



Children's Home News

Volume 80

*And All Places
in Between*



Spring 2026

Children's Home Society of West Virginia

Connection is the true north that guides everything we do. It is the steady heartbeat beneath our mission, the quiet yet powerful force that draws our programs together with purpose, compassion, and resolve. Like a compass held in caring hands, connection points the way forward for children and families who may feel uncertain about the path ahead. Through a wide range of meaningful, all-encompassing services, we walk beside those we serve, offering guidance when the way feels unclear, hope when the road feels heavy, advocacy when voices need to be lifted, and support when it matters most. At Children's Home Society of West Virginia, our programs are designed not to only meet immediate needs, but to uplift, empower, and enrich lives in ways that last long after the moment has passed.

From our 28 locations across the state, our reach extends in every direction – north, south, east, and west, touching communities both near and far. Yet it's often the places in between that matter just as much; the quiet crossroads where families are searching for stability, the uncertain stretches where a child needs encouragement, the turning points where hope begins to take shape. We meet people where they are on their journey, with empathy, patience, and deep understanding.

With open hearts and hands ready to help, we offer a constellation of services dedicated to strengthening families and supporting those who need it most. Each program is thoughtfully shaped by the unique needs of the communities we serve, ensuring that care is not only available, but truly meaningful. Behind every program stands a dedicated team, people who pour their time, energy, and heart into making sure that every child and family feels seen, supported, and capable of moving forward.

Growth doesn't always arrive in grand, sweeping moments. Sometimes, it begins in the small victories; a child discovering confidence, a family finding stability, a parent feeling heard and supported. These moments, both big and small, are the compass points that guide the journey ahead. Together, through connection, compassion, and strong commitment, we help light the path forward for every life that we are privileged to touch.

*Michelle Vaughan,
Director of Development*

*"In this world, you've a soul for a compass and a heart for a pair
of wings."*

- Mary Chapin Carpenter

Family Support Centers

The Monarch Family Support Center, operated by the Children's Home Society in Martinsburg, continues to serve as a vital resource for families in Berkeley County. Through parenting education, Mom's Support Group, life-skills classes, and family and community events, the center helps families build stability while providing access to essential resources. The months of February and March 2026 have truly been the months of babies, with several families in the program welcoming newborns. With these joyful arrivals has come an increased need for safe sleep spaces, cribs, diapers, and other baby essentials for grateful mothers who are working hard but still feeling the strain of rising costs.

Many of the families served by Monarch are gainfully employed parents who fall into the gap, earning too much to qualify for many traditional social services but still struggling to make ends meet. Because the program's financial eligibility guidelines are set slightly above the federal poverty standard, the program is able to support families who may not qualify elsewhere but still need help during critical moments. Through baby supplies, practical resources, and supportive programs like Mom's Support Group and life-skills classes, Monarch helps families navigate those gaps and ensures parents have both the tools and encouragement they need to care for their growing families.

- Kelly Franklin, FSC Berkeley Co. Director



Since opening our doors in October 2023, the HoneyBee Family Support Center has become a vibrant and trusted resource for families across Jefferson County. Located in Ranson and operating as part of the Children's Home Society of West Virginia's Martinsburg site, the center was created to offer families a welcoming place to find support, connection, and guidance. In FYE25, we completed intakes with 104 client families, providing case management, program support, and access to essential pantry resources. From July 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026, we have completed intakes with 72 families for the current grant cycle—each bringing unique strengths, goals, and hopes for their future.

Our work is grounded in a strengths based approach. We help families identify what they are already doing well, explore areas where additional support may be helpful, and develop SMART goals that break big challenges into manageable steps. This process empowers caregivers to stay motivated and see real progress, whether they are working toward financial stability, improved parenting skills, or stronger family routines. Our team walks alongside them, offering encouragement, resources, and a steady support system every step of the way.

Beyond case management, the HoneyBee Family Support Center offers a wide range of programming designed to strengthen families and build community. Monthly Family Engagement Events bring families together for crafts, games, and shared experiences that foster connection and joy. We also host a Grandfamily Support Group, a Life Skills Group, provide holiday assistance, offer resource navigation, and help families build meaningful community connections. In the near future, we will be relaunching our Nurturing Parenting Program to further support caregivers in creating nurturing, healthy relationships with their children.

The impact of this work is felt daily. Families leave our center feeling supported, empowered, and hopeful. Children gain opportunities to learn, play, and grow in safe, encouraging environments. Caregivers discover new tools, new confidence, and a community that believes in them. The HoneyBee Family Support Center is more than a program—it is a place where families find belonging, stability, and the opportunity to build a brighter future together.

-Toni Gue, FSC Jefferson Co. Director

Safe at Home & CSED

The Safe at Home program and the Children with Serious Emotional Disorders (CSED) waiver are both designed to help children with significant behavioral and mental health needs remain in the home with their families and within their own communities. These two programs play a big role in providing key services that can help WV children and families develop healthy coping skills, improve day to day functioning, and maintain healthy and appropriate behaviors in their own environment. While both of these programs share the same goal of preventing out of home placements and keeping children and families together, there are a few differences that set them apart. These include how each program is set up, how services are delivered and who is eligible.

Safe at Home is a community-based program that serves children already in the child welfare system from 9-18 years of age, and referrals for these youth are submitted by the Department of Human Services. This program is designed to provide short term wraparound services that focus on coordination of services and crisis prevention. This includes maintaining a child's relationship with their family, school, and any other support system they may have.

The Children with Serious Emotional Disorders (CSED) waiver program aims to provide more intensive, community-based supports to help children and youth ages 3-21 remain safely with their families instead of entering residential facilities. The CSED waiver can provide longer term services such as in-home therapy, independent living/skill building, and job development. These services can be very beneficial to families who need intensive behavioral health support but are not involved in the child welfare system.

The impact that both Safe at Home and CSED services have had youth and their families in our state has been huge. Both of these programs play a critical role in providing resources that help our youth and their families address challenges at home, in the school setting and within their own community. It is important that we continue to utilize these services to guide our youth and their families to success.

- Josh Phipps, Wraparound Supervisor, Region II

Parents as Teachers

"The Parents as Teachers program supports families by providing education, resources, and encouragement during the most important years of a child's development, from pregnancy through early childhood. Through personalized home visits, developmental screenings, and family-centered guidance, our parent educators work alongside caregivers, in their homes, to help them understand their child's growth, build strong parent-child relationships, and support school readiness. Families also receive connections to community resources, group activities, and tools that empower them to feel confident in their role as their child's first and most important teacher.

This program is incredibly important because the early years of life lay the foundation for a child's future learning, health, and well-being. By providing parents with knowledge, encouragement, and access to services, Parents as Teachers strengthens families and promotes positive outcomes for children. We see the impact every day, parents gaining confidence, children reaching developmental milestones, and families building strong, nurturing environments where children can thrive. Through this program, we are not only supporting individual families but also helping build stronger, healthier communities."

- Raine Gibbons, Parents as Teachers Program Supervisor



Independent Living Program (ILP)

The Independent Living Program (ILP) helps prepare young adults who have aged out of the foster care system at age 18 up to 23 years old for a successful, self-sufficient future. The program provides practical life-skills training such as budgeting, cooking, job readiness, time management, housing navigation, and understanding healthcare and transportation systems. Clients receive guidance and support from their caseworkers who support them in setting goals, building confidence, and connecting with community resources. By focusing on real-world skills and decision-making, the Independent Living Program equips young adults with the tools they need to manage everyday responsibilities and make informed choices about their future.

This program matters because many young adults enter adulthood without a strong safety net, consistent guidance, and little knowledge about the real world. The Independent Living Program fills that gap by offering structure, support, and education during a critical stage of development. Its impact can be life-changing as participants gain independence, financial literacy, and a stronger sense of stability. Many young adults who take part in the program report increased confidence in their ability to maintain employment, secure housing, pursue education, and build healthy relationships. Ultimately, the Independent Living Program empowers young people to transition into adulthood with resilience, capability, and hope for long-term success.

- Abby Miller, Site Manager-Morgantown Location



The Transitional Living Program at Children's Home Society, Parkersburg Site is committed to providing a temporary safety net and emotional support system for young people experiencing homelessness to transition to independence and self-sufficiency. Youth who enter our 18-month program receive wraparound services and intensive case management, which includes training in basic life skills such as cooking, cleaning, grocery shopping, doing laundry, and finding and maintaining employment. We also offer more advanced skills in maintaining stable housing, self-advocacy, financial literacy, personal rights, and sustaining long-term mental and physical well-being.

Transitional Living is important because it acts as a bridge off the streets. Youth who participate in Transitional Housing programs are far less likely to have suicidal tendencies, face human trafficking and exploitation, or have untreated substance or mental health issues that hinder success in their journey. The impact of this program cannot be overstated. Since our program was created in 2009, we have had the honor of helping 2,032 youth find hope for a brighter future. Youth who complete the full 18 months show overall success rates of 83% post 24 months, meaning they remain safely housed, employed at least part-time, have solid adult and peer connections, and can address any physical or mental health issues that may create barriers in their lives.

- Michelle Pritchett, TLP Social Worker-Parkersburg Location

Right from the Start **Supporting Healthy Beginnings for** **West Virginia Families**

Right From the Start (RFTS) is a statewide, Medicaid-funded home visitation program that helps West Virginia mothers and their babies lead healthier lives by offering home visitation services with a Designated Care Coordinator (registered nurse or licensed social worker). These services are individualized focusing on supporting each family from pregnancy through the first year of life. Services are provided at no cost to eligible families and focus on promoting healthy pregnancies, improving birth outcomes, and ensuring infants have a safe and nurturing start to life.

The importance of Right From the Start lies in its ability to meet families where they are, both physically and emotionally. Key benefits include improved maternal health, reduced premature births, and early identification of developmental delays. These services connect families to resources, such as WIC and housing support, and support infant development through education and care coordination. By supporting parents early, RFTS helps lay a strong foundation for children to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential. RFTS aligns perfectly with our mission of promoting the well-being of West Virginia's children and families.

- Denise Hughes, Director of Programming - Parkersburg Location



Birth to Three Program

Birth to Three is an early intervention program for children ages birth to three who have a developmental delay or are at risk for a delay. Services are provided at no cost to families, and referrals can be made by anyone. The program offers a range of supports, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, educational services, and case management. Service coordination helps families better understand their child's growth and development while supporting them in making informed decisions about ongoing services. An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed to outline the specific services and supports for each child, as well as the goals identified by the family. Birth to three provides early support during the most critical stage of a child's development, which can make a lasting difference in their growth and future success.

- Jodi Null, Child & Family Service Supervisor - Parkersburg Location

Emergency Shelter Care

The Greenbrier Valley Children's Home provides a safe, supportive, and structured environment for children and youth ages 7–18 who are in need of immediate placement. Our 12-bedroom facility, which includes 12 single bedrooms and one double bedroom, can serve up to 14 children at a time. The program is designed to meet each child's basic needs while also offering stability during times of uncertainty. With trained staff available around the clock, youth receive supervision, guidance, and encouragement in a setting that promotes both safety and dignity.

Emergency shelters play a critical role in supporting children in a time of crisis. By offering a secure and nurturing space, the program helps reduce trauma and provides children with a sense of normalcy while longer-term plans are developed. The Greenbrier Valley Children's Home doesn't just provide temporary care, it offers hope, stability, and a place where every story matters.

*- Jennifer Sams-Bowden, Shelter Supervisor-
Greenbrier Valley Children's Home*



Therapy Services

The Children's Home Society of West Virginia's Princeton site continues to serve families with high-quality, evidence-based therapy designed specifically for children and adolescents. With services available both in-office and through School-Based Therapy in partnership with Mercer County Schools, the program ensures that support is accessible where it's needed most. By working directly within schools and the community, CHSWV helps young people address social-emotional challenges that can impact academic performance, family relationships, friendships, and quality of life.

Today's children are growing up in an increasingly complex world. Social media pressures, academic demands, evolving identity questions, and a rapidly changing social climate can feel overwhelming for both youth and their families. At the Princeton site, CHSWV responds to these challenges with scientifically supported, individualized care. Utilizing approaches such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Trauma-Focused CBT (TF-CBT), Motivational Interviewing, and other family-centered strategies, clinicians effectively treat concerns including anxiety, depression, trauma, and ADHD; helping children build resilience, strengthen coping skills, and move forward with confidence.

*- Dr. Nola G. Gum, Child and Families Services Supervisor-
Princeton Location*

Child Advocacy Center



Victoria's House Child Advocacy Center, a grant funded program of Children's Home Society of West Virginia, has been a steady source of safety, healing, and coordinated support for children across the Eastern Panhandle since 2006. As part of West Virginia's network of 21 Child Advocacy Centers, Victoria's House ensures that children who have experienced abuse are met with compassion, professionalism, and a clear path toward recovery. Our mission is simple yet profound: to provide a coordinated, child centered response to abuse that helps children heal and empowers communities to protect their own.

Across the state, CACs served 4,734 children last year, marking a 7.5 percent increase over the past five years. Here at Victoria's House, we supported 320 new children, conducted 346 forensic interviews, and provided advocacy services to an average of 367 children and caregivers every six months. Through our three partner Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams, we helped coordinate an average of 713 cases during each six month period. These numbers reflect not only the immense need for our services but also the trust families and professionals place in our team.

The data behind our work offers a clear picture of the challenges children in our region face and why having a safe, child focused place to turn is so essential. Forty one percent of the children we served were referred due to allegations of sexual abuse, and 21 percent due to drug endangerment, which is five times the national average. Most were under the age of 12, and nearly all knew the alleged offender. One in three had a reported or suspected disability. These realities reinforce the importance of the CAC model. By bringing law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, medical and mental health providers, educators, and advocates together in one coordinated approach, we reduce trauma, strengthen investigations, and ensure no child is left without support.

Yet behind every statistic is a child who showed extraordinary courage, a caregiver who stood strong, and a team who refused to give up. The resilience of the children we serve, along with the unwavering love of their non offending caregivers, fuels our commitment to continually strengthen our services and deepen our partnerships. As we step into this new season, that spirit of hope guides us forward and reminds us that healing is possible and that our community plays a vital role in helping every child find their way toward brighter days.

*- Jenna Orsini, Child and Family Services Supervisor-
Martinsburg Location*



CAC Staff at the State Capital



Pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention Month

WECAN Program

The WECAN Mentoring Program in McDowell County serves vulnerable youth ages 4-18, and matches those children with a vetted big brother, big sister mentor. We plan events for the children, their families, and mentors that they can be a part of. Many of our WECAN children are being raised by grandparents or kinship care. So, the Healthy Grandfamilies program through WVSU correlates closely with WECAN. We have 40 families that are a part of the Healthy Grandfamilies Program. Recently, we met at the Al Wade Forever Families Community Center in Northfork for a Valentines Luncheon to celebrate Heart Health Month. We welcomed Annetta Tiller with Wellpoint to discuss Heart Health, had lunch together and played games. The grandparents enjoy the community connections they have at our quarterly events.

This month, several volunteers have been assisting us to prepare Easter baskets for our WECAN and Healthy Grandfamilies children. Thanks to donations of toys, and last year's post-Easter sales events, we have collected enough to make 60 Easter baskets.

We are planning upcoming events such as a Spring Luau and will be accepting donations to have other events like a family game night, movie night, a WECAN gem mining excursion and a Mercer County Mall Arcade night.

- Becky Brown, WECAN Program Coordinator-Princeton Location



Permanency Program

Children's Home Society's foster care program is designed to provide safe, temporary homes for children who cannot remain with their biological families due to concerns like abuse, neglect, or other crises. Our program consists of trained staff, and trained foster parents who open their homes and hearts to children in need. The primary goal is always to ensure the child's safety and well-being while working toward a permanent solution, whether that's reunification with their family, placement with relatives, or adoption.

Foster care is incredibly important because it offers stability during some of the most uncertain and traumatic times in a child's life. For children, being placed in a nurturing environment can make a profound difference in their emotional, physical, and educational development. A supportive foster home can help rebuild trust, provide consistency, and give children the opportunity to heal and grow. For families, foster care can serve as a critical support system, giving parents the time and resources they need to address challenges and, when possible, safely reunite with their children. At its best, foster care not only protects children in the moment but also creates pathways toward stronger families and healthier futures.



Our permanency program in Lewisburg and all our programs across the state are vitally important to children and families. These programs provide safety, stability and hope for children who are not able to remain with their biological parents. Every child deserves to feel safe, wanted and loved. Our homes give children, in a time of chaos, just that, a place to land that is full of care and compassion. Our families provide a steady presence and reassurance that someone is there for them and is going to be there every day to keep them safe. These programs are love in action through a team of individuals who come together with the child's best interest at heart and work to help not only the child, but the biological family too. Through visitation, court hearings, MDT's and family phone calls, the unwavering drive to do what is best for each child remains. Our workers and our families are the best advocates for children in care. We know that when a foster child is placed into a Children's Home Society home they are seen, known and cherished. They can feel it the moment they walk in that door, just as we did when we worked to open that home. If the child is able to return home, we hope that they and their biological family understand that we are still here with support and open arms and that the uncertainty of each day is replaced with the security of knowing that we have their backs. If the child is unable to return home, we are always grateful to know that our homes can provide the best life possible for a child's future, turning loss into a lifetime of love.

- Mary Carr, Site Manager-Lewisburg Location



OIL MARKETERS & GROCERS ASSOC.

The Children's Home Society of West Virginia would like to offer our deepest, most heartfelt gratitude to WV Oil Marketers and Grocers Association (OMEGA) for continually going above and beyond to support our children and families. For 15 years, the Children's Home Society has partnered with OMEGA to promote their statewide Mother's Day Campaign. Flowers can be purchased in honor of Mother's Day at participating OMEGA stores throughout West Virginia. We would like to thank the following OMEGA members who are participating in the 2026 Campaign: DeFazio Oil, Little General, Go-Mart, Par Mar, BFS, ROCS, and City Ice & Fuel.

The Mother's Day Campaign carries our mission beyond what we ever could alone, shining a light on our commitment to promoting the well-being of children. It allows us to reach deeper into communities across the state, touching lives of children and families in ways that truly matter and creating a ripple of hope, care, and lasting impact. We are truly thankful for each OMEGA member and for all the incredible individuals who stand with us and make this work possible.



Ruth Eden Bailey Adoption Advocacy Award Announced

The 2025 Ruth Eden Bailey Adoption Advocacy Award winners embody the heart and soul of what this honor represents. Their dedication, compassion, and commitment to children and families shine so brightly that, in a beautiful testament to their character, they actually nominated each other. We are pleased to announce that the winners of this prestigious award are CHSWV Charleston Permanency Supervisor, Leslie Keaton-Bowman, and Foster to Adopt Parents, Chris Maidona and Kyle Pajarito.

As the need for safe, loving foster homes continues to rise, the power of meaningful, growing partnerships has never been more important. When we truly show up for one another, advocate, answer questions, share knowledge, offer guidance, and extend continued support, we build more than collaboration, we build trust and a mutual respect. From this strong foundation of unity and care, our children flourish.



About the Honoree:



Ruth Eden Bailey dedicated her life to helping children find lifetime families and a wonderful place to call home. A determined advocate, Ruth worked tirelessly to find foster and adoptive homes. Ruth loved working with her families and the children that came into care. Ruth was always mission driven and her passion for children and families inspired so many. Bob Noone said it best, “Ruth was the standard by which we measured all other adoption specialists in WV. She not only understood the legal requirements, she understood her foster parents and their children.” (Bob Noone – 2024)

Ruth began her journey with Children’s Home Society in 1993 and spent the following three decades changing the lives of hundreds of West Virginia’s children. Ruth was always looking for ways to help support foster and adoptive families and thus she initiated the first CHSWV Foster Family Support Group. The Foster Family Support Group became significant in that it brought families together to share experiences, to be supportive during struggles, and to most importantly celebrate each other. Today CHSWV foster family support groups are organized across the state thanks to a special woman that was creative, passionate, and enthusiastic. Ruth left a legacy of encouragement, love, and kindness.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Helen Keller

Children's Home Society Announces Al Wade Storytelling Award Winners

On February 23, 2026, the Al Wade Storytelling Committee met to select the recipients of this year's award. Each day, we are moved by the beauty found in the successes unfolding all around us. Stories of grit, overcoming obstacles, and those moments that remind us of the joy of laughter and humanity. It is in these moments that we are replenished.

Every year, our incredible staff at the Children's Home Society of West Virginia have the opportunity to submit their heartwarming stories to the Al Wade Storytelling committee. The committee reviews each submission and carefully selects either the winner or winners for this annual award. Being named a winner of this prestigious award is an honor and each of the 2025 award winners received a monetary award and a framed certificate. The stories shared are a true reflection of love, care, and compassion – all characteristics of Mr. Wade himself.

The 2026 award winners carry storytelling in their hearts, sharing it with a profound love and dedication for our children and families.

Winners named were:



Amanda Runyon,
June Montgomery Harless
Child Shelter,
Supervisor - Holden



Michelle Pritchett,
Independent Living Program
Social Worker - Parkersburg



Tabatha Conn,
Matthew Pack Children's Home
Supervisor - Shady Spring

We would like to thank the following Children's Home Society staff for their wonderful entries: Toni Gue, Ami Ray, Katherine Wood, Glen Spaid, Richard Meade and Kim Conrad. We look forward to many more years of great stories.

About our Honoree



Mr. Al Wade gave 31 years of his life to serving children and families. Al came to the Children's Home Society of West Virginia in September 1989. When Al joined us, so many years ago, he gave his whole heart to the children he served. His strength was not just in what he did, but in the safety, protection, and reassurance he provided to those who depended on him the most. Al provided supervision to the Paul Miller Home, Southern West Virginia Exceptional Youth Emergency Shelter, and is credited for opening the Northfork Forever Families Center. There's no way to fully capture the countless children and families whose lives Al has helped over the years, but through the stories he shared, one can feel the depth of his impact and heart that he poured into every moment of his work. Al had a flare for telling a story with love, passion, and an infectious belly laugh. Sadly, Al passed away on May 10, 2025. Though he has passed, he leaves behind a legacy of hope, advocacy, and a joyful spirit for storytelling that will continue to live on in the hearts of those lives he touched. On November 21, 2025, Al's family, former and present colleagues, board members, and friends gathered together to dedicate the Northfork Forever Families Center to Mr. Al Wade. In honor of our dear Al, a beautiful sign was raised, a symbol of hope. The Al Wade Forever Families Community Center now stands as a beacon for all in need, reflecting the compassion and light he always wished to share.

Children's Home Society Announces Nancy Stuart-Tonkin Advocacy Award Winner

The Annual Board Meeting/Dinner for the Children's Home Society of West Virginia was held on November 13, 2025 at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Charleston, WV. During the meeting, Traci Nelson, Corey Beasley, and Greg Darby were announced as the winners of the 8th Annual Nancy Stuart-Tonkin Advocacy Award.

When Traci Nelson became President of the Oil Marketers and Grocers Association (OMEGA), she not only continued Jan Vineyard's legacy, but worked incredibly hard to help Children's Home Society. Traci has been a powerful force in our Mother's Day Campaign, carrying forward the legacy of helping children with both heart and determination. Her tenacity, genuine love, and deep care have not only fueled the campaign's continued success but have also nurtured stronger, more meaningful relationships year after year.



Traci Nelson

Over the past 14 years, these remarkable individuals have raised an astounding amount of support for Children's Home Society of West Virginia, \$1.8 million dollars. It should also be noted that since 2003, OMEGA has raised 3.6 million dollars for children's charities. The impact of their generosity goes far beyond numbers, it has helped bring hope, healing, and opportunity to so many lives. But their commitment doesn't stop with simply selling a flower. Every year, OMEGA speaks passionately about our mission, sharing our story with their communities and shining a light on the urgent needs so many still face. Through their voices, more people are learning who we are, what we do, and how we can be there for those who need us the most.

It's incredible how a single spark or chance encounter can lead to lasting and meaningful relationships. What began as one opportunity grew into many, each one deepening our connection and strengthening our shared mission. Through our partnership with OMEGA, we've been able to support countless children and families by expanding and enriching our programs. Since launching our very first Mother's Day Campaign in 2011, we've continued to collaborate every year, building something truly special along the way.



Cory Beasley & Greg Darby

Greg Darby and Cory Beasley, are co-owners of Little General Stores. Greg is quoted in 2019 as saying in regards to helping the community "If we can, we should." Inspired by the spirit of OMEGA and a deep desire to help, Greg and Cory were moved by the opening of the Matthew Pack Children's Home and wanted to assist as much as they could. Little General fully furnished the interior of the shelter. From proper beds where children can finally rest peacefully, to sturdy dressers that hold their few cherished belongings, to chairs and end tables that make a space feel like home, their love is woven into every corner of the shelter. You can feel their care in the comfort, the dignity, and the sense of safety they have helped us create. Every piece they've provided isn't just furniture, it's a message to each child that they are seen, valued, and loved.

Greg and Cory's care and compassion reach far beyond the walls of the Children's Home Society, they are the foundation of who they are as people. Their heart beats for the people around them, and that love is evident in the countless ways they show up for their community. Whether through quiet acts of kindness or bold initiatives, they are deeply committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of others. Little General has established a scholarship fund dedicated to help young adults and also has a discretionary fund that accepts proposals serving Raleigh County. They also partnered with WVU Medicine with their Kickoff for Kids Campaign to help support WVU Medicine Children's Hospital in caring for their patients and families.



OMEGA and Little General remains a guiding light, continually opening doors and creating opportunities for others to rise. Through every initiative, their constant dedication sows' seeds of hope, nurturing not only the futures of children, but also strengthening families and breathing life into the heart of the community.

Previous winners of the Nancy Stuart-Tonkin Award are: Carna Metheney-White (2018), Beth Cook (2019), Julia Kesler and Marilyn Pearce-Hall (2020), Janet Richmond (2021), Becky Brown and Yolanda Smith (2022), Maxin Bauer (2023), and Sarah Whittaker (2024).

About our Honoree

The Children's Home Society of West Virginia Board of Directors established the Nancy Stuart-Tonkin Advocacy Award beginning in 2018 to annually honor an outstanding advocate who has successfully promoted the well-being of children and families in West Virginia.

In the 1970's Nancy Tonkin helped organize the first Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) effort in West Virginia and after that successfully worked to make the MDT's part of the child welfare law. She also helped make the role of guardian ad litem part of public policy. Later she was a leader in getting per diem rates for private agency foster care increased from \$35 to \$55.



Other child welfare initiatives that Nancy championed included; family resource networks, infant screenings, home visitation and efforts around child abuse prevention. For 40 years Nancy worked to ensure that child welfare laws were designed to protect children and preserve families.

Nancy was a trusted advisor to the Children's Home Society in all public policy matters. She was one of our strongest advocates for our permanency and child well-being efforts.

"If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much."

- Marian Wright Edelman



We extend our deepest gratitude to the generous donors, dedicated staff, and compassionate volunteers who make our mission possible every single day. Your unwavering support, time, and belief in our work provide the foundation for everything we do. Because of you, children in our care receive not only essential services, but also hope, stability, and the opportunity to thrive. Your commitment reminds us that it truly takes a community to uplift and protect our most vulnerable youth.

We are especially thankful for our foster and adoptive parents, whose love and dedication create safe, nurturing homes where children can heal and grow. You open your hearts and lives in extraordinary ways, offering comfort, guidance, and a sense of belonging that changes futures forever. Together, with your partnership and the collective efforts of all who support our organization, we continue to build brighter paths for children and families. Thank you for being the heart of this important work.

With Sincere appreciation we acknowledge our statewide Board Members and Director Emeritus. Through your leadership and dedication, you have helped shape a brighter future for children who need it most. Your service on the Board and to the Children's Home Society is more than governance, it's a promise to stand for those whose voices are too often unheard.

Thank you to all for being a part of this important work!



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Sarah Whittaker

* Deceased

Chief Executive Officer

Mary A. White

Children's
Home Society
of West Virginia

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."

- John Wesley

CHSWV LOCATIONS

Berkeley County

- Family Strenghtening 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
2586 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-Bowden
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,
Shelter Supervisor
304.822.4652

Jefferson County

- The Honey Bee Family Support Center
116 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 VanBibber,
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

- Al Wade Forever Families Community 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,
Child & Families Supervisor/
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

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 Dr.
Shady Spring, WV 25918
P.O. Box 361
Daniels, WV 25832
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

Serving all 55 counties
from these locations



Children's
Home Society
of West Virginia
childhswv.org

Children's Home Society of WV
1422 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25330
304.346.0795



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