

- Serving Braxton, Gilmer, Lewis, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker, Upshur and Webster Counties •

Volunteers – Our Foundation



Volunteering means to carry out a duty or a job without expecting repayment. Charity work requires a wide variety of people, doing a wide range of tasks for everything to work. There are many benefits one can gain through volunteering, it can teach new skills, help you stay active, lead to employment or become a therapeutic outlet.

CCWVa depends heavily upon our volunteers. Without the help of many selfless individuals, we could not provide the services that we offer to our clients. Before the doors are open there is a lot going on behind the scenes. Food is in route, shelves are being stocked, the building is being cleaned and the pantry is being prepped. Once the doors do open, our volunteers and

staff are ready with smiles and open hearts to help each individual that walks through our doors.

When asked why do you volunteer? All the answers were similar and can be summed up with this poem by an unknown author.



Why be a Volunteer?

It's not for money,
It's not for the fame,
It's not for any personal gain,
It's just for the love of fellow man,
It's just to lend a helping hand.
It's just to give a tithe of self,
That's something you can't buy with wealth,
It's not for medals won with pride,
It's not for that feeling deep inside.
Your reward is found down in your heart
It's a feeling that you've been a part of
Helping others far and near that
Make you become a volunteer!

Helping Provide a Home Cooked Meal to those in Need

Soup Kitchens in America can be traced back to the year 1929 with the effects of the Great Depression. Since then, most communities have maintained their own versions of a soup kitchens; in Elkins we have the Common Ground Café.

After seeing an increase in the number of individuals requesting assistance with food, Pastor Bill Calhoun from Woodford United Methodist Church decided to find a way to help. Pastor Calhoun worked with other community churches in the Elkins area to organize a community based program that provides

a home cooked meal to those in need once a week. This would be one part of the food securities solution in Randolph County.

Members of Woodford United Methodist Church, generously volunteer their time to help organize the weekly meal distribution to the community. They allow the use of their social hall for community organizations and churches to come in and cook a meal every Saturday for about 100 local community individuals. Their facility is centrally located and has a fully equipped

kitchen, with plenty of prep space and a commercial grade oven and stove.

On September 16th, volunteers from St. Brendan's and St. Patrick's parish along with CCWVa Elkins's staff served over 80 individuals a meal and dessert.

As Christians, we are to feed the poor and help people who are in need. Feeding the needy is part of serving one another and as we serve others we are serving Christ.

We all need to eat, so this is everyone's common ground.

Rights and Responsibilities

Since the beginning of time, humans have been going through the slow process of learning that God's love is that of a father's. The prayer Jesus taught invites all to refer to God as "Our Father". What an amazing gift, that the Creator of all things is as accessible to us as a Father.

The idea of God the Father takes us deeper with the realization that God's Fatherhood unites all humanity. Pope Francis exhorts us:

"We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference." (Laudato Si, #52)

God calls us to care for one another as family, and this is a beautiful, heart-breaking, and heart-making task! When we see suffering in the world, we cannot turn a blind eye. When we see love thriving, we must bring that out into the light!

Our U.S. Bishops encourage us to take our place in the human family by acknowledging each of us has Rights and Responsibilities. They write,

"...[E]very person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society." (USCCB Website)

How wise of God to give us both certain Rights and certain Responsibilities!

Catholic Charities West Virginia works hard, with your support, to ensure these rights and to uphold these responsibilities. We are so pleased and grateful to have so many partners in our efforts. We strive, with Pope Francis' encouragement, to eliminate the culture of "indifference." Thank you for standing with us.

Elkins: 304-636-4875



Webster Springs: 304-847-7416

Working To Reduce Poverty in West Virginia

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.

www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org

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