

Children's Home News



2024 CHRISTMAS NEWS

**IN PROGRAMS AND
COMMUNITIES EDITION...**





...In Beckley

By: Tabatha Conn

Christmas at the Southern West Virginia Exceptional Youth Emergency Shelter (EYES) was nothing short of MAGICAL this year. EYES is eternally grateful for their community, as their efforts impacted the true meaning of Christmas. Aside from the Christmas music and lights strung awaiting Santa's arrival, this Christmas was one of a kind as well as one of the last in our little home, as EYES will be writing Santa a letter very soon informing him of our move.

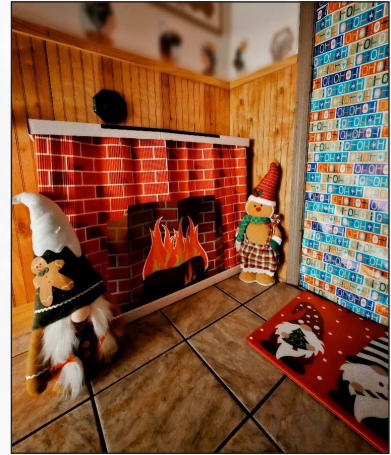


In addition to writing letters, our residents also put in great effort to decorate cookies for Santa, complete with plenty of sprinkles, of course. They eagerly anticipated his arrival, hoping that their delightful treats will bring a smile to his face.



Our little EYES family was able to start winter break off with a festive Christmas party to spread some cheer! We had a blast catching up on our kids' progress and enjoying a meal together. This joyful gathering reminded us of the strong sense of community that supports our efforts, especially in helping our children.

EYES residents were determined to ensure Santa would not miss our place, so we sprinkled some magic and whipped up our very own fireplace.

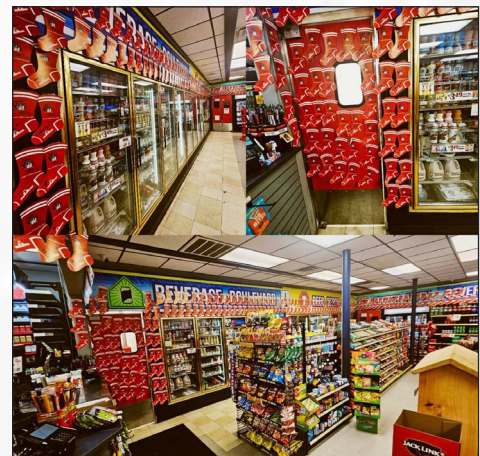


We would like to thank our wonderful community from Glade Springs for their Christmas Drive to provide winter apparel, toys, and hygiene products for our present and future residents. Glade has conducted this drive for four years now, and EYES is always so thankful for their selflessness during the holidays.

EYES had the joyous privilege of sponsoring families in need, spreading the delightful spirit of Christmas. Our dedicated staff delivered a treasure trove of toys, games, and clothing. The team cherished the opportunity to meet community families, sharing warmth and joyful Christmas magic into their homes.



The Southern Exceptional Youth Emergency Shelter is profoundly grateful for the support of our community during the holiday season. From the little red stockings hanging in the windows of PAR MARS and Go-Marts across Raleigh County, to the generous donations brought to our little home, we are thankful for the resources and backing that enable us to create a safe home and a MAGICAL Christmas for the most vulnerable children in West Virginia.





...In Charleston

By: Amanda Williams

The Charleston Site had a great Christmas this year thanks to many businesses, organizations, and volunteers. Toys were donated by EZ Street Bar and Grill, City National Bank, The Golden Oldies, Eagle Rider 419, and Cathy Proctor and Terry's Toys.



Food drives were held by Carver Career Center and WV Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The food from these drives will be used in the Ray Skeens Resource Center to provide food assistance to families in our community throughout the year.

South Charleston Middle School collected new clothes, underwear, socks and hygiene items for the Davis Child Shelter. South Charleston Women's Club donated filled stockings to the shelter with each child's name on them. All Nations and community member Suzanna Grandall donated Christmas gifts for the shelter residents. Thanks to Mike and Terri Bell and John and Pamela Taylor, each resident received a \$150 Walmart gift card. Marie Long, Children's Home Society Director Emeritus, donated a \$100 KFC gift card for the shelter along with other items for the children.



Marie Long & CHS staff

Each resident also received a visa gift card from Anthony Lewis, a former West Virginia University football player. Thank you, Anthony, for helping us give our shelter residents a great Christmas every year. Jamil Dillard, treated our shelter residents and staff to lunch at Golden Coral during their Christmas break. A special thank you to the Golden Oldies for their continued support to our location at Christmas time. Along with their annual donation of toys and gifts for children in both of our programs, they also purchased and put together a new basketball hoop for the shelter.

Children's Home Society board member, Lori Ray, continues to volunteer her time to be with our shelter kids during Christmas. Lori and her husband took the kids on an annual shopping trip to Goodwill and lunch at China Buffet. She also gave each child a filled stocking at the end of the outing.

...In Charleston Continued

Thank you to Security Equipment Supply, Inc. and Charleston-Huntington Association of Manufacturers for their monetary donations.



Security Supply Inc.



*Charleston/Huntington Association
of Manufacturers*

Brinley Kearns, daughter of Davis Child Shelter's nurse Brittany Kearns, volunteered her time to create a fire place for our shelter. She did an amazing job.



Thank you to West Virginia School Service Personnel Association (WVSSPA) for allowing us to use their conference center for a Christmas party free of charge. WVSSPA also purchased pizza for the party. The children at the shelter and in our foster care program enjoyed pictures with Santa and a gingerbread house making competition.



...In Charleston Continued

We are blessed with giving and supportive churches in our community that helped us give the children in our care a wonderful Christmas. Christ United Methodist Church requested Christmas wish lists from the shelter and foster care children which they used to place each child on their church angel tree. Every child received gifts from their wish list from church members.

Cross Lanes Baptist Church Women's Prison Ministry donated stocking stuffers such as snacks, art supplies, socks, and T-shirts. Springfork Baptist Church Ladies Circle donated new hoodies, pajamas, underwear, scarves, gloves, games, blankets, and hats.

Winifrede Presbyterian Church gave a \$50 monetary donation to our site. Newton Baptist Church provided handmade pillows, blankets and stockings for our shelter and foster care youth. These were given to the children in both programs during their Christmas Party at WVSSPA Conference Center.

Donations of pajamas from Southridge Church and Springfork Baptist Church as well as stuffed animals from Tanya Handley and the Point Pleasant Rotary were also given to the children during the party. The kids couldn't wait to start playing with them.



During the kids Christmas break, River Ridge Church – Charleston Campus, treated them to an outing they will never forget. The outing began with dinner at Sergio's Cucina Italiana & Pizza followed by shoe shopping, and Sky Zone. They ended the night with ice cream at Chick-fil-a. Thank you River Ridge Church and Pastor Matt Santen for this fun night and including our kids in church events throughout the year.

Thank you to community member, Sarah Setrean and shelter administrative assistant Tonya Erby, for purchasing Cracker Barrel for our Christmas Party. Our staff participated in a secret Santa gift exchange. The shelter kids played musical candy canes, the saran wrap game, and were allowed to open up one of their Christmas gifts.

We would like to thank Derek Collins and Agent Pipeline for having a toy drive in the month of November and choosing the Children's Home Society as the benefactor.



...In Charleston Continued

The Teamsters Local 175 delivered roughly 250 cases of water along with soft drinks donated by Coke and Pepsi.



The following Saturday, they arrived at our 1596 Kanawha Blvd. location with two tractor trailers. With their store discounts and the funds raised, they were able to exceed their goal by delivering \$63,000 worth of toys, clothes, and food. They also provided the Davis Child Shelter with a brand new Nintendo Switch, Nintendo Switch games and restaurant gift cards.

This year the Teamsters Local 175 assisted 3,271 children and families throughout Kanawha, Putnam, and Cabel counties.





...In Huntington

By: Diane Lucas



Our 2024 Holiday Outreach initiative exemplifies our commitment to supporting vulnerable populations during the holiday season, ensuring that no child or family goes without joy and sustenance during this special time of year.

The Nancy Tonkin Children's Resource Center spearheaded a Holiday Outreach program aimed at providing toys and food to families and individuals in need. This initiative was designed to address both the emotional and physical needs of those we serve, recognizing that the holidays can be a particularly challenging time for families facing economic hardship.

On December 7th, the Nancy Tonkin Children's Resource Center partnered with Pullman Square to host Cookies & Cocoa with Santa. This partnership allowed us the space necessary to increase attendance and engage more families than last year's event. Children and their families participated in fun activities like creating ornaments, face painting, balloon art, building birdseed feeders, creating snowmen w/artificial moldable snow, decorating cookies and enjoying warm cocoa. Mr. and Mrs. Clause made it to Pullman Square to spend time with the children, and he insured each one was on his "nice list". Families were also able to access important community resources such as Birth to Three, OVP Health, HOOPS Children's Hospital, Cabell County Library, CHS Cabell Co. Family Support Center, and more.



Thanksgiving & Christmas Food Boxes: The NTCRC distributed 350 Thanksgiving food boxes, and another 190 Christmas food boxes, ensuring that recipients had access to nutritious meals during the holidays. Each food box contained essential items to prepare a wholesome holiday meal, alleviating the financial burden on struggling households and promoting family togetherness.



Through the generous support of donors, volunteers, and community partners, we successfully distributed toys to 214 families, impacting the lives of 512 children. Each parent "shopped" our "Santa's workshop" to find just the right gift for each of their children. All children received three toys, bringing moments of joy and excitement to their holiday celebrations. By focusing on age-appropriate and meaningful gifts, we aimed to foster a sense of inclusion and happiness for every child, regardless of their circumstances. Teenagers are not forgotten in our Christmas Outreach. Many Christmas charity organizations have a cut off age of 12 years old, but CHS believes, all children, regardless of age, deserve to experience the joy of Christmas. In an effort to accomplish this goal, we made specific requests to our community supporters for gift items appropriate for adolescents and teens; they did not disappoint. Every child in all 214 families had gifts under the tree this year. In addition to the three toy limit, parents were also able to choose from winter coats, pajamas, underclothes, books, and small stocking stuffers.

...In Huntington Continued

The Christmas Outreach program had a profound impact on the community by addressing immediate needs and fostering a spirit of care and compassion. For many families, the holidays are a source of financial stress. By providing toys and food, we alleviated some of this burden, allowing families to focus on spending quality time together. The joy of receiving thoughtful gifts and sharing a holiday meal contributed to the emotional well-being of children and their families, creating lasting positive memories. As a result, the outreach brought together donors, volunteers, and community partners, highlighting the collective effort required to support those in need.



One parent sent a letter saying, "Thank you to your amazing company for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food and toys. I am a single mother of two kids. At times it can be very stressful, especially during the holiday. I was able to give my kids a happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas. My three-year old received many brand-new nice toys and my daughter received many things she has been asking for. I can't even express the gratitude I have for your company! I was able to give them a beautiful Christmas because of you. The staff were amazing, the process was super simple, and everyone was so helpful. I cannot thank you enough!"

Another mom who came to shop Santa's workshop expressed joyful tears to be able to provide her children with Christmas gifts. When I engaged her in conversation, she became quite emotional while explaining that her husband has recently lost his job, and although he has secured new employment and she is still working, it just wasn't enough to pay the electric bill, and be able to purchase Christmas gifts. She stated that she had been praying for God's help and her prayers were answered when she received a call from our FSC assistant, Sara, inviting her to visit Santa's workshop. In addition to the gifts she received for her children, the FSC was compelled to assist with the utility payment to insure the family had an opportunity to get back on their feet and start 2025 with hope. Her humble appreciation was palpable in the room. We learned that she works at the Family Dollar just steps away from our office and she insisted on returning to volunteer and give back in the upcoming year.



A mother of seven children, from 15 years old to 7 months old, shared that she recently had to find new housing and the new landlord refuses to fix things that are not working properly but continues to insist on her paying full rent. Repairs are costing more than she can afford and she would not have been able to get Christmas gifts for the children. She stated, "you all pulled through for me this year. I wasn't even gonna put up a tree because I had no means to put any gifts under it. Now, I get to do that, because of you."

...In Huntington Continued

Huntington, Jan's House could not accomplish all of this without the support of our community. First and foremost, the men from Recovery Point Recovery Center are invaluable to our work. They work alongside us throughout each week to insure our resource center operations are smooth and successful. They load and unload truckloads of food each week. They pack and distribute food boxes, insuring moms, grandmas and others don't have to carry heavy items to their cars. Santa's workshop was supported by the RP volunteers who helped bag and transport all the toys/clothes to family's cars. Every week they are assisting with cleaning, organizing, heavy lifting, processing in-kind donations and insuring those items are distributed to families who need them. They shovel snow, carry out trash, and help deliver beds and other furniture to families. The partnership we have with RP can not be understated. We could not accomplish our mission without them. Other holiday volunteers include members of our Advisory Council who participated in Cookies w/Santa and also contributed to the Christmas Outreach projects. (Kellie Freeman, Teresa Napier, Michelle Adkins)



Many donors and other volunteers also contributed to our impact:

- Sara's Heart daycare donated 25 brand new children's coats.
- Knights of Columbus donated 96 new coats.
- Women's Impact Network provided \$600 in toys as well as a cash contribution
- Dollar General Stores hosted toy drives
- Toys for Tots provided \$5000 worth of toys
- Salon Lotus provided hair products for teens
- United Way of the River Cities donated toys
- Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce provided toys
- Highlawn Presbyterian Church donated toys and other items
- The Nice List donated \$1200 worth of teen gift items
- MU Café donated teen gift items and provided a cash contribution
- Pullman Square businesses in conjunction with iHeart Radio collected \$3000 worth of toys
- Goodwill Industries donated \$600 in coats
- Coalfield Development shopped for 15 children spending \$1000
- The Tattoo Shop donated teen gifts
- Assured Partners donated toys
- Pea Ridge Women's club donated teen gifts
- Barboursville McDonalds donated cookies for Cookies w/Santa
- Starbucks @ Pullman Square donated cocoa for Cookies w/Santa
- Many others gave cash contributions



...In Huntington Continued

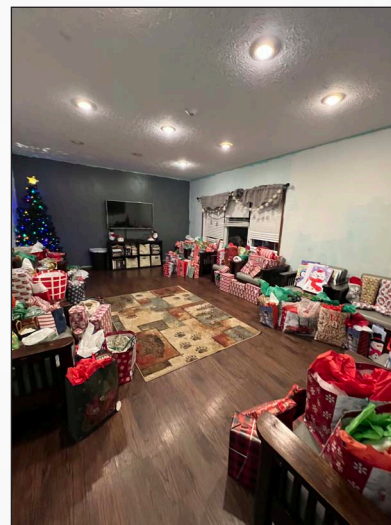
Last, but certainly not least, our Huntington Permanency team held their annual Foster Family Christmas Party on December 13th. The event was graciously hosted by Huntington Community Church where many of our foster families attend and are members of. Ten foster families attended which made the total 20 adults and 28 children. Huntington Permanency was able to provide each child with a Christmas present and each family with a gift card. Huntington Permanency provided salad, lasagna, drinks, and holiday games. When all the families and children come together, they have no problem communicating, playing, and occupying themselves.



Hovah Hall Underwood Children's Home

The children at the Hovah Hall Underwood Children's Home had a wonderful Christmas. Organizations came together to make sure the kids had everything they wanted. We would like to thank the following for their generosity during the Holidays: Republican Woman's group, Dave & Busters, St. Joe Catholic Church, and the Barboursville Community Church of Christ.

We would like to thank the Bloomindale Baptist Church, for hosting a fun Christmas party for the kids. They played games and provided dinner for everyone in attendance.





...In Lewisburg

By: Mary Carr

As early as October, the holiday spirit began to take root in our community, setting the stage for a season filled with generosity and joy. It all began with Greenbrier Valley Medical Center's Trunk or Treat, where we decorated for Christmas and handed out "wish lists" to community members in attendance. This small act sparked a ripple effect across the community, igniting several toy drives. The West Virginia Daily News brought in over 150 toys for local children and the Lewisburg Church of Christ also held a toy drive for our children. The sense of purpose was contagious, and the season of giving was off to fantastic start.



As always, the heart of our holiday efforts was our Little Red Stocking Campaign. This beloved fundraiser provides warmth and cheer for countless families. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, we were able to provide a full Christmas to 200 local children, with 100 of those being directly sponsored by community members and generous donors. We are especially grateful for the civic organizations like Greenbrier East High School Student Government and The Lewisburg United Methodist Church Pre-School, that took it upon themselves to sponsor 84 children. These collective efforts made this holiday season truly magical for so many families.



WV Daily News & CHS Staff

As the season progressed, the scope of the Christmas operation grew exponentially, necessitating a larger space to accommodate the increasing number of donations. We are deeply grateful to the West Virginia State Fair and Kelly Collins, Chief Executive Officer, for graciously donating the Lottery Building at the State Fair Grounds, which became the new home for our "workshop". This relocation allowed us to continue our mission of serving the community while providing a warm and organized space for families to receive their gifts.

A milestone moment this year was the opportunity for families to "shop" for their children's Christmas gifts at our newly established workshop. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of local donors and Toys for Tots, families were able to select the perfect gifts for their kiddos. This hands-on approach was made possible by over \$15,000 in in-kind donations and brought a sense of dignity and joy to each family who participated. It was a heart-warming experience for all involved and made the season even more special.

...In Lewisburg Continued

This year's Foster Care Christmas party was an absolute dream, with a whimsical Whoville theme that had everyone feeling the magic of the season. The Grinch was in full effect, but only in spirit as he couldn't resist the holiday cheer that filled the air. With his green fur and mischievous grin, the Grinch quickly became the star of the evening. Despite his "grinchy" nature, he soon won everyone over with his playful antics and surprising charm. Sugar bear's shop was a huge hit with the kids offering them the chance to create their own holiday creatures and animals. Lori Lyon's face painting stations was a crowd favorite turning children into everything from kittens to dinosaurs with a few brush strokes and a lot of smiles. Manic Espresso really outdid themselves bringing holiday spirit with their hot chocolate bar and Grinch soda station. Chic-fil-a served up some tasty bites making sure no one went hungry. Of course, no Christmas party is complete without Santa Claus! Thanks to Edgewood Presbyterian Church and Santa Jimmy, every child in attendance received a gift from Santa! The real magic of the night was the chance for foster children, families and for the first-time children from the Greenbrier Valley Children's Home, to come together and celebrate the holidays as one. The joy and laughter was captured by Brittany Mandeville, preserving the memories of the night. It was a gathering that reminded everyone of the power of community, love, and holiday spirit.



In between all of these amazing joys, our community felt loss and because of the Arby's Foundation we were able to help. A local grandfamily lost their whole home to a fire a few weeks before Christmas. The funding we received was able to provide the children with many Christmas gifts under the tree as well as provide the grandparents with needed boots, clothing and household items. Another local grandfamily took their two grandchildren into their home full time the week before Christmas and we were also able to provide gifts, including bikes, to these two young boys, helping ease stress on the family and increase Christmas joy for everyone.

While we can't wait for next Christmas, we know that our work doesn't stop when the holidays end. Our hearts are set on supporting our community all year around, turning the holiday spirit into something that lasts through every season. With every toy donated, every smile shared, and every moment of kindness given, our mission continues far beyond December. We're not just preparing for next Christmas-we're building a foundation of support and goodwill that lasts long after the holidays.



The Greenbrier Valley Children's Home

By: Jennifer Sams

Christmas is one of our favorite times of the year at the Greenbrier Valley Children's Home (GVCH), and this year did not disappoint. We kicked off Christmas with our traditional 12 Days of Christmas. Some of our activities included baking Christmas cookies, making Christmas ornaments, our kids playing Secret Santa, and watching Christmas movies in PJs. Our kids were overjoyed to attend a Christmas party with our local foster care office. GVCH wanted to go a little extra this year with decorating and created a beautiful winter wonderland throughout the entire building. This includes handmade creations down the halls, snowflakes from the ceiling, and a handmade fireplace for the Rec Room. Each room was decorated to make GVCH feel like a home to our kiddos. To add a little fun, our midnight staff started a decorating door contest between staff and residents. The children were able to vote on who had the best creation. One of the kids favorite activities was decorating their very own homemade gingerbread house, donated by Jessica Waid.



GVCH was blessed with tremendous support from the community. We had multiple individuals who enjoyed going out and shopping from our children's wish list to those who wished to make a monetary donation. Velma Viars donates gift cards to Kohl's each year so each child can pick out an outfit of choice before returning to school from Christmas break. GVCH had two children who were able to return home days before Christmas, with GVCH able to provide Christmas for both of them.

Giving back to our wonderful community is what we love to do. We worked with Community in Schools and sponsored a youth from their angel tree. GVCH staff came together and purchased clothes, toys, and a tablet for a local youth in our community. GVCH handed out blankets through our blessing box each week during the Holiday season, giving out 45 blankets in total. We also helped with a few presents for a set of three siblings who were placed in a kinship home in our community.

...Greenbrier Valley Children's Home Continued

The weekend leading to Christmas was packed full of fun and surprises for our kids. Christmas came a little early thanks to a special visit from Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and the Grinch. This was all made possible by Brandon Staires and Freedom Jeepin, who have been a tremendous support each year at Christmas. Our kids were invited for dinner and games at the Lewisburg Methodist Church, and Chestnut Knob Methodist Church brought pizza and Taco Bell gift cards and played games with our children at the shelter. The kiddos woke up Christmas Eve morning to a wonderful brunch thanks to Sherida Feazell and the Mount Vernon Ladies group out of Fincastle, Virginia. This is one of our favorite traditions each year.

Christmas morning was worth all the stress of making Christmas happen. Each child had all of their Christmas presents wrapped in boxes that resembled the Nutcracker. After enjoying all of their Christmas goodies, all the kids were able to enjoy lunch at Shoney's. GVCH continued our tradition of going out to the movies, and this year we saw Mufasa. We ended the Christmas holiday with hot cocoa in new Christmas PJs.



...Greenbrier Valley Children's Home Continued

None of this would be possible without the support of our wonderful community members. We know we are blessed when people would call and say, "I don't have much, but I want to give what I do have." Our community is the foundation of our success, and we will forever be grateful for all their support.

Special Thanks to the following for making Christmas so special at GVCH

- Albert & Carol Prillaman
- Sherida Feazell and the Mount Vernon Ladies Group
- Jeanine Czul
- Paul & Susan Nutter
- Cindy Vance
- Robert & Pamela Spaulding
- Smoot Methodist Church
- Lewisburg Methodist Church
- Chestnut Knob Methodist Church
- Bascom United Methodist Church
- Virgil & Linda Stillwell
- Betty Dobbin & Linda Stillwell
- Donald David Toy Drive
- Jessica Waid
- Bonnie Cline
- Jessica Neff
- Amanda Reed
- Rhonda Stout
- Diann Trout
- Brandon Staires
- Freedom Jeepin
- Cathy Alvis
- Smoot Investments
- Amelia Burns
- Catherine Brown
- Velma Viars
- Sandy Davis and Rupert Women's Club
- Amber and Jeff Cobb
- Charly and Heather Waselchalk
- Meadow River Garden Club





...In Logan

By: Amanda Runyon

June Montgomery Harless Children's Home

With the help of several community members, churches, and businesses, our staff at the June Montgomery Harless Shelter (JMHS) was able to give our kids an amazing Christmas. Our kids always enjoy getting the shelter ready for Christmas by putting out all the Christmas decorations and decorating the Christmas tree. They enjoyed several Christmas festivities such as decorating sweaters, cookies, and driving through Christmas in the Park. Tommy, our cook, always makes sure the kids have a huge spread for Christmas dinner such as ham, turkey, and several side dishes. JMHS makes it our mission to give our kids a feeling of home and family during the holiday by celebrating together with lots of gifts, stockings, games and fun.



...In Logan Continued

Three area churches (St. Phillips Missionary Baptist Church, Guyan Freewill Baptist Church, and Madison Baptist Church) came to the shelter a few days before Christmas and brought gifts and food for the kids. Some also brought board games and spent some time playing with the kids and singing songs. The kids were very receptive to these groups and seemed to enjoy their fellowship.



Every year, Pam Surber (along with several churches in Mingo County) host a Christmas Party at the Buck Harless Community Center. This has become a tradition for Pam and her helpers and they sure bless our kids abundantly every year! They enjoyed a pizza party with lots of goodies, music, games, and Christmas gifts. Each child received a 3 piece luggage set, \$10 Mcdonald's gift card, \$100 Walmart gift card, a Bible, CD, Cd boom box, and candy.



The kids were so excited to open their Christmas gifts under the tree. We usually have a few that have never received Christmas gifts, so opening presents is always extra special for them. All of the kids were grateful for the numerous gifts (clothes, shoes, air pods, books, blankets, bath & body, gifts cards, plushies, jewelry, etc.) that they received. One child even cried tears of joy saying "no one had ever bought them anything like that before." Some were overwhelmed with the abundance of gifts they were given. Staff enjoyed seeing their faces light up when they opened their gifts with excitement.

Of course, we treated our staff with a Christmas party as well. They enjoyed bakery goodies and pepperoni rolls. Staff participated in Secret Santa and exchanged gifts with one another. Everyone had so much fun opening gifts and seeing what other staff received. The best part was hearing the laughter echo throughout the shelter as staff competed in the games to win prizes. This Christmas season was a fun time for staff and kids alike.

A huge shoutout to Harless Shelter Staff who sacrificed time with their own families and volunteered to work on Christmas to make it a special time for children in our care. Thank You to the donors who made it all possible... Madison Baptist Church, Misfit Missions/New Covenant Fellowship, Jesse Ramey, West Logan Christian Academy, David Hager, Missy Richmond, Logan Women's Club, Ryan and Angela Mink, Pam Surber, Guyan Freewill Baptist Church, Leah Smith, Malorie Merritt, Tashena Damron, Rachel Maynard, Cyndee Lambert, and St. Phillip's Missionary Baptist Church.



...In Martinsburg

By: Megan Livingston

FROM THE DESK OF

SANTA CLAUS

Martinsburg 2024 Christmas Report

Merry Christmas from the North Pole!



We are incredibly thankful and grateful for our community members during the holiday season! Your generosity and support have brought joy and happiness to many families in our community. We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our amazing staff for their hard work and dedication every day, especially during the busy holiday season, to ensure our clients have a wonderful Christmas. Please enjoy our Christmas Report for 2024!

Wishing you a magical Christmas filled with laughter, love, and happiness! With all our love and a hearty “Ho Ho Ho”,

Martinsburg GHS

THE NORTH POLE



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA 12/07/2024



The annual Breakfast with Santa event at Airborne Church was a huge hit with our clients! Families enjoyed a delicious breakfast catered by Lady Jays and had the chance to meet Santa, Mrs. Claus, and even the Grinch. Each child met Santa, took pictures, and received a gift. Attendees also wrote letters to Santa and decorated ornaments for Meals on Wheels. The Junior League of the Eastern Panhandle volunteered, helping with crafts and serving breakfast. We had a wonderful turnout with 40 adults and 67 children in attendance.



STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

12/09/2024

Our staff gathered for a delightful afternoon filled with food, fun, and fellowship at this year's Christmas party. We enjoyed a potluck-style lunch, with everyone contributing their favorite dishes, creating a festive and delicious spread. The highlight was an exciting gift exchange game, where participants rolled dice to determine their actions, adding a fun and unpredictable twist to the festivities. Each staff member received a cozy sweatshirt and a stocking filled with goodies from the agency, to show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.



THE PUB



The Pub's two owners with the biggest hearts partnered with us in November and set out to raise \$10,000 for our local programming, children, and families. Day by day their customers showed up and by the end of the month, they astoundingly met that goal! A private donor then matched what they raised! We are still speechless and so touched by the kindness and generosity of Brandon and Stephanie, their customers, and our incredible community.

CMA BIKE DRIVE

During CMA's Toyota of Martinsburg's annual "4 Weeks, 2 Wheels, 1 Happy Holiday" event, they collected 15 bikes for children served by the Children's Home Society of WV programs. Additionally, they made a generous monetary donation of \$3,250 toward the Little Red Stocking campaign to help purchase more bikes for the holidays and throughout the year.



LIGHTS ON THE LAKE

Our agency participated in the Community Trees on the Lake 2024 event, setting up a fun and creative decorative tree alongside 28 other wonderful nonprofit organizations. Both through social media and in-person visits, folks cast their votes for their favorite tree/agency. All funds raised directly support the organizations. Big thanks to Aspen Hall for sponsoring CHS, to everyone who voted for our tree, and to Lights on the Lake in Harpers Ferry for hosting this magical experience!

A decorative border with red floral and scrollwork patterns surrounds the text. The border features intricate designs in each corner and along the top and bottom edges.

LOGOPLASTE

Logoplaste generously donated \$10,000 to support 50 children in our programs.

DAIRY QUEEN SPIRIT NIGHT

Local Dairy Queens held a Spirit Night, raising \$915 to support the programs of Martinsburg CHS. We are grateful for the continued collaboration with community sponsors.

AMAZON WISHLIST

Our community came together and purchased over 120 items from our 2024 Amazon Wish List, totaling \$3,792.04. The donated items, including toys, make-up, jewelry, gift cards, and more, were given to children and families in need this holiday season.

BOOKS A MILLION

Books A Million donated over 450 book and toy items, totaling \$11,131.72. These items were used to sponsored several CHS families during the holiday season.

STARBUCKS TOY DRIVE

Martinsburg and Charles Town Starbucks ran a toy drive to sponsor CHS families during the holiday season. We are excited about this new partnership and look forward to future collaborations.

LITTLE RED STOCKINGS

The 2024 Little Red Stocking Campaign raised approximately \$10,556.01 with the participation of 58 small businesses. We value the continued support from our established partners and the opportunity to network with new small businesses.



LOGANS ROADHOUSE

Logan's Roadhouse staff sponsored a family of 5 for Christmas gifts, donating \$600 for the family and \$700 worth of toys and gifts. They also collected donations for the foster care grab-and-go closet and Christmas donations, partnering with two other local locations for donation collections.

HOLLYWOOD CASINO

Hollywood Casino sponsored 30 children this year for Christmas, donating \$10,000 worth of clothes, toys, and gifts. Their team consistently goes above and beyond to assist families in our community!



ANNUAL GIFTWRAP

Our annual giftwrap for 2024 raised \$2,412. Thanks to the incredible support from community volunteers and the dedication of our Martinsburg CHS staff, we enjoyed a successful giftwrap season.

COMMUNITY AND PRIVATE DONORS

From our community and private donors, we gathered \$48,072.04 worth of toys, gifts, shoes, and clothing for the children in our programs!



The Pub



Martinsburg Sunrise/Sunset Rotary



Logoplaste



Bank of Charles Town



Martinsburg Chamber of Commerce/
Apollo Theater



Boost Mobile

COMMUNITY AND PRIVATE DONORS



FedEx
Ground



Berkeley Co
Emergency Services



Girl Scout Council of
the Nation's Capital

Faith Christian
Academy



Advocate Insurance





...In Morgantown

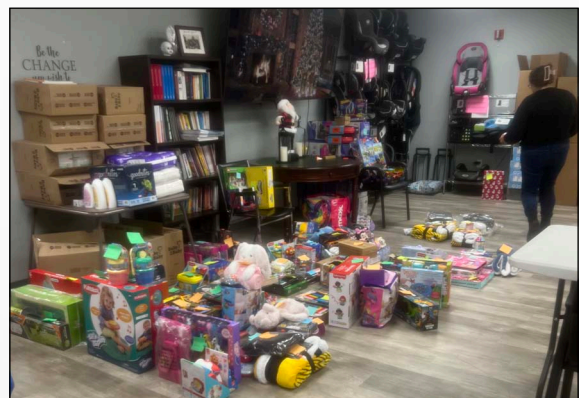
By: Abby Miller

We had so many wonderful individuals and organizations that contributed to our Christmas this year. With their help, we were able to provide all of our foster kids and the foster parents' biological children 3 gifts each. Gift donations were donated from Misty Tennant, Ann Davis-Ramsey, Jenna Cuevas, and Jason Morgan. Stephen Ford from County Roads Trust organized a toy drive through WVU athletics and also donated toys for Christmas.



In addition, we were really fortunate with the amount of donations provided from the community for our Independent Living program which consists of 24 young adults. An Angel Tree List was created and through Surya Chronister with CMA Church of Morgantown, she was able to get volunteers fulfill everyone's list. In addition to the Angel tree items, we received donations of laundry baskets, household items, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and blankets from the Civil Military Innovation, Lindsay Hutchinson, Jenna Cuevas, and Mike Shaw. We used all of the donated home items to make individual baskets for all the clients.

On December 12th, individuals from Country Roads Trust and UniCare came to our CHS office and wrapped all the presents for the foster and Independent Living programs. They listened to Christmas music and wrapped for hours.



...In Morgantown Continued

We had our annual CHS Christmas Party hosted by Quota Club on December 15th at Stepping Stones. Individuals from Country Roads Trust attended and brought five WVU basketball players with them. The basketball players took pictures with the kids, played games with them, and built gingerbread houses.





...In Northfork

By: Becky Brown

Christmas 2024 in McDowell County was bustling with joy. We started November out by blessing one of our Healthy Grandfamilies with a car. She was struggling to get groceries, attend doctor's appointments and for the child to attend school functions. However, thanks to WVSU Healthy Grandfamilies Program, and the McKinney Vento Grant, we were able to provide her with transportation. She was so grateful.



Our Creating Strong Families Coalition organized a community resource fair for the families at the SAFE emergency shelter. SAFE provides housing for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking and works to create stability and self-determination for families seeking freedom. Over 20 organizations participated and provided information of the services we provide, and each agency brought needed items for those housed there. Hopefully, we made their Christmas a little brighter.



Our friends, Mike and Jacalyn Day from Kentucky, donated \$1,000 from Mike's service with the WV Coal Association. Mike and Jacalyn also provides two WECAN Mentoring Scholarships. We appreciate their love for the children of McDowell County and all they have done for them through the years.



...In Northfork Continued

Thank you, Goodson's Supermarkets for participating in our Little Red Stocking Campaign again this year! Goodson's is a great partner throughout the year. They assist us with projects and donations often.

Ashland resort and their employees, gave us a generous donation toward Christmas for children, it was so appreciated.



Princeton Community Hospital's Materials Management Department donated lots of hats and gloves to our McDowell children. We appreciate their generosity! They were given to the children at our Christmas event.

Deliverance Temple Church and Young Men for Christ Ministries provided 40 full meals for Grandparents raising grandchildren.



...In Northfork Continued

Lifeline church in Princeton bought gifts for over 150 children in McDowell for Christmas. Thank you, Pastor Aaron Stepp, for all your efforts in leading this project.

We would like to thank Cleveland Cliffs, for providing \$1500 for Christmas gifts for area youth. This donation, with proceeds from last years fundraiser was of great assistance in providing community children a wonderful Christmas.



Our Coal Country Christmas event was held at the Forever Families Community Center in Northfork on December 19th. While parents picked up gifts, the children enjoyed a visit with Mr. & Mrs. Santa, hot chocolate, cookies and crafts. It was a wonderful evening. Over 100 families and 250 children were served this year in McDowell.





...In Parkersburg

By: Jodi Null

The Permanency program held their annual Foster Family Christmas Party thanks to the generous donations from New Hope Baptist Church, Scots Landscaping, Maclver Family, Books a Million, Secret Santa, and several individual donors who donated to the Thirty-One tote drive organized and led by Supervisor Kim Conrad. The Permanency staff was able to shop for over 60 children and host the party at the New Hope Baptist Church. Every child in attendance received a book, a set of pajamas, and a gift in their own Thirty-One tote. We were also able to provide every family that attended with a poinsettia, which was a total of 14 families. Our families were very thankful for the gift and the children were all excited for their gifts. They were very excited to see Santa and have their pictures taken with him.



Wood County, Cardinal Family Support Center

The Cardinal Family Support Center was very excited to host our Christmas Santa Shop again this year, but now in our new space in our new offices. We were concerned that with just moving, community members may have trouble finding us, but we are thrilled to report they had no trouble finding us and really appreciated the opportunity to “shop” for their children or grandchildren.

We served 105 households with a total of 290 children. Of those 290 children, 208 were aged 12 and under and 82 were aged 13 and up. Birth families comprised the largest majority of assistance with 205 children followed by grandparent assistance with 65 children; kinship, adoptive, and grandfamilies assistance consisted of 20 children total. We served 82 new families this year from last year.

...In Parkersburg Continued

We were honored to be able to assist 2 families referred by the North Star Child Advocacy Center for a total of 7 children, and we were able to provide Christmas food boxes to 20 families from our various programs as well as to the public. Those boxes and other Christmas presents provided were made possible due to generous donations from various donors including McClinton Chevrolet, Dallas Wingrove, Katie Dunn, Sandhill Explorers 4-H Club, Loving Care Assisted Living, Modern Woodmen of America, Cre8tive Cosplay, Rose Hughes, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. These generous donors provided items such as food stuffs, coats, gifts for teens, socks, hygiene products, toys, baby and toddler specific toys, clothing, and financial donations to purchase needed items.

A local group of generous donors calling themselves the Secret Santas again came through with financial donations totaling nearly \$11,000, which enabled us to purchase requested items for teens, babies and toddlers. This included shopping for 8 specific families with a total of 15 children.

We were also gifted two fully decorated Christmas trees from the United Way to be given to families as we saw a need. One tree was given to a young adult in our Transitional Living Program who has two young children. The other tree was given to a mother who came in to the Santa Shop requesting assistance for her 8 children. She was extremely thankful for the opportunity to pick out new toys, books, clothes, and other items. She was very emotional when she was offered the Christmas tree. She was grateful as she did not have one and thought the tree was just beautiful.

One family we helped was a grandmother who had just gotten custody of her 13-year-old grandson. We were able to get a list of things she thought he'd like including a belt, boots, and some Lego sets. We were able to get those items and a few other things. We were also able to provide her and her grandson with a Christmas Meal box, which included a ham, sides, and a cookie mix to bake. She was incredibly thankful for all the help we were able to provide, and cried when I said we could get her some wrapping paper to wrap his presents in. She also picked out a few things from our Santa Shop for her other grandchildren as well.



Thanks to the generosity of our donors to our Santa Shop, we were able to help many grandparents who just wanted to give their grandchildren a gift on Christmas but couldn't otherwise as they don't have custody of them. They were so happy to be able to pick something for each of their grandchildren. Some of the grandparents had more than 10 grandchildren, and they were able to find a little something for all of them!

In speaking with a father who was struggling after his children's mother left the family a few months ago, he reported he had been unable to give his children gifts last year and didn't want that to happen again this year. Thanks to the Secret Santa donation we were able to shop for GameStop gift cards for his sons and makeup and beauty supplies for his daughter. When he came to pick them up, he was also able to look through the Santa Shop items and pick out a few things for each of them additionally. This father was truly grateful for the special items we were able to buy his children and for being able to personally pick out a few things himself to gift each of them.

...In Parkersburg Continued

The mother of a family we had helped at Thanksgiving reached out asking for help with her two teenage children and her teenage niece for Christmas. We asked her for a list of things each teen would like for Christmas; the lists had all the usual teen items: crocs, headphones, bedroom décor, hoodies, gift cards for video games, etc. However, one of the girls had an unusual request - baked mac and cheese! We weren't able to bake it for her, but we did get her several boxes of mac and cheese she could bake herself. We also provided the family with a Christmas Meal Box, which included ham, potatoes, rolls, vegetables and a sugar cookie mix.



Parents as Teachers (PAT) started the month of December with a wonderful event at the Grand Central Mall. We held a successful Roll & Read with activities centered around the book "The Itsy Bitsy Snowman" and had over 80 individuals in attendance. From the Roll & Read, we received 3 new families who enrolled in the program just before Christmas. We were able to provide families, with a total of 31 children, a pair of pajamas, a book and a developmental toy for each child. The families were very grateful for these gifts.

The **Right from The Start** program provided every infant and sibling a safe sleep board book and a developmental (age-appropriate) toy. Twelve families were provided a gas cards and 49 families were provided safety kits (first-aid kit, flashlight, and hand sanitizer) and child safety locks. Fifteen toiletry bags (deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, hand lotion, tissues, toothbrush, and full-size toothpastes). Other items purchased and given out included maternal wipes, maternal pads, desitin, aquaphor, infant eye wipes, diapers, and wipes. Thirty safe sleep sacks were provided to infants. We were able to provide a heavy winter coat and winter clothing for one of RFTS client who required specific items due to medical condition. A total of 135 individuals received Holiday help through the Right from the Start Program.



...In Parkersburg Continued

The **Transitional Living program** provided gifts for 17 households for a total of 26 people including gifts for the youth's children through the generosity of the Secret Santas. In addition to the gifts, those who requested meals were able to get a Christmas box through coordination with our Family Support Center. The program also provided Christmas trees and decorations to 4 of the young adults, who did not have the means to buy them on their own as well as a Christmas tree that was already pre-lit and decorated which was graciously provided by the United Way. Stockings were filled with candy and given to youth and their families. Stockings were provided by a wonderful donation from the First United Methodist Church of Parkersburg. These young adults were very excited to receive their gifts. One young lady stated that opening a gift and seeing something she had actually asked for was a very special moment for her and an experience that she will cherish.



The **Independent Living program** provided 6 young adults with a \$100 Amazon gift cards and a \$50 Walmart gift card to be used for a Christmas meal. Michelle Gazarati graciously donated individual baskets filled with hygiene items and toiletries. The youth were very excited to receive their gifts and were grateful that someone thought of them.

The Safe at Home/CSED provided gift cards for 6 families for a total of 13 children. These gift cards allowed the families to provide Christmas for each child in the home.

...In Parkersburg Continued

Arthur N. Gustke Child Shelter



December was busy in Parkersburg at the Arthur N. Gustke Child Shelter. We are thankful to the community who stepped up and filled so many needs and wants to make this holiday season a little easier. We have had year round support from Archers Chapel UMC in Sistersville, WV and Tracy Patterson. This December they provided us with funds towards movie tickets and skating passes during our break from school, over \$500 worth of gifts from our Amazon list to include in the Christmas party duffle bags. The Justice Riders had their yearly toy drive for all programs at Children Home Society and the shelter was able to secure some games and stocking stuffers for our older youth, they also donated 5 Below Gift Cards and Dollar General Gift Cards. We had a sweet lady provide the kids with afterschool Christmas “party” and brought cookies, snacks, stockings for each, gifts for each and 10 gifts for the shelter. This was a wonderful addition to our month that provided lots of cheer.



Another year round donor, Lois Meadows continued with her annual Christmas donation of school long sleeve shirts, snack goodies and slippers that is given to the youth on Christmas Eve. This year's Christmas Eve pajama pants were donated by Whitney Miller to have their own pair to go with the shirts. She provided funds for us to get and individualize for each. Jaclyn Varner donated each kids favorite board game and candy to go with their Christmas Eve gifts. Both Whitney and Jaclyn have helped the past several years and its been nice to be able to come up with specific ways they have been able to be apart of this holiday for our youth. North Hills neighborhood community showed up again with a specific hope to cover our Christmas Eve dinner at Texas Roadhouse, and they came through and made this happen. They also provided some yummy baked goods for our party.

Our Christmas party was a success and was hosted at Emmanuel Baptist Church for the 8th year. Emmanuel also provided these duffle bags for each youth and many members of the community supported us and bought many things off the Amazon wish list to fill each bag up. We had several repeat donors, many new ones, and quite a few anonymous donors.

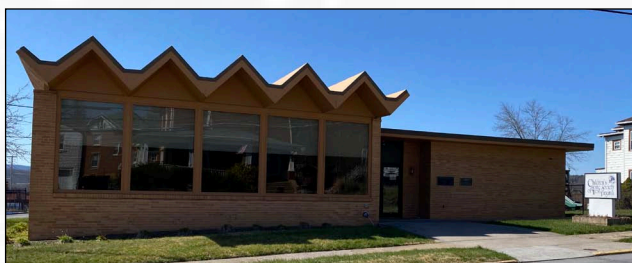
Christmas Day individualized wish list items came from Housecalls Home Health and Hospice. They have followed up with us and continued this support as they did last year and sponsor our youth by adding that special touch that brings smiles and appreciation from each youth on what can be a hard day to be in shelter. The gifts are thoughtful and go beyond what we could expect a group to do for our youth in shelter.



...In Parkersburg Continued

We received a \$1,000 shoe grant to provide each child with a new pair of shoes for Christmas by the Robert E. Foush Memorial fund with Parkersburg Area Community Foundation. Kids got top wish list item shoes with a pack of their own long Nike socks to go with them. Lastly, we had an awesome anonymous person stop by to learn more about the shelter and they donated \$3,000 to go towards Christmas needs. This conversation will be remembered for the kindness and impact it made for our kids.

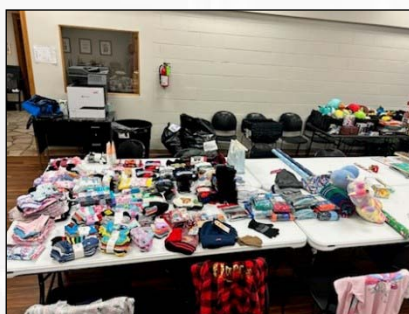
Christmas in shelter is not normal, but we are thankful for the community that understands that and wants the kids who have to be here to feel recognized, special and cared about.



...In Princeton

By: Lindsey Short

The Princeton Site sends a huge thank you out to all of its donors for the 2024 holiday season. Books-A-Million donated over \$6,000 in books and toys to our various programs. Because of this donation, our Foster Care Program was able to host a “Book Fair” for the youth in care. The remaining books will be used throughout the year by all of our programs. Fairview Christian Youth Group donated \$1,450 in clothing, and Kee Street United Methodist church donated Christmas dinner for five families in need.



...In Princeton Continued

We would also like to offer our appreciation to Lifeline Church. The congregational members of Lifeline sponsored 100 children for Christmas across the Foster Care, WECAN, and Therapy Programs, donating over \$10,000 in toys and other basic necessities. They began shopping in November and opened their space up for our Christmas event. Volunteers also assisted with our event on December 12th and provided a traditional Christmas dinner, crafts, and hot chocolate to our clients. Our clients were also able to spend some one-on-one time with Santa and Mrs. Claus thanks to our very own WECAN Becky Brown and her husband.

The Princeton Site thanks all of those who donated their time, as well as monetarily during this Christmas season. We could not do the work that we do without those who open their hearts to children and families. Thank you!





Foster Care office is located in the School for the Deaf & Blind

...In Romney

By: Sally Johnson

The Romney site has been so blessed during this 2024 Christmas season. No words come to mind that can truly express our appreciation for the kindness and generosity of our community partners. We were able to provide Christmas for a total of 97 children in the Mineral and Hampshire County area. Because of wonderful volunteers in our community, our very active advisory council and staff, 61 children ages new born to teenagers were able to feel loved and cared about during the Christmas season in Mineral County and we were able to provide Christmas for 36 children in Hampshire County. We were able to provide Christmas dinners to three grand families in Mineral County, along with Christmas gifts to 7 grandchildren in Mineral and Hardy Counties. CHS also wishes to thank the following individuals and groups for their participation in the 2024 Angel Tree Project in both Hampshire and Mineral Counties:

Marsha Amtower, Brandon and Sarah Baker, Burlington Café, Judy Butts, Craig and Crystal Armentrout and family, Sheri Coleman, Jay and Laura Courier, Mark and Vicky Delsignore, Tony and Marie Delsignore, EA Hawse, First Rate Plumbing, Christian and Kelsey Ernst, Pam Francis, Skip and Shirley Hackworth, Hampshire Wellness Center, Rick and Wendy High and family, Gary and Libby Kalbaugh, Knippenberg Insurance, Gini and Sally Johnson, Joyce Lamphier, Living Word Fellowship, Mary Lupinacci and Robert Delancey, Linda Marsh, Tessa McBride, Terri Morris, Amy Pancake, Romney Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Tom and Ruth Rowan, Romney Rotary Club, Romney Ruritan Club, The Shores family, Veronica Spurling, Sanja Stanislawczyk, Randy and Dolly Swick, Walmart employees.



We would like to thank each and everyone one of you for your kindness and generosity during the 2024 Christmas season. We look forward to working with each of you again in 2025.

...In Romney Continued

Our foster children and their foster families enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party again this year on December 6, 2024. The party was held in the auditorium at the WV School for the Deaf and Blind. We want to thank Pastor Chris Talton and his wife Tammi for ensuring that Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance and thanks to the WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind for donating the auditorium. A great time was had by all. We would like to thank the following for purchasing Christmas gifts for our foster children and foster siblings:

Just Pawn It in Capon Bridge, The Working Man's Store in Winchester, Jennifer Keyser and her family, Vickie Miller and Scott Lowery, Susan Rich Walker, CD's Coffee and Cream, CD's Barber Shop in Winchester, and Capon Bridge Glass out of Capon Bridge, WV.

This really made Christmas bright for these children and we thank each of you very much.



...In Romney Continued

Our 2024 Little Red Sticking campaign was wonderful again this year. Arthur Mart who raised \$7,860, followed by Burlington Café that raised \$5,131 and in third place was Rio General Store in Rio, WV, raised \$3,900. In addition to these businesses, please see the list of all partners in this campaign. We really appreciate everyone's efforts to help us raise money and awareness of the services we provide to our local children. Many thanks to the following businesses, organizations and individuals who helped to make this campaign so successful:

In Augusta, WV:

Bank of Romney, El Centro, L&M Market, Marloy Trucking, McKee Funeral Home, North River Ruritan Club and Sheri's Place

In Baker, WV:

A Corner Mart

In Berkeley Springs:

J&S Pawn Shop

In Burlington, WV:

Burlington Café, Burlington General Store, New Leaf Greenhouse, Shoey's Trucking

In Canaan Valley:

Grant County Bank

In Capon Bridge, WV:

Bank of Romney, Culver Design Builders, FNB Bank, Jill's Barber Shop and Just Pawn It

In Clarksburg, WV:

J&S Pawn

In Cresaptown, MD:

Pit N Go and Tips to Toes Too

In Culpeper, VA:

Merchants Grocery

In Cumberland, MD:

American Woodmark Foundation, Carol Jackson, Kline's Restaurant, Knippenburg Insurance, Lisa Lancaster, Pit in Go, Progressive Physical Therapy and Super 8 Hotel

In Davis, WV:

Grant County Bank

In Flintstone, MD:

Rebecca Keith

In Fort Ashby, WV:

FNB Bank, Wayne's Meats, Fort Ashby Hardware Store, Fox's Pizza, Gain's Service Station and Fort Ashby VFW

In Franklin, WV:

Basagic Funeral Home and Par Mar

In Frostburg, MD:

J&S Pawn Shop

In Hagerstown, MD:

J&S Pawn

In Keyser, WV:

American Legion Post 41, Burger King, Double B's Restaurant, Gini Johnson and Sally Johnson, Fox's Pizza, Grant County Bank, Hair Depot, J&S Pawn Shop, Keyser Inn, K&M Sales, Linda Marsh, Markwood Funeral Home, Mary Helmick, MCT, Inc, M&S Repair, The Loyal Order of the Orioles, Potomac Heights Apartments, Queen's Point Coffee, Reed's Drug Store, Royal Aire, Royal Restaurant, State Farm Insurance, Timbrook Ford and Wayne's Meats

In Lexington, KY:

National Christian Foundation

In Martinsburg, WV:

J&S Pawn Shop

In Maysville, WV:

Galen's Country Store

...In Romney Continued

In McCoole, MD:

Best Price Gas Station

In McGaheysville, VA:

Rebecca S. Lane

In Moorefield, WV:

American Woodmark Foundation, Burger King, Grant County Bank, Fox's Pizza, Glenda Parsons, Main Event,, Mullin's 1847 Restaurant, O'Neill's Restaurant, PCB, R Thomas CPA, South Branch BP, South Branch Inn, South Fork Pharmacy, and Walters and Heishman, LLC

In Morgantown:

J&S Pawn Shop

In Mount Jackson, VA:

Holzman Oil

In Mount Storm, WV:

A.L.L. Construction, Dominion Energy

In New Creek, WV:

In-Style Hair Salon, Knobley Auctions, Knobley Farms and Knobley Farms Liberty Station

In Oakland, MD:

J&S Pawn Shop

In Old Fields, WV:

Old Fields Country Store

In Paw Paw, WV:

American Legion, Liberty Station

In Petersburg, WV:

ALL Ours Towing, Arthur Mart, Dairy Queen, Dominion Energy, Family Traditions Restaurant, Fox's Pizza, Grant County Bank, Grove Street Station, Spirit of Life Church, Tri-County Collision

In Piedmont, WV:

Duckies Bar and Grill

In Ridgeley, WV:

J & S Pawn Shop, William Shuck Jr. Memorial

In Rio:

Rio General Store and Travis Haines, LLC

In Romney, WV:

The Bakery Barn, The Bakery Barn Coffee Café, Bank of Romney, Burger King, Buettner Tires, Carrie's Visions of Beauty, Cruise Thru Drive Thru, Eastern Building Supply, FNB Bank, Fox's Pizza, Hampshire County Library, Italian Touch, Lambert's Drug Store, Main Street Grill, McKee Funeral Home, Mt. Top Restaurant, Northern Eagle, Pulmonary Associates, Romney Brew Station, Romney Diner, South Branch Inn, Spring Valley Market

In Shanks, WV:

Wayne's Country Fresh Meats

In Slanesville, WV:

Bank of Romney and Slanesville Ruritan Club

In Springfield, WV:

Springfield Sunoco and T&S Market

In Wardensville, WV:

Marina's Pizza

In Westernport, MD:

Fair Price Market and Fox's Pizza

In Winchester, VA:

CD's Barber Shop, CD's Coffee and Cream, Jill's Barber Shop, Lox Salon, The Working Man's Store

...In Romney Continued

This 2024 Little Red Stocking campaign was very successful. In addition to thanking all of our Little Red Stocking partners, we wish to thank our communities for purchasing our stockings and making special donations. The campaign would not have been so successful without the community support. We look forward to working with each of you again in the 2025 campaign.



*Little Red Stocking
Campaign*

CHRISTMAS

ROMNEY CHILDREN'S SHELTER

A PROGRAM OF CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF WEST VIRGINIA

POTOMAC EDISON: LIGHTS THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Our friends at Potomac Edison spent the first weekend in December helping make our home ready for Christmas, with the residents they brought a tree to trim, made cookies and gingerbread houses and provided dinner. Their kindness doesn't stop there though, they also repainted all of the bedrooms and worked on a decorative redesign and redid our telephone visitation space to make it a comfortable spot where our kids talk with their loved ones. A new flat screen TV was hung with care in our living room. Additionally, they adopted our kids for Christmas and went above and beyond, spending \$150+ on each of our 5 residents.



CHRISTMAS CAROLERS

Bloomery Presbyterian Church provided in house Christmas Caroling for our residents! What a treat! Additionally, they provided a \$5000 contribution to our shelter.



HAMPSHIRE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY

Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency provided gifts for our residents during the holiday season as well as came in to talk to our residents about the career opportunities in Emergency Services. They answered questions and demonstrated some of their equipment.



A COMMUNITY OF GENEROUS DONORS:

We were honored with Giving during the Holiday Season from Our Incredibly Supportive Community. A special thank you to :

- Romney First Baptist Church
- Lois Thibault
- Monica Scott
- Faith Missions Church
- Ebenezer Church
- Just Pawn It- Capon Bridge
- Angela Throne
- Mt. Zion Orleans Community Church
- Danville Community Church
- Our Lady of Grace Church
- The Working Man's Store
- Larry & Joann Mann
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

OUR STAFF:

Our wonderful staff at Romney Children's Shelter surely made the entire month of December Magical, we had a special visitor, Romney the Elf who visited nightly from the North Pole, our staff took the residents snow tubing, bowling, roller skating, to the arcade, and on many other outings to make their Christmas great. Our staff evening arranged a special delivery on Christmas morning by Santa himself.





...In Summersville

By: Stormy Murphy

Summersville Permanency office had a wonderful Christmas season again this year. We started off by decorating a CHS Christmas Tree at the Dr. Flavius Brown House, also known as Brown Oaks, which is located in the downtown district of Summersville. The historic home was built by Dr. Flavius H. Brown, Sr. in 1923 and is now owned by the City of Summersville.



Rachel Short and Billie Jean Wiley with US Cellular in Summersville stopped by with a generous and kindhearted donation of toys for our kiddos.



...In Summersville Continued

In an attempt to pay it forward and support others doing wonderful things in our community, some of Summersville's CHS staff helped local law enforcement officers and first responders again this year bring holiday cheer to over 200 needy children in the area by serving pizza, snacks, and drinks to the kiddos before sending them off on their shopping adventure. It's always an honor to be part of this marvelous event.



Jordan Chapel United Methodist Church continues to be a huge part of our "extended family." They allow us to use their facility for our monthly Foster Parent Support Groups and once again provided all of our families and children with gift bags filled with pajamas and other goodies. Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by again this year to say hello and spend some quality time with our kids and families. Thanks to the generous heart of a lady who wanted to share some Christmas cheer and the support of one of our faithful local advisory board members, we were able to set up a "Christmas Store" again this year for all of the kiddos where they could "shop" for gifts (free of charge, of course) for their siblings, parents, and foster parents. Several of our local advisory board members and their families volunteered their time to help the kids shop and wrap their gifts. One of our amazing foster families and their crew of teenage boys provided a delicious meal for our families as we celebrated the holiday of giving. We are truly blessed with some wonderful folks.



...In Summersville Continued

Wayne Smith and his crew with the Chemical Valley Crawlers went above and beyond yet again to provide for less fortunate children in our community. This year was the 5th Annual Chemical Valley Crawlers ride which was held at the Good Evening Ranch this year. The Chemical Valley Crawlers provided 18 foster children and 16 other children from our Nicholas County with Christmas presents. As always, we are truly grateful for the generosity of the Chemical Valley Crawlers and the fact that they continue to support us.





Kathleen and John Faltis Child Shelter in Summerville

By: Desarae Murphy

At Faltis Shelter, the Christmas season was filled with an outpouring of generosity and festive cheer. Thanks to the support of volunteers and donors, the shelter was able to provide essential items such as clothing, food, gifts, and more, ensuring that every resident could experience a joyful and memorable holiday. The shelter hosted a variety of activities, including holiday meals, games, and gatherings, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all the children.

The magic of the season began with a special trip on the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad North Pole Christmas Train, where the children enjoyed caroling, hot cocoa, and milk and cookies with Santa. Throughout December, the kids participated in fun-filled activities like crafting snow globes, decorating ornaments, creating a festive tree, watching *The Polar Express*, visiting the local park to see the Christmas lights, and so much more.

This Christmas would not have been possible without the incredible kindness of the community. Generous donations poured in from organizations like Columbia, St. Luke's Church, Summerville Baptist, and many others. These contributions included financial support, hygiene bags, and gifts. Judy McClung thoughtfully donated cookies for the children to decorate, along with hats and gloves. Summerville Nutrition's Angel Tree provided many of the kids' wishes, and local churches offered gift cards for stores like Walmart, McDonald's, and the local movie theater. Pies and Pints and Pizza Hut both generously provided pizzas for the children to enjoy during movie nights and special gatherings.

...Faltis Shelter Continued

The gratitude we feel for all of our community partners is immense—there were too many donors to name, but each one played a pivotal role in making this Christmas unforgettable. For one 17-year-old girl, it was the best Christmas she'd ever had she told staff. This is exactly the joy and light we aim to bring into the lives of these children, especially during such a challenging time.

The staff at Faltis worked tirelessly to create a festive atmosphere, donating their time and energy to prepare meals, snacks, and a variety of holiday activities. Their dedication ensured that the spirit of Christmas was alive and well at the shelter, making this season one of hope, love, and community for all.



...In Wheeling

By: Kara Clevenger

Not only during the holiday season, but every day our staff never loses the motivation to continuously advocate for the children in our foster care and adoption permanency program. Christmas would not be as memorable without the generosity of our many donors. We simply could not have a happy holiday without all of our donor's support.



...In Wheeling Continued



We had another successful, annual Amazon Holiday Wish List and it continues to be a success every year. We had two Holiday Wish Lists on Amazon and almost all items were bought for 18 children. Not only does this wish list help the children in our permanency program, but families and children in our local communities, as well.

Another triumphant year of smiling children on Christmas morning. Special thank you to the Proctor Church of Christ, Nikki Stevens, and to every single person who purchased from the registry to ensure that our children had a Merry Christmas.

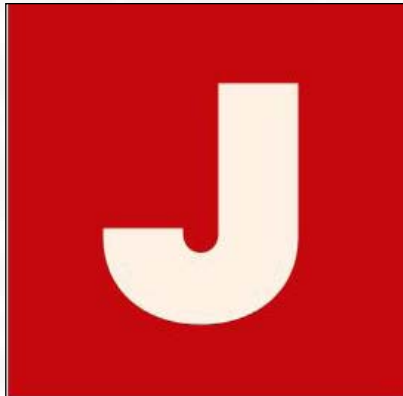
We caught sneaky Santa in our office!



...In Wheeling Continued

Wheeling held our annual Christmas party at the First Christian Church in Wheeling. We had five foster families and 22 children in attendance. Children wrote letters to Santa and mailed them to the North Pole.

We had a special appearance by Santa himself! He heard each child's wish and gave each child a Christmas Ducky. Staff took advantage of the opportunity to spend extra time with the children we adore.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

...In Wheeling Continued

Wheeling is incredibly thankful for all of the donors this holiday season who helped ensure that each child had a smile on their faces Christmas Day. We truly could not have done it without each and every one of the donors and we are forever grateful for your continued support.

Stay tuned! We are confident, determined, and excited for continued growth for Wheeling in 2025!



2024 Little Red Stocking Campaign

Children's Home Society would like to thank all the small businesses that participated in making the 2024 Little Red Stocking Campaign a huge success. We would also like to thank everyone who donated to our Little Red Stocking Campaign by sending in contributions from our Annual Christmas Appeal Card.



The Children's Home Society would like to send a huge THANK YOU, to the Oil Marketers and Grocers Association and their members.

Gomart, our longest corporate partner, dating back to 2004, raised \$17,365 and Par Mar Stores raised \$9,935 statewide. We would also like to thank ROCS Convenience Stores for their continued support of the campaign. Total funds raised by ROCS will be announced at a later date.

2024 Little Red Stocking Campaign



2024

Little Red Stocking
Campaign

The Nice List Inc.

We would like to thank Isaac Morgan, founder of the Nice List Inc. and CHS Marketing and Development Assistant, David Humphreys for their dedication in making the children we assist have a wonderful Christmas. Becoming Santa overnight, Isaac and David attended multiple events like breakfast with Santa, dinner with Santa, photo ops, Christmas Parties, parades, and more, throughout Kanawha, Putnam, Raleigh, and Cabell counties to raise funds that benefited the Children's Home Society's Huntington location to help provide Christmas gifts for teens.

The Nice List Inc. is a 501c3 charity showing how being Nice throughout the year can change the world and keeping Christmas magic alive for families in economic crisis.

To learn more about the Nice List Inc., visit their website at: thenicelistwv.wixsite.com/website.





**CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY
OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**1422 KANAWHA BLVD EAST.
CHARLESTON, WV 25311
304.346.0795
CHILDHSWV.ORG**



CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF WV



CHSOFWV



CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF WV

