

# Children's Home Society of West Virginia

## BY THE WAY...

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### ADOPTIONS



Children's Home Society's Princeton site sends a big "congratulations" to the Branham family, who adopted Peyton, Phenix, and Colton on August 16, 2023. Judge Mark Willis presided.



Our Princeton site also congratulates Alisha Engan-Wiler, who adopted Faith on October 30!

**Top Right:** Princeton also saw another adoption take place on October 30, when the Woods family adopted Adayln. Congratulations to the Woods family, CHS appreciates you!



### COAL COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

On November 2, CHS' annual Coal Country Christmas returned, and what an event it was! Jenna Miller and all of the Princeton and Northfork Staff are thrilled to report that the event did better than they could have hoped for, bringing in approximately \$80,000! The kids in McDowell country will be well taken care of this year, with some left over for next time!



If you have a story you would like to see featured in By the Way, please contact David Humphreys at [dhumphreys@childhswv.org](mailto:dhumphreys@childhswv.org)



## AROUND THE STATE



On Nov. 4, the CHS Charleston staff participated in the annual Mac & Cheese cookoff, where the proceeds benefit the Childhood Language Center. Our staff has participated in this event for the past 10 years, and we appreciate what the Language Center does to help children!



Our Huntington staff at Jan's house hosted a Lunch & Learn with the BNI, Business Network International, a gang of new potential partners!

Also at Jan's house, you will notice bags of coats, hats, and gloves hanging on the fence -with sizes noted on each bag -for those who need warm clothing but may not ask for help.



**Top right:** The Bethel Church stopped by earlier this month and helped the Monarch Family Support Center organize Little Red Stockings for the upcoming campaign, as well as sorting and logging donations!



The Charleston site's comic con fundraiser returned for the first time since before taking a hiatus throughout the pandemic era. Vendors and attendees were all happy to



see the event return. Special guests included actors and video game developers Carlos and Daniel Pesina and Charleston-based artist Glen Brogan, who is known for his work with Disney and Marvel, among others.

The event raised over \$6,000 to fulfill the Christmas wishlists for the Davis Childre Shelter and the Charleston Foster care and Healthy Grandfamilies programs.

## CHS ANNUAL MEETING

On Nov. 9, CHS kicked off our annual leadership meeting. The theme for this year was "Calling All Superheroes," and we celebrated all of the real-life heroes who keep the Children's Home Society helping kids and families every day!



Day one of the conference saw Marie Keaton, Princeton permanency social worker, honored as this year's recipient of the Ruth Eden Bailey Adoption Advocacy Award!



CHS also recognized DHHR Commissioner Jeff Pack as a Champion For West Virginia's children. It was a surprise to him and we managed to get some of his leadership staff to be there too. We gave Jeff a Champion For Children Medal and a special superhero cape and mask.

CHS welcomed Ruth Rowan as a Director Emeritus. Ruth has served on the Board for nine years and has represented our programs in Romney and the panhandle. Congratulations to Ruth!



We also celebrated Maxin Bauer with the Nancy Stuart-Tonkin Advocacy Award!

Maxin was adopted through CHS, and this past legislative session, he went to the legislature to advocate for services for students with learning disabilities and other challenges within the WV school system.

Maxin met with Legislators and was instrumental in getting a bill passed so that WV children can be tested in the school system and not have to travel out of state for testing. Maxin is a true advocate at only 11 years old, we believe he has a bright future of helping those in need!

Finally, We had the opportunity to honor our out-going Board Chair Jeff Sikorovsky. Jeff will remain on the Board as the immediate past chair for the next two years. Thank you Jeff for your faithful service to Children's Home Society.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Children's Home Society of West Virginia*  
Presents:  
**Single Bell Ball**  
**December 2, 2023**  
**7:00PM-11:00PM**  
St. Mary's Center for Education  
2855 5th Avenue, Huntington, WV 25702  
DINNER | DJ | DANCING | COCKTAILS  
SILENT AUCTION | FORMAL ATTIRE  
ADMISSION: \$75/PERSON  
ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT  
CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT: 681-378-2530

