

Children's Home Society of West Virginia Kicks Off "50 for 50" Campaign

Sunday, June 1, 2008, will mark the kickoff of Children's Home Society of West Virginia's **"50 for 50"** fundraising campaign in the Greenbrier Valley. The Society has been presented with the opportunity to purchase an office building to house its Children and Family services programs. This has long been a dream of the staff at the Lewisburg site, as they have had to move their offices several times since the Society first started providing services in the area in 1993. But in order for this dream to become a reality, Children's Home Society will need your help.

The Children and Family Services programs, which include Right From The Start, WECAN Mentoring, Divorcing Parents Class, Youth Services and Foster Care, were originally housed in the basement of the emergency shelter in Fairlea. The programs began to grow, and the office was forced to look for other space. While the reasons for their previous moves have varied, through each one, the staff have managed to continue to provide quality services to children and families in the area, and even add programming. Over the years, the Society, which is a non-profit, tax exempt organization, has struggled to secure funding to cover the costs of renting office space, a task made harder because there was nothing tangible to show benefactors in return for their funding support. But now, they have an opportunity to secure a permanent home for these programs. However, in order to purchase this property, the Lewisburg site must raise \$50,000 toward the purchase price.

"So, how do they raise \$50,000?" you might ask yourself. Of course, the simplest, easiest way would be for someone to make a donation of \$50,000. Not impossible, but probably not the most likely answer to this need. But what if 50 people who care about children and families would make a donation of \$1,000? Even that might seem a bit of an overwhelming task, although still a possibility. Maybe the answer, though, is to get 50 folks to make a commitment over time to the Society, a commitment of a

donation of \$333 over a period of three years. When broken down that way, the task of raising \$50,000 seems much more obtainable!

Children's Home Society of West Virginia was founded in 1896, and has maintained programs in the Greenbrier Valley since the fall of 1992. The local programs have continued over the years because of the support and help they have received from the community. Children at the shelter have benefited from donations that have allowed them to enjoy things like being able to eat out at a local restaurant or having a new pair of tennis shoes when school starts. Families in the Right From The Start program benefit from donations that allow the social workers to bring much needed diapers and wipes, and even a crib for their baby to sleep in, when they visit the home. These are families that are struggling every day to put a meal on the table and make sure they have heat in their homes, and the Society has been able to help them because of the support from the community.

And you can continue to support the programs of Children's Home Society of West Virginia in the Greenbrier Valley by joining their **"50 for 50"** campaign. If you would like to help, please call Janet Richmond at 1-800-335-3430 or email JRichmond@childhswv.org. Any and all donations are welcome and NIP Tax Credits may be applied to your donation. Help them continue the Society's longstanding tradition of providing quality services to children and families by becoming one of the **"50 for 50"** today!