

“WE HAVE TO HELP”

Statewide Disaster and CCWVa Appalachia Work Team Coordinator Janet Kelley has rallied the troops and joined forces with Mingo County Pastor Carl “Cab” Wolford and several other groups to tackle her biggest project to date. Knowing that Janet was assisting Super Storm Sandy victims with long term recovery through dedicated funds donated to CCWVa, Cab took Janet to the western edge of Mingo County where the only thing separating them from Kentucky was the Tug Fork River. In the heart of Hatfield-McCoy country he showed her an old mobile home that had been ravaged by the storm. A damaged roof, covered by a tarp, had been leaking ever since, leaving the ceiling tiles, walls and carpet showing signs of toxic black mold. The floors were soft with moisture from under the trailer, due to poor drainage and the proximity to the river. A contrary heater that made the severe 2014 winter an unwanted challenge was the sole heat source for the family of four. Nicholas, the father, had been injured recently in a mining accident, rendering him unable to work and is still trying to get assistance. The family was doing all they could do to maintain the home. It was the introduction to Joe (name changed) that sealed Janet’s fate, sending her into “we have to help” mode.

Joe is a very special 10 year-old boy. Two years ago, suffering from severe headaches, he was taken to the hospital. After a frustrating time at Huntington, with his condition dangerously deteriorating, he was rushed to Lexington, KY. There his brain cancer was diagnosed and it was discovered that tumors were affecting his ability to control the build-up of fluid in his head. Treatment began immediately, saving his life but costing him the vision of his left eye and the hearing through his right ear. Thus began a long on-going series of trips to Lexington for treatments. An active young boy that collects knives and likes wrestling, Joe’s little body has been struggling with the added stressors of breathing mold and unreliable heat.



Knowing something had to be done, Janet and Cab launched into high gear. The current trailer was beyond repair and too close to the river. A new house would have to be built. Providentially, the family had recently been willed some dryer, more appropriate building lots nearby. A call was issued for help and available resources were mobilized. A CCWVa work team from Lansing (Michigan) Catholic High School just happened to be scheduled in early July so they got the honor of being the first to break ground. Since the lots were still within reach of the mighty Tug Fork River, the house had to be elevated above the flood plain. Working on some of the hottest, most humid days of the summer, the Lansing team set out digging the nearly 60 three-foot deep holes for the house pilings. Using money from the Super Storm Sandy fund, the initial materials were purchased and a new work team joined the cause. This team, organized by the Southern Baptists through WV Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and coordinated by Janet, began setting the pilings and working on the floor. Next at bat was a Presbyterian team, which set to work on the walls. Local volunteers and family members, led by Pastor Cab and Pastor Barry Lestor, have worked steadily all along to keep things moving. Having maximized the individual client limit for existing funds, Janet and WV VOAD Chairman Jenny Galloway are seeking donations of both materials and money to keep the project going. Hopes are that with the Good Lord’s help and blessing, a suitable home can be finished before the snow flies. If you would like to help or know an individual or a corporation that would, **please contact Janet at 304-953-0042.**

RECOVERING LOST WAGES AFTER SPILL

On January 9, 2014, 10,000 gallons of MCHM gushed from a ruptured Freedom Industries storage tank into the Elk River, contaminating the drinking water of 300,000 residents of southern West Virginia. Catholic Charities immediately responded by distributing water, baby wipes, hand sanitizer and meals throughout the area. As time went on, the second wave of the impact of the chemical spill was felt by restaurants and other businesses dependent on clean water. Many employees lost working hours and subsequent paychecks. The United Way served as a clearinghouse for \$112,863 of donations from businesses, agencies, and individuals, including \$12,736 from Catholic Charities, to be disbursed through 10 local social service agencies to workers who had lost wages as a result of the spill. Throughout February, Western Region Case Manager Fredericka White facilitated utility and rent payments from this fund for 61 households, a total of \$10,726.

Catholic Charities West Virginia’s

Fourth Annual
Autumn Gathering

Save the Date

Hosted by Most Rev. Michael J. Bransfield

September 26, 2014

Embassy Suites in Charleston

Keynote Speaker: John L. Allen Jr.

Vatican Expert, Journalist, and Author

Register Online www.CCWVa.org or call (304) 905-9860

Serving Boone, Cabell, Clay, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, and Wayne counties

www.catholiccharitieswv.org



Summer 2014

W E S T E R N R E G I O N
C h a r l e s t o n † W h i t e s v i l l e † P e t t u s † L o g a n

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

Day of Caring Sept 17th
Donation organization
Food distribution
Home building/repair

Needed Supplies

Building Materials
(contact Janet)
Tools for Schools
Personal care items
(hotel size and regular)
Non-perishable food
(esp. low sugar/salt)
Office supplies

Donations can be made to the Western Region Office at:

1116 Kanawha Blvd East
Charleston, WV 25301

or by credit card online at
www.catholiccharitieswv.org
or call 1-888-900 2989 or



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WELCOME NEW DIRECTOR



The Western Regional Office of CCWVa welcomes Moira Reilly, MAPM, as its Regional Director. "I look forward to getting to know the people of this region. I love West Virginia and how distinct each county is!" Learning about what services are already available in each county and what unmet needs exist are her priority. "I'm impressed with the network of social service providers in Charleston and how all of our agencies work together to meet the needs of our clients. What resources are available in Huntington? What agencies are providing services in more rural areas? How can we all work together to offer opportunities for families who are struggling?" In the seven rural counties of the

Western Region, 19-27% of households fall below the poverty line, compared with 15% of households nationally (census.gov). Catholic Charities' holistic approach to giving people a "hand up" out of poverty through financial literacy, education and job skills training, housing assistance, and food security got Moira's attention. But having job skills is only fruitful if there are jobs available. "There is so much potential here. We need to be partnering across sectors to create employment opportunities and bring hope to rural communities where there are few options."

Moira comes to Catholic Charities from Bethlehem Farm, a Catholic community in Summers County which invites volunteers to join them in prayer, community, simplicity, and service-primarily low-income home repair. Previously, Moira served as Campus Minister at St. John University Parish in Morgantown, where she had the opportunity to earn her MA in Pastoral Ministry at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN PETTUS

West Virginia ranks #1 in the US in obesity, diabetes, heart attacks, high blood pressure, cancers, depression, and high LDL (bad) cholesterol (2011 Gallup Healthways Rankings). The Whitesville-Pettus outreach office has taken a proactive approach to prevention by promoting healthy lifestyles at the second annual Health and Wellness EXPO in April. Over 100 attendees learned about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Shaken Baby Syndrome, and the effects of tobacco use. Participants learned new Zumba moves and other low-impact exercises they could do at home. Sponsoring agencies shared tips to promote healthy lifestyles, and many people took advantage of free blood pressure and glucose screenings. St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church provided delicious, healthy, and homemade "Soup for the Soul" and grilled cheese. Our Community Partners' support of the Expo yielded \$1200 for the purchase of fresh produce for the Pettus WellnessWorks food pantry!

FAMILIES SERVED

(April-June 2014)

Food:	305
Utilities:	34

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

(April-June 2014)

	Whitesville-Pettus	Logan
Volunteers	128	43
Service Hours	3,589	1,589

WESTERN REGION STAFF

Regional Office - 1116 Kanawha Blvd East Charleston WV 25301 (304)380-0162

Moira Reilly, Regional Director - mreilly@ccwva.org

Fredericka White, Case Manager - fwhite@ccwva.org

Barry Jackson, Office Assistant - programwest@ccwva.org

Whitesville Pettus Food Pantry - PO Box 101 Whitesville WV 25209 (304)854-1043

Sue Pauley, Food Pantry Coordinator - lpauley@ccwva.org

Logan Office - PO Box 245 Logan WV 25601 (304)953-0042

Janet Kelley, State Disaster Recovery Coordinator - jkelly@ccwva.org

Lee Murphy, Disaster Case Manager - lmurphy@ccwva.org

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.