Director. Bailey remarked, "These students have proven that education can flourish no matter the environment."

HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE ABOUNDS

In Summers and Mercer Counties, 360 families were provided Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets through the Bluefield Sacred Heart and Loaves and Fishes food pantries. Food baskets contained a turkey or ham with all the trimmings, and allowed those less fortunate in the area to prepare and enjoy a holiday meal with their families. A special thanks goes to WVVA Television for sponsoring the "20 Days of Giving" food drive, along with parishioners from St. Patrick's Church in Hinton, St. Francis de Sales in Beckley, and the Sacred Heart Church in Bluefield.

WVVA Television also sponsored a "Warm Morning Coat Drive," receiving 411 coats. These coats were distributed through the Bluefield Sacred Heart Food Pantry clothing closet to needy children and adults. Thanks goes to the sponsor sites that accepted coat donations: Grant's Supermarket, Grand Home Furnishings, City National Bank, and WVVA Television, along with those who generously donated coats.

Many families were provided a cozy winter jacket.

Also, thanks to a local donor and the Greenbrier Create a Dream Tree for Kids Program, toys were donated to the Summers County Fire Department for distribution through their Christmas Toy program.

"The appreciation expressed by the recipients was overwhelming," commented Carol Bailey, CCWVa Southern Regional Director.



Save the Date
Catholic Charities West Virginia

Sixth Annual
Autumn Gathering

October 28, 2016
Embassy Suites in Charleston

VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING SERVICE

October 2015 – March 2016

Volunteers: 132
Service Hours: 1040

FAMILIES RECEIVING SERVICE

October 2015 – March 2016

Food: 3,208 Families
Utilities: 204 Families
Housing: 17 Families
Other: 414 Families
Total 3,843 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

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

VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT HOLIDAY LUNCHEONS

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.



Sacred Heart Church Christmas Volunteer Luncheon

Loaves and Fishes operates a thrift store, food pantry, and helps with other basic needs assistance, while Sacred Heart focuses their outreach efforts through their food pantry and clothing closet. Both food pantries provide assistance for over 600 families per month, which is only possible through the combined efforts of staff and dedicated volunteers. These individuals are invaluable to our outreach efforts, and they allow us to extend our services to area families that are going through vulnerable times in their lives.

Volunteers at both Loaves and Fishes, and the Sacred Heart Church Food Pantry, were honored at Christmas luncheons. Loaves and Fishes hosted a potluck luncheon, while volunteers from the Sacred Heart Food Pantry enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant.

“Our volunteers have a heart for service, and truly enjoy giving their time and talents to help others,” commented Catholic Charities West Virginia Southern Regional Director, Carol Bailey.



Loaves and Fishes Christmas Volunteer Luncheon

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



HELP PROVIDED WITH SNAP BENEFIT APPLICATIONS



Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is alleviating poverty in West Virginia through its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach Program.

After receiving the first USDA SNAP Outreach Grant for West Virginia, CCWVa launched its SNAP Outreach Program in 2015. This free program is designed to help people in applying for SNAP benefits.

“As the nation’s first line of defense against hunger, SNAP helps put food on the table for low income families and individuals every month,” said Robin Bowman, CCWVa SNAP Outreach Coordinator.

In its first year, the CCWVa SNAP Outreach Program assisted more than 450 low-income West Virginians in applying for this benefit.

One of those 450 families was Tina’s. Tina is a grandmother who is raising her terminally ill grandson. With a low income, she struggles with the day-to-day expenses of caring for her grandson, and she didn’t know what to do. The CCWVa SNAP Outreach team talked to Tina about SNAP benefits and assisted her in completing an application. Tina is now receiving the SNAP benefit and says she is truly grateful for the help she received from CCWVa.

“We believe that if one person is going hungry, that is one too many,” said Bowman.

For more information about the SNAP Outreach Program, call toll-free 1-844-292-3217 or visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org/SNAP-Outreach

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;
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.