# Chicen's Tomenews

VOLUME - 79

THE

OF A
MASTERPIECE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

#### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Victoria Wilson Board Chair

Driving the country roads of West Virginia, one can't help but notice its magnificent beauty. The mountains and valleys, the rivers and streams, and the beautiful forest all make for the masterpiece that is West Virginia. Nestled amongst West Virginia's mountains and rivers, you will find Children's Home Society of WV ("CHS"). Much like the natural beauty of our state, CHS is also a work of art. Operating 27 physical locations throughout West Virginia and providing services to youth and families in all 55 counties of WV is no easy feat. What CHS has been doing for children and families in the State of West Virginia for 129 years is nothing short of a masterpiece.

CHS continues to grow and thrive in this state because it is an agency that truly cares about children and the families that care for them. CHS is there to uplift and support West Virginia's youth and families, often at what may be the lowest point of their lives. CHS is also there to celebrate when families are reunited or when families are made complete thru adoption. CHS is an integral part of every community where it has a physical presence and we are actively working to raise awareness and be a positive beacon. CHS' presence is not limited by its physical locations; its resources and outreach stretch far beyond its physical boarders. If CHS sees a youth in need in WV, we will do whatever it takes to fill that gap. Known for its leadership and innovation when it comes to taking care our youth, CHS does not hesitate to work with federal, state, and local officials or other community-based organizations to find solutions to tough problems. Whether that solution is providing direct services to children and families or partnering with other community or government organizations to achieve the necessary results, CHS will do what it takes without compromising what is best for the children. Keeping children at the forefront of every decision is the reason CHS has been and will continue to be successful.

During my time on the board, I have seen CHS constantly evaluate what is needed and move to fill that gap – whether it is changing programs and services offered at its emergency shelters; establishing programs to help youth successfully transition to adulthood; expanding services provided to kinship families to meet the needs that come along with unexpectedly welcoming a young family member into your home or being a community resource to help provide for families in need.

Whether you live in the northern panhandle, the eastern panhandle, the central mountains or the southern coal fields of WV, families can rely on CHS for support when they need it. Please join me in celebrating the masterpiece that is CHS in continuing to provide outstanding care and compassion to WV youth and their families.



Chief Executive Officer

This edition of the Children's Home News, 2025 Annual Report, is much about the daily work and dedication of so many in their efforts to create opportunities for children and families. We start each day with a blank canvas, we give rise to our mission, we work to leave no one behind. When love, skill, passion and commitment work together a masterpiece is created. Our work is the stroke of many brushes; the colors are not all the same, each adding its own touch to the canvas and then as if by magic, the masterpiece is complete.



# TOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS...

The Children's Home Society of West Virginia Emergency Shelter Care Program provides statewide care to children throughout West Virginia. Serving 407 children last year, our shelter program has touched the lives of countless children across the state, providing more than just care, but a lifeline. For every child that has walked through our doors at any of our 8 emergency children's shelters, our goal is to not only provide shelter, but a sense of belonging and hope. We want our children to feel and know that we are there for them. Our shelters are not just a roof overhead where their basic needs are met, but a place where safety is felt, where trust is built, and where hope begins to take root.

Much too often, the children that come to our shelters carry stories in their heart that are too heavy for them to bare alone. They may arrive feeling unseen, unheard, or unsure of what tomorrow holds, but our mission is to help them see their potential and self-worth. Our staff are committed to walking beside them, no matter where they are on their journey. We believe that every child deserves a chance to grow in an environment that nurtures their dreams and reminds them that they do not have to be on their journey alone. They don't just care for our children, they uplift them. Day by day, moment by moment, our goal is to plant seeds of self-worth, resilience, and hope within each child we meet. Our staff understand that while they may not always see results immediately within our children, we know that when a child is given the right support, even the smallest seed can grow into something extraordinary.

DAVIS CHILD SHELTER - CHARLESTON MATTHEW PACK CHILDREN'S HOME - SHADY SPRING GREENBRIER VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOME - RUPERT ARTHUR N. GUSTKE CHILD SHELTER - PARKERSBURG JOHN AND KATHLEEN FALTIS CHILD SHELTER - SUMMERSVILLE JUNE MONTGOMERY HARLESS CHILDREN'S HOME - HOLDEN HOVAH HALL UNDERWOOD CHILDREN'S HOME - ONA **ROMNEY CHILD SHELTER - ROMNEY** 

# EVERY CHILD DESERVES A LOVING HOME...



Youth belong with their families and when that is not possible who better than a CHS foster home. Our families and staff play an integral role in the youth's story whether our youth are with us for a short period of time or their permanency plan becomes adoption. Our families pour love, stability, and care on each child placed in their home adding brush strokes to their masterpiece.

Written by: Carna Metheney-White

ROMNEY COMMUNITY BASED OFFICE PRINCETON COMMUNITY BASED OFFICE LEWISBURG COMMUNITY BASED OFFICE CHARLESTON COMMUNITY BASED OFFICE

WHEELING COMMUNITY BASED OFFICE SUMMERSVILLE COMMUNITY BASED OFFICE MORGANTOWN COMMUNITY BASED OFFICE **HURRICANE SAFE AT HOME OFFICE** 

The Permanency Program operates under the following mission, "We believe every child deserves a lifetime family, that permanency is possible for all children, and that the single most important thing we can do to promote positive long-term outcomes for children is to connect them with stable and loving families." The work that we do shows our commitment to our mission. The Permanency Program cared for 432 of West Virginia's most vulnerable youth this past fiscal year.

Our permanency staff worked diligently to ensure that each youth had the loving home that they so very much deserve. In working towards helping our youth achieve permanency the Society finalized 74 adoptions, supported families so that 52 reunifications were possible, and 26 youth were able to be placed with a kinship or relative placement.

Our permanency staff worked industriously to recruit, train and approve new families, opening 61 loving homes this past year to care for our children. When asked to provide positive stories about their experiences in providing foster care and adoption, families provided the following responses:

- · We have seen lots of families reunified.
- We adopted from foster care and now are parents to a spunky 7-year-old who is our world.
- · Watching a child grow and develop in our home. Seeing them learn to read, become potty trained, and be full of
- I enjoyed making Christmas a magical time for her.





emotional scars.

# DOOR THAT IS ALWAYS OPEN...

Family Support Centers (FSC) are designed to increase strength and stability among the families served. Centers provide a soft place to land within the community where struggling families can find friendly, engaging, staff who seek to understand each one's circumstances, and provide a non-judgmental response to the challenges faced.

FSC's are grounded in the Five Protective Factors Framework which encompasses evidenced-based principals and offers opportunities for families to build Social and Emotional Competence in their children, increase Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development, build Social Connections among parents, provide Concrete Supports to meet basic needs and access to essential services, and develop Resilience to overcome life stressors.

Trust building is the cornerstone of our FSC work. It opens the door to change and growth, and establishes the path for all other objectives to be accomplished. Each month, Children's Home Society FSC's serve hundreds of families who are faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Once they experience our FSC staff's genuine care and compassion, nurturing responses, and can-do attitudes, they begin to envision hope for the day, and the inner strength necessary to bounce back from crisis.

These relationships most often begin with the provision of food, clothing, diapers and formula, and other basic needs such as personal-care items. There is also an overwhelming and underfunded need for children's beds and therefore prioritized by some FSC's through efforts to secure monetary donations, grants, and volunteers to coordinate distribution. Other critical areas of need include the population of grandparents raising grandchildren. Those we encounter through the FSC severely lack resources and supports to navigate this unexpected and unintended retirement plan imposed upon them by our state's addiction challenges. In spite of the looming cloud of barriers, they are resilient, and are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for

All aspects of the Family Support Center's work are significant to the desired outcomes of safe, stable and resilient families. Perhaps when we insure provision of the most basic of human needs, we give families the best opportunity to become physically and emotionally available for achieving personal growth and building self-sufficiency.

their most beloved little ones, many who are burdened with lifelong physical and

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, our Resource Centers assisted **4,013** individuals statewide. These children and their families were able to benefit from the in-kind support given to CHS by numerous businesses, individuals, churches, and civic groups throughout West Virginia.

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, our Family Support Centers assisted **4,765** children and families. The centers are unique in their approach to working with families. They build families' strengths and capacities, work for positive social change, and offer help without stigma. Parents may act in many capacities, such as serving on a decision-making board, participating in programs, or planning and participating in community events.

Written bly: Diana Lucas



# NOOTED IN THE MISSION...

#### **OUR MISSION**

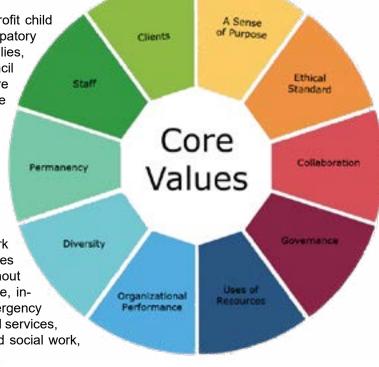
The Mission of the Children's Home Society is to promote the well-being of children. Our current efforts are directed at helping children find lifetime families, protecting and nurturing children, and helping preserve and strengthen their families.

#### **DUR VISION**

Each child in West Virginia grows up in a safe and nurturing family that provides for his or her current and future needs.

The Children's Home Society of West Virginia is a private, non-profit child welfare organization founded in 1896. The Society is a participatory organization consisting of employees, foster families, adoptive families, volunteers, Board members, Directors Emeriti, advisory council members, donors, benefactors, supporters, and friends. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that is representative of the communities we serve from around the state. We are licensed to provide child welfare and behavioral health services in West Virginia. We are a member agency of the Emergency Shelter Providers Network, the National Council For Adoption, the Foster Family Treatment Association, and the Children's Home Society of America. We are fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children.

Comprehensive child welfare, behavioral health, social casework and advocacy services were provided to **24,667** children and families during the 2024/2025 fiscal year from 13 primary locations throughout the state. Some of our current programs are adoption, foster care, inhome and in-community services for children and families, emergency shelter care, parent education training, prenatal and early childhood services, volunteer and mentoring, visitation and reunification, school based social work, and comprehensive assessment services.





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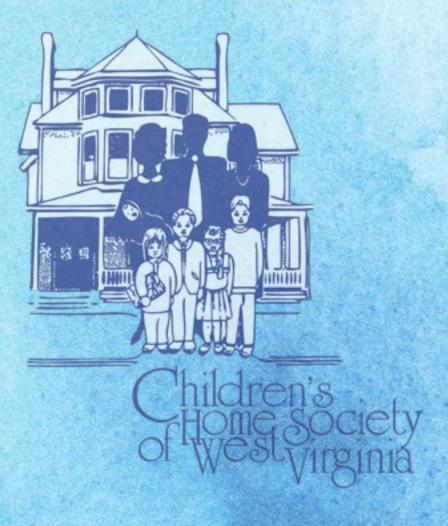
OPERATIONS OFFICE - 1596 KANAWHA BLVD.. CHARLESTON

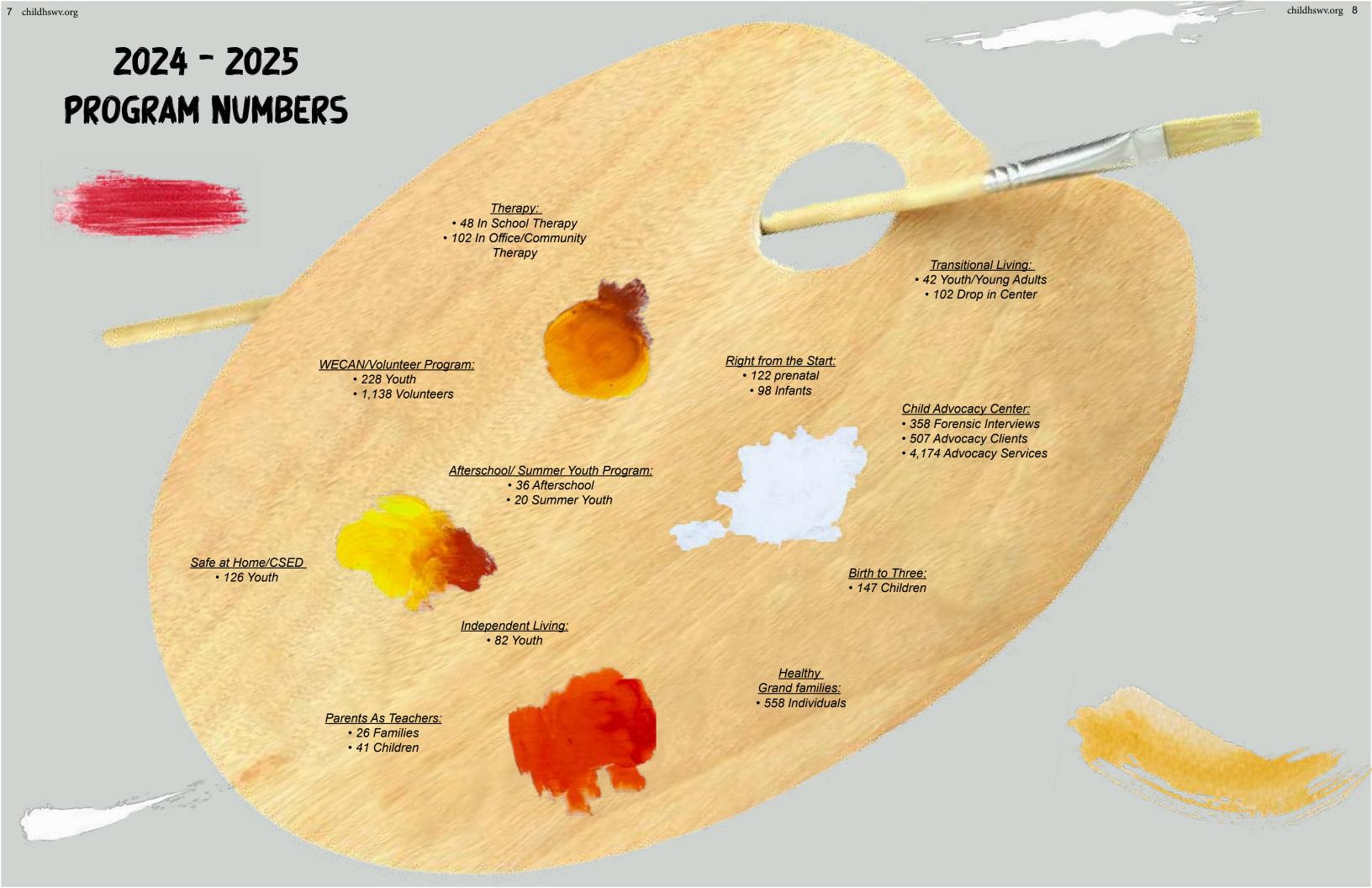
# OGTHER WE HAVE IT ALL...

A true team doesn't have a beginning or an end, it's a circle, ever-growing, always connected, and stronger because of every hand that holds it together. In our work, the truth is deeply felt every single day. We are surrounded by a team made up of helpers, healers, doers, and dreamers. Each member of our team brings something essential to the table, something irreplaceable. No one person at Children's Home Society stands alone. Each child we provide care for, every family we have the privilege to support, is held by many hands, by our team. Our staff show up, not just with skill, but with their hearts. At our core, we understand that our work is one that cannot be done alone. It takes all of us, working side by side, trusting one another, and leaning into our mission that is so much bigger than ourselves.

We are a team of advocates, speaking up when voices are small or silenced. We are believers, seeing the light in children even when their worlds have gone dark. We are steady, supportive, and provide safe spaces where children and families can grow. We are guides, walking a path with purpose, helping shape the future where every child we encounter knows they are valued, loved, and capable. Each member of our team brings something unique to the table, a kind word, a steady presence, a moment of laughter, and a thoughtful, well thought out plan. When all these beautiful pieces collide, something powerful happens. Our children and families heal.

This work is not easy, but we believe that when we work together, anything is possible. When moments are hard, we remember that we are here to help children and we are blessed to be doing this with the best team. Because at the heart of everything we do is with one shared purpose: to lift up our children and families who so desperately need it and to walk beside them with love, strength, and an unshakable belief that everyone deserves a brighter tomorrow.





## HEART OF THE HOLIDAYS

Many years ago, it all began with a simple, yet profound act of kindness. School children lovingly gathering their pennies in small socks to bring to school. With so much love and generosity, they gave what little they had, and their school principal would deliver these precious gifts to the local orphanage. Those tiny socks, filled with love, brought warmth, joy, and a sense of belonging to children who needed it most.

Each year, as the Christmas season approaches, our hearts overflow with anticipation and gratitude as we prepare to launch our Little Red Stocking Campaign. It's more than just a tradition, it's a heartfelt legacy rooted in the purest form of giving. Last year alone, the Children's Home Society was able to assist 7,048 children and families through community support.

As the season of giving surrounds us, we want to extend our deepest thanks and heartfelt gratitude to all the incredible businesses across our state that support our Little Red Stocking Campaign. Their kindness and compassion have made such a powerful impact and assisted our children and families in having a wonderful Christmas.

The Little Red Stocking Campaign begins the day after Thanksgiving and ends on Christmas Eve. Every year, businesses throughout the state sell the brightly colored Little Red Stockings to help West Virginia's most vulnerable children. Each stocking costs only one dollar, and the money raised stays in that local community where the stocking is sold.

In the past year, our largest supporters were GoMart, Par Mar, and ROCS convenience stores. Across the state, our locations have built strong partnerships with hundreds of small businesses, each one deeply rooted in the heart of their own communities. These businesses are our neighbors, friends, and quiet heroes who care so deeply about the children growing around them. There's something truly special about the way communities come together this time of year and because of this, West Virginia families feel seen, valued, and loved.







Kara Clevenger

304.810.2460

Wheeling

#### If you would like to become a Little Red Stocking partner, please contact a locations nearest you.

- Tabatha Conn Beckley 304.255.0408
- Amanda Williams Charleston 304.345.3894
- Mary Carr Lewisburg 304.647.3430
- Ellen Browning Logan 304.792.6261
- Megan Livingston Martinsburg 304.264.0225
- Abby Miller
   Morgantown
   304.284.0992
- Becky Brown Northfork 304.862.4951
- Belinda Chapman Huntington 304.208.0359
- Jodi Null
   Parkersburg
   304,485,0650
- Kristen Nelson Princeton 304.431.2424
- Sally Johnson Romney 304.822.4652
- Stormy Murphy Summersville 304.205.9375

# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



Dale Geiger CHS Director Emeritus 1/5/40 - 7/21/24



Al Wade CHS Regional Director 2/19/51 - 5/10/25

FOR THOSE WE LOVE DON'T GO AWAY. THEY WALK BESIDE US EVERYDAY. UNSEEN. UNHEARD BUT ALWAYS NEAR. STILL LOVED. STILL MISSED AND VERY DEAR.



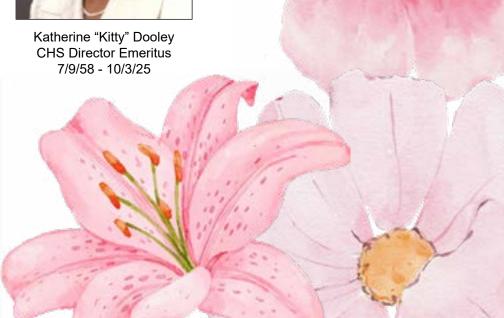


Mary Rader CHS Board of Director 10/30/65 - 10/1/24



Honorable, Thomas McHugh CHS Director Emeritus 3/26/1936 - 1/14/25





# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 RUTH EDEN BAILEY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

On August 1, 2025, the Children's Home Society of West Virginia had the profound honor of celebrating the legacy of our beloved long-term employee, Ruth Eden Bailey by awarding \$1,000 scholarships to eight very deserving young individuals. The scholarship fund was first started by Bob and Beth Noone, and has continued to be funded through family and other private contributions. Each year our foster and/or adopted youth may apply for this scholarship opportunity. It was such a deeply moving event, made even more heartfelt by the presence of Ruth's family, who stood witness to the lasting impact that she had made and continues to make through these youth. The atmosphere was filled with love, gratitude, and remembrance, as her spirit lives on in the dreams and aspirations of those receiving the scholarships in her name.



## FINANCIALS

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#### **Revenue and Support**

Contributions - 2,472,759 Private Grants - 491,495

Government Support - 16,177,631

Program Service Fees - 68,000

Contract Revenue (Medicaid Fees) - 6,436,932

Royalty Income - 1,000 Investment Income - 548,728 In-Kind Contributions - 945,053 Miscellaneous - 139,124

Total Revenue and Support - 27,280,722

#### **Program Services**

#### **Expenses**

Permanency - 6,739,447

Shelter Services - 12,472,748

Safe at Home - 970,441

Family Support Centers - 1,507,599

WECAN Volunteer Services - 260,709

Right from the Start Services - 221,530

Community-bases Services - 263,042

Child Advocacy Center - 390,699

Birth to Three Services - 15,845

Transitional Living/Independent Living - 1,471,795

In-Home Family Education - 200,814

#### Supporting Services:

Management and General - 3,042,888

Fundraising - 224,540

Loss on Disposal of Property - 1,271

**Total Expenses - 27,783,368** 

#### **Assets & Liabilities**

#### **Assets**

Cash & Equivalents - 7,134,749

Receivables - 2,141,221

Prepaid Expenses - 357,022

Other Assets - 639,508

Property & Equipment net - 11,960,593

Investments - 4,392,579

Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts - 269,141

Total Assets - 26,894,813

#### **Liabilities and Net Assets**

Liabilities - 3,187,501

Net Assets - 23,707,312

Total Liabilities and Net Assets - 26,894,813

## CHSWY LOCATIONS

#### **Berkeley County**

- Family Strengthening Services **Monarch Family Support** Center 100 South Queen St. Martinsburg, WV 25401 Megan Livingston, Site Manager 304.264.4658
- · Victoria's House, Child **Advocacy Center** 653 Winchester Ave., Martinbsurg, WV 25401 Jenna Orsini **CAC Supervisor** 304.264.4658

#### Cabell County

- Janet Smith Vineyard Forever **Center for Permanency Nancy Stuart Tonkin Family Support Center** 203 6th Ave. **Huntington, WV 25701** Diana Lucas, **Regional Director** 681.378.2530
- Hovah Hall Underwood Children's Home 524 Grant Gardens Rd. Ona. WV 25545 Patricia Coleman, **Shelter Supervisor** 304.743.2345

#### **Greenbrier County**

- Family Strengthening Services 9579 Seneca Trail South Lewisburg, WV 24901 Mary Carr, Site Manager 304.647.3430
- Greenbrier Valley Children's Home 331 7th Street **Rupert, WV 25984 Jennifer Sams Shelter Supervisor** 304.645.1302

#### **Hampshire County**

- Family Strengthening Services 301 East Main St. Romney, WV 26757 Sally Johnson, **Regional Director** 304.680.2088
- Romney Child Shelter 550 West Sioux Lane **Romney, WV 26757** Ami Ray, **Director of Programming** 304.822.4652

#### **Jefferson County**

• The Honey Bee Family **Support Center** 114 East 3rd Ave.. Ranson, WV 25438 Antoinette Gue. **Program Director** 304.707.3141

#### **Kanawha County**

- Family Strengthening Services 1145 Greenbrier St., Charleston, WV 25311 **Amanda Williams** Site Manager 304.345.3894
- Davis Child Shelter 1145 Greenbrier St., Charleston, WV 25311 Jamie Holmes. **Shelter Supervisor** 304.345.3891

#### **Logan County**

- June Montgomery Harless **Child Shelter** 1 June Harless Dr. P.O. Box N Holden, WV 25625 Amanda Runyon, **Shelter Supervsior** 304.239.2470
- WECAN Services P.O. Box 308 Logan, WV 25601 Ellen Browning, **WECAN Coordinator** 304.792.6261

#### McDowell County

 Forever Families Resource Center 34149 Coal Heritage Road Northfork, WV 24868 Becky Brown, Coordinator 304-862-4951

#### Mercer County

 Family Strengthening Services 205 Center St. Princeton, WV 24740 Kristin Nelson, Site Manager 304.431.2424

#### **Monongailia County**

 Family Strengthening Services 11 Commerce Drive, Suite 102 Morgantown, WV 26501 Abby Miller, Site Manager 304.284.0992

#### **Nicholas County**

- Family Strengthening Services 402 Church St., Suite 1 Summersville, WV 26651 Stormy Murphy, Site Manager 304.900.3620
- Kathleen & John Faltis **Chid Shelter** 477 Scenic Highway Summersville, WV 26651 Desarae Murphy, **Shelter Supervisor** 304.872.8190

#### **Ohio County**

 Family Strengthening Services 1329 National Rd. Wheeling, WV 26003 Kara Clevenger. Site Manager 304.810.2460

## SERVING ALL 55 COUNTIES FROM THESE LOCATIONS

#### **Putnam County**

 Safe at Home Services 3705 Teays Valley Rd. Suite 202 Hurricane, WV 25526 681.233.0710 Josh Phipps, Supervisor

#### Raleigh County

 Matthew Pack Children's Home 2451 Ritter Drive Shady Spring, WV 25918 **Tabatha Conn Shelter Supervisor** 304.255.0408

#### **Wood County**

- Family Strengthening Services **Cardinal Family Support** Center 2500 36th St. Parkersburg, WV 26104 Jodi Null, Site Manager 304.485.0650
- Arthur N. Gustke **Child Shelter** 1640 St. Mary's Ave Parkersburg, WV 26102 Kelsey Cline, **Shelter Supervisor** 304.424.5244

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Left, Board Member Kristie Hadley, Right, Natalie Cline

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¹ Deceased₌

## CEDIFFO EVITAVERYSI FEILLD

Mary A. White



Children's Home Society of WV 1422 Kanawha Blvd., East P.O. Box 2942 Charleston, WV 25330 304.346.0795 childhswv.org



Children's Home Society of WV



CHSof WV



Children's Home Society of WV

