

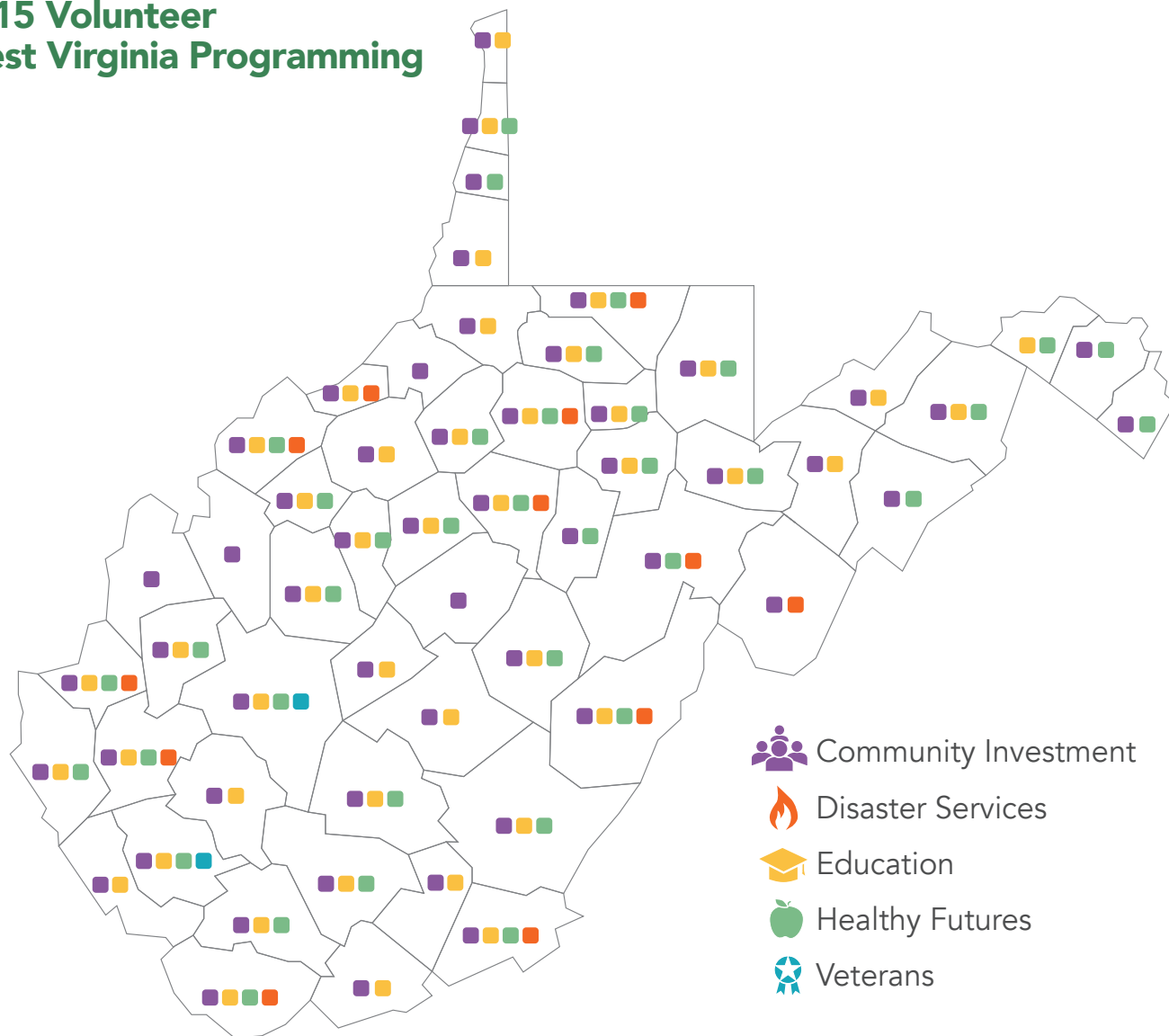
**Volunteer
West Virginia**

The State's Commission for National and Community Service





2015 Volunteer West Virginia Programming



Message From Volunteer West Virginia

Volunteers are a critical part of the health, vibrancy and future of West Virginia communities. In a time of the ever-present virtual connection, the success of our communities still depends on our ability to generate human connections. The opportunity to serve others increases our investment in the local community, gives young professionals a reason to stay in the state, and reminds us that we aren't alone.

The health of a community depends not only on jobs, but also on the services provided and the way we navigate relationships with each other. Volunteer West Virginia, the state's Commission for National and Community Service, offers many ways for people to get involved in making our state a better place to live, work and play.

Take some time to look inside and find out more about the work we are doing to build healthy communities through service. In the meantime, here are just a few 2015 highlights:



Volunteer West Virginia returned **\$35 for every \$1** in state funding.

74% of West Virginians **performed neighborly acts** as informal volunteers (National average is 62%).

West Virginia was **#5 in the nation** for producing AmeriCorps members.

In West Virginia last year, **307,870 volunteers** served **42.89 million hours** valued at **\$987.6 million**.

Volunteer West Virginia and the AmeriCorps programs in our state challenge all West Virginians to get involved in their communities as volunteers. Visit us at www.volunteerwv.org to join the movement.

#GoVolunteer

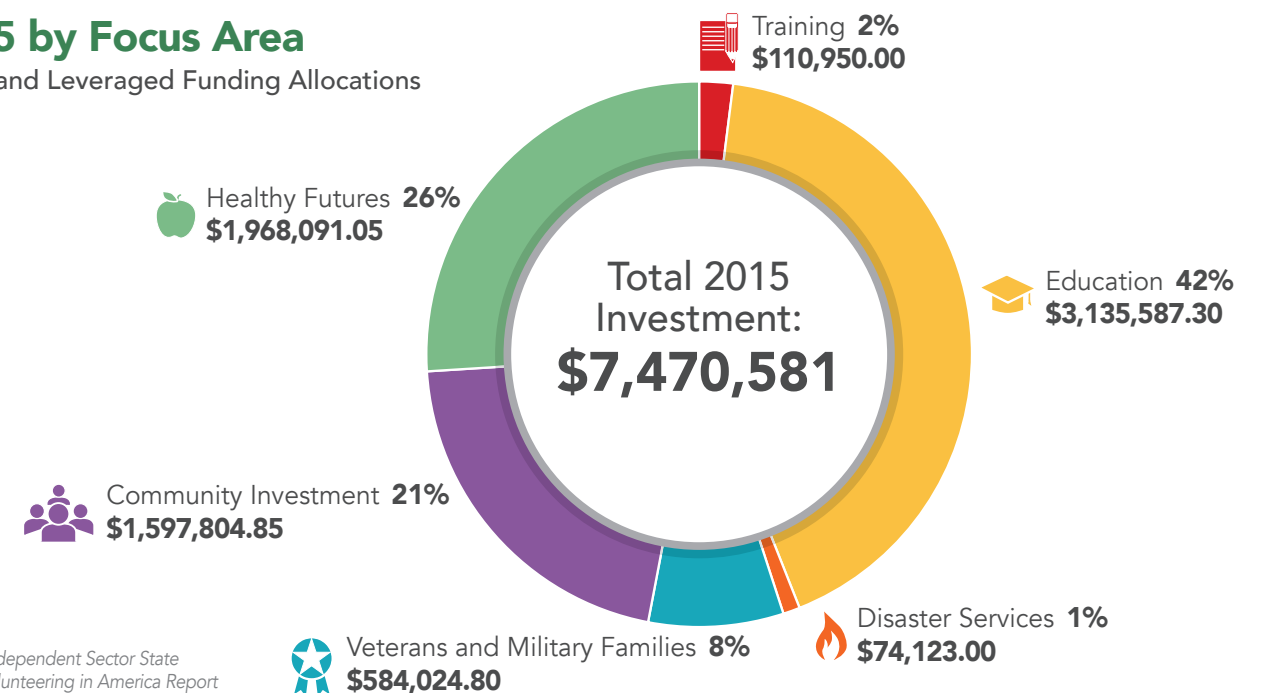
Sincerely,

Heather Foster
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sammy L. Gray, II
COMMISSION CHAIR

2015 by Focus Area

Grant and Leveraged Funding Allocations



Sources: 2015 Independent Sector State Profiles, 2015 Volunteering in America Report



Community Investment

we.

- Preserve historic properties in your hometown.
- Build and maintain hiking trails, showing off our wild and wonderful state.
- Protect endangered species and restore ecosystems.
- Give state parks a facelift, rid streets of trash, and feed neighbors in need.
- Help people find jobs.

In 2015, AmeriCorps members improved

1,730
acres

of parks and public land.



In 2015:
• **3,968 individuals** gained job skills due to AmeriCorps.

H.O.T Girls Restore Historic Pavilion

Thanks to the work of AmeriCorps members at the Stuart Recreation Area in Randolph County, history has come full circle.

The all-girls AmeriCorps Hands On Team (H.O.T.) from Appalachian Forest Heritage Area rolled up their sleeves to give the historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) pavilion a much needed facelift.

If AmeriCorps had a grandfather, the CCC of the 1930's would be it. Both programs have provided national service opportunities for those who want to help their communities.

In 1933, President Roosevelt spoke to CCC members and predicted, "You are rendering a real service, not only to this community but to the whole state. It is work that is going to be useful for a good many generations to come."

The original roof that the CCC installed on the pavilion was covered in a carpet of moss, fungus, and many critters, threatening the structure itself.

"Under the capable guidance of our HistoriCorps leaders we, the H.O.T Girls, managed to install the new roof, even with the rain delays and a shortage of cedar shingles," said AmeriCorps member Kate Kocyba.

"It's so satisfying when a project you work so hard on comes together and looks so good. That's what made the Stuart pavilion so special. Each one of us took pride in our work. We came in every morning ready to kick butt and get things done," said AmeriCorps member Katherine Sammons. "We restored something that will be enjoyed for the next 40 years."

Ringin' true to President Roosevelt's original prediction, the grandfathers of national service would be proud to know that their legacy lives on through AmeriCorps.





Volunteers in Action

In 2015:

- Recruited and managed **18,285** volunteers.
- Leveraged **180,794** volunteer hours, valued at **\$3.6 million**.
- Coordinated **1,079** service events.



Governor's Day to Serve

This fall, friendships formed and neighbors united for the fourth annual Day to Serve, making the Mountain State shine a little brighter.

Service Events
550

Volunteers
12,900

Total Volunteer Hours
30,000



we.

- Inspire volunteerism through initiatives like the Governor's Day to Serve and Million Hour Match.
- Recognize the volunteer services of individuals and organizations who have gone above and beyond through the Governor's service Awards.

West Virginia volunteers embody the true spirit of the Mountain State. I encourage everyone to set aside at least one day to serve in 2016 and also to recognize the great work of volunteers by nominating a local hero for the 2016 Governor's Service Award.

— Governor Earl Ray Tomblin



From providing health screenings for the homeless to designing and building ATV trails; from helping start a substance abuse recovery home for women to creating a community garden, all 14 recipients of the Governor's Service Awards illustrate the wide impact volunteers make in West Virginia.



From left to right: Jim Weimer, Marta Pate (Big Ugly Community Center), David Smith (Big Ugly Community Center), Kathy Smith (Big Ugly Community Center), Michael Tierney (Big Ugly Community Center), Quinn Raffo, Daisy Hite, Paul Smith (Circus Saints and Sinners Club), Christin Shinaberry, Sandra Barkey, Brenda Reynolds (Monroe County C.E.R.T), Lee Reger, Marlene Pope (The Service League of Morgantown), Vicki Conner (The Service League of Morgantown), Roark Sizemore, Jenny Gannaway (WV Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), Joann Fleming (WV Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), Tim Graham, Paul Lemon.



Education



In 2015:

- **666** AmeriCorps members served at **186** education sites.
- Members supported **3,867 students** in reading or mentoring programs.
- **33,822 youth** served by all Volunteer West Virginia programs.



Building Careers Through AmeriCorps

we...

- Change lives through mentoring.
- Improve graduation rates.
- Help struggling readers.
- Develop confident youth.

Mackenzie's Story

Mackenzie had consistently missed school which caused her grades to suffer. This year, she had an AmeriCorps mentor who worked with her and called to check on her when she was absent. "Mackenzie now attends school on a regular basis, has formed friendships, and participates in classroom activities that she would have missed out on, including the sixth-grade trip. In just a few months, her reading has improved significantly. She now loves reading!"

— Pamela Hornbeck,
AmeriCorps on the Frontline member



we...

- Create career opportunities in your community through national service.
- Keep young talent in West Virginia through AmeriCorps and VISTA.
- Link AmeriCorps members to an education award to help pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back student loans.

In 2015:

- **43%** of full-time AmeriCorps members got a job or went to college because of their service.
- **54%** enrolled in a second year of service.
- **\$3 million** in education scholarships awarded by CNCS.
- Across the nation, **88%** of members believe their AmeriCorps service was among the most significant professional experiences of their life.

Sources: 2014 AmeriCorps Alums: Untapped Potential (1)
2013 CNCS: Volunteering As A Pathway to Employment (2)



AmeriCorps is a real-life education and work experience wrapped into one. Through serving West Virginia communities, AmeriCorps members develop a commitment to lifelong civic engagement, grow personally and professionally and jumpstart careers in the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

— Cabinet Secretary Kay Goodwin,
Education and the Arts



Healthy Futures



In 2015:

- AmeriCorps members served **298,060 healthy meals**.
- Helped **11,731 individuals** increase food security.



Disaster Services



In 2015:

- Coordinated **2,860** local preparedness education events.
- Deployed **56** AmeriCorps members for disaster response and recovery.
- AmeriCorps and VISTA members assisted **4,486 disaster survivors**.



we...

- Bring the farm to schools.
- Increase access to healthy and local food.
- Bring community members together to tackle diabetes.
- Eliminate food deserts.



2,860

In 2015, provided health and nutrition education to 2,860 youth.

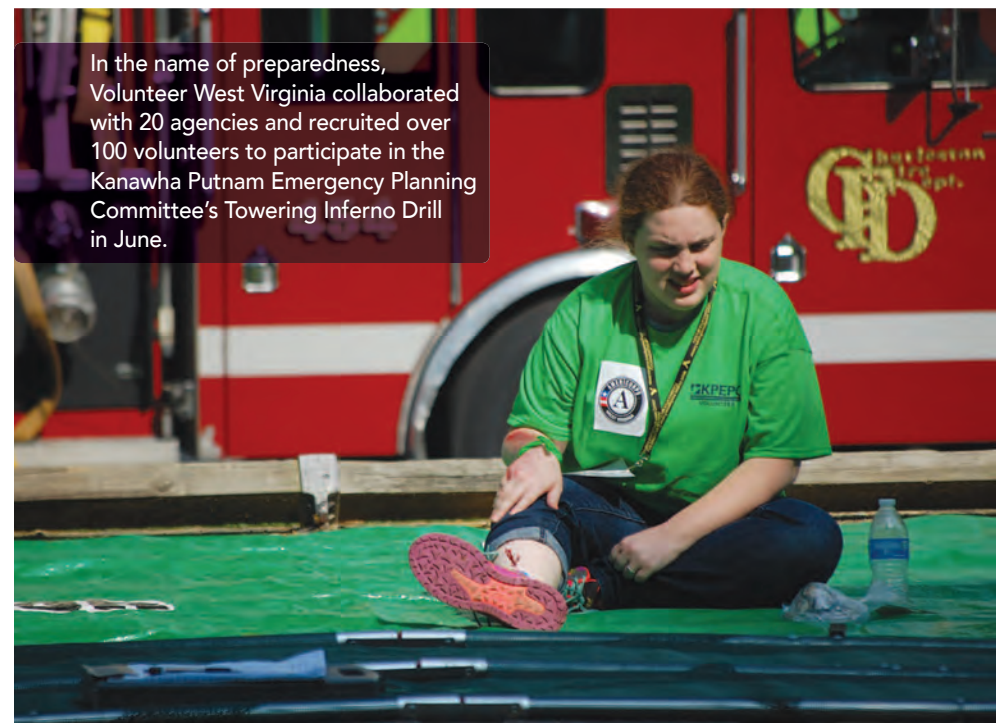
"I loved watching the children whose faces were clearly uncertain about the healthy food they just tried look around at their classmates, and then after seeing their classmates eating it, they went back in for another bite!"

— **Michael Parsons, West Virginia's Promise VISTA**

we...

- Support Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).
- Deploy AmeriCorps members to respond to disasters.
- Muck out homes and clean-out debris.
- Encourage disaster preparedness.

In the name of preparedness, Volunteer West Virginia collaborated with 20 agencies and recruited over 100 volunteers to participate in the Kanawha Putnam Emergency Planning Committee's Towering Inferno Drill in June.



This fall, national service members teamed up with the Red Cross to install 548 smoke alarms throughout the state.

Lasting Impression

"Being deployed with Disaster Corps made a lasting impression on me that I won't forget. Being able to see the look of appreciation on those citizen's faces let me know that I was doing something that was worthwhile and was being appreciated. Deployment allowed me to help those who couldn't necessarily help themselves and for that, I am grateful."

— **Heather Miller**



Veterans & Military Families

In 2015:

- **16 veterans** served as AmeriCorps and VISTA members.
- **4,279 veterans** and military families received services.



Training

In 2015:

- **10,772 individuals** trained by Volunteer West Virginia sponsored programs.

we...

- Provide veteran to veteran support through AmeriCorps and VISTA programs.
- Connect veterans to benefits and services.
- Serve homeless and unemployed veterans.

Reaching Out

"Looking back, I can't say that there is a particular moment in my AmeriCorps service that makes me smile because there are a multitude of those moments! Every veteran that I've helped, still holds a piece of my heart. There is no greater feeling than knowing that you have helped someone else.

Recently, my son and I were on our way home from church and at the stop light there was a man holding up his brown sign that read, 'Disabled Homeless Veteran Needing Help.' Normally, I don't give a second look to the people standing on the side of the road, but this one I couldn't just drive by. I offered him a couple slices of our \$5 pizza and I gave him a little bit of money.

He was so grateful. I introduced myself as a LifeBridge AmeriCorps VetCorps member and I told him that I was an Army/Navy vet. I gave him the contact information for my Red Cross service site and told him to call so we could get him the resources he needs.



The Charleston Gazette

He continually thanked my son and me even as I was driving off because the light had now turned green. That chance interaction brought me and my son so much joy. Helping veterans doesn't fall in between the normal 9-5 hours. Those needs will be there any time of day or night.

It wasn't that long ago that my son and I were homeless and hungry and someone reached out and helped us. I will always be grateful for this AmeriCorps opportunity to be of service to my fellow veterans."

— **Leslie Smith, LifeBridge AmeriCorps member**

we...

- Teach nonprofit staff grant writing skills.
- Offer skill building workshops at Faces of Leadership, our annual conference on service and volunteerism.
- Support local training in disaster response.

"Strength-Based Grant Writing was an exceptional combination of useful knowledge and tools delivered in an understandable, perfectly paced, and entertaining format. I learned so much."

— **2015 Attendee**



2015 AmeriCorps Programs



2015 Commissioners

Sammy Gray, Chairman	First Energy, CHARLESTON
Josh Asbury	WV Department of Education, SUMMERSVILLE
Susie Nelson	Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley, WHEELING
Mercedes Jones Castle	The Children's Home Society of West Virginia, CROSS LANES
Dwight Coburn	Southwestern Community Action Council, Inc., HUNTINGTON
Jimmy Gianato	West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, CHARLESTON
Kim Good	United Way of Central West Virginia — Senior Corps Programs, CHARLESTON
Secretary Kay Goodwin	Department of Education and the Arts, CHARLESTON
Reta Griffith	Frontier Communications, MARLINTON
Michael Hooper	Jackson Kelly PLLC, WHEELING
Julia Keehner	West Virginia Wesleyan College, BUCKHANNON
Mark Mangano	Northern Hancock Bank and Trust Company, NEWELL
Erica Mani	American Red Cross, CHARLESTON
Andrea Shirey	United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley, PARKERSBURG
Larry McCallister	Wood County Commissioner (retired), WASHINGTON
Linda Miller	Communication Workers of America, CHARLESTON
Margaret Ann O'Neal	United Way of Southern West Virginia, BECKLEY
John Reisenweber	Jefferson County Development Authority, MARTINSBURG
Janet Somerville	Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council — Senior Corps Programs, ELIZABETH
Betsy Southall	Corporation for National and Community Service, CHARLESTON
Phillip M. Keith	North Central WV Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc., BUCKHANNON
Tiffany Redman	Department of Education and the Arts, CHARLESTON
Emily Fisher	Grow Wings Consulting, TRIADELPHIA

2015 Staff

Heather Foster	Executive Director
Moya Doneghy	Deputy Director
Cassandra Argo	AmeriCorps Program Officer
Krista Bradshaw	AmeriCorps Grants Officer
Heather Brunton	Financial Manager
Waylon Bryant	VISTA & Community Services Coordinator
Dana Myslinsky	Communications Coordinator
Gina Namay	Disaster Services Coordinator
Lisa Tignor	Volunteer Program Coordinator

Grants

AmeriCorps

Appalachian Forest Heritage Area
Multiple Sites, 11 Members
To enhance economic resources through heritage tourism.
\$159,600.00

Appalachian Forest Heritage Area/Enhancing Assets
Multiple Sites, 27 Members
To promote environmental stewardship of at-risk ecosystems.
\$322,500.00

Citizen Conservation Corps of West Virginia
Southern West Virginia, 16 Members
To construct and improve public recreational and cultural heritage projects in southern West Virginia.
\$126,032.00

High Rocks Educational Corporation
Pocahontas & Greenbrier County, 27 Members
To provide mentoring and tutoring to students during the school year as well as at two academic summer camps.
\$227,833.00

Mid-Ohio Valley Board of Health
Multiple Sites, 10 Members
To provide information, support and education to help improve the health and wellness of West Virginians.
\$163,954.00

Ohio WV Youth Leadership Association
Mason County, 20 Members
To build the entrepreneurial and civic leadership skills of 550 children and teens during summer camps.
\$103,428.00

Playmates Child Care on Behalf of the Cabell Wayne Early Childhood Council
Cabell & Wayne County, 31 Members
To provide educational support and services for children and youth in Cabell and Wayne counties.
\$12,400.00

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia
Multiple Sites, 17 Members
To support 12 nonprofit organizations in the preservation of historic properties.
\$213,579.00

The Education Alliance
Multiple Sites, 35 Members
To support the curriculum-based mentoring of 560 students.
\$225,761.00

United Way of Central West Virginia
Multiple Sites, 70 Members
To serve in education, veterans, and health and human service organizations.
\$903,068.00

West Virginia Department of Education
Multiple Sites, 10 Members
To promote healthy futures and increase local and fresh food on school menus.
\$132,875.00

West Virginia University Research Corporation
Multiple Sites, 500 Members
To promote reading skills for more than 2,800 children living in rural and low-income communities.
\$1,198,587.00

AmeriCorps Planning Grant
Grow Ohio Valley
Upper Ohio Valley
To develop an AmeriCorps program to expand local food, gardening education programs, and food availability.
\$10,000.00

West Virginia Campus Compact — West Virginia University
Multiple Sites
To develop an AmeriCorps program to boost retention and graduation rates in higher education institutions.
\$5,000.00

Day to Serve Mini-Grant
Buffalo Creek Watershed Association/Clay County Business Development Authority
Cressmont
Construction of a bridge on the Buffalo Creek Trail.
\$1,000.00

Central WV Literacy Coalition
Braxton County
Scenic Birch River clean up.
\$450.00

City of Shinnston
Shinnston
Beautification of Shinnston Community Garden.
\$500.00

Clay County 4-H Leaders Association
Maysel
Garden construction at the Clay County Park.
\$500.00

Coal River Group
Kanawha County
Three day clean up of the Coal River.
\$375.00

Coal River Mountain Watch
Naoma
Clean up of Peachtree Creek.
\$500.00

Coalfield Community Action Group
Atwell
Repaired bridge leading to Atwell community playground.
\$500.00

Community Development Outreach Ministries
Charleston
Repaired bathroom at the Coal Branch Heights Community Center.
\$500.00

David & Elkins College
Elkins
Made repairs to homes of elderly and disabled members of the community.
\$405.00

Davis & Elkins College
Elkins
Various projects for a "Great Day of Service."
\$400.00

Friends of Deckers Creek
Morgantown
Deckers Creek Watershed clean up.
\$275.00

Literacy Volunteers of Kanawha County
Charleston
Repaired and painted Literacy Volunteers offices in Charleston.
\$100.00

Marshall Medical Outreach
Huntington
To host a community health fair.
\$250.00

Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department TP Unit
Vienna
Food drive at the Foodland Store in Vienna to support the Good Samaritan Center.
\$300.00

Morgan County Public Library
Great Cacapon
Built 3 "Little Free Libraries" in Great Cacapon.
\$500.00

Rea of Hope
Charleston
Clean and paint stairwells of REA of Hope offices in Charleston.
\$375.00

Rural Appalachian Improvement League (RAIL)
Itmann
Clean up of the historic Itmann Company Store.
\$500.00

Tyrand Cooperative Ministries
Mill Creek
Clean up and repair of Tyrand Cooperative Ministries facilities.
\$200.00

United Way of Central West Virginia
Charleston
Various clean ups as part of the United Way Day of Caring.
\$500.00

Young Riders 4-H Club
Weston
Trash clean up at Weston EMS building.
\$150.00

Community Emergency Response Teams

Beckley CERT
Beckley
25 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Gilmer County CERT
Gilmer County
14 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Greenbrier Valley CERT
Greenbrier County
90 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Hardy County CERT
Hardy County
29 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Harrison County CERT
Harrison County
35 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Marshall County CERT
Marshall County
6 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Mid-Ohio Valley Regional CERT
Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, & Wood County
50 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Monongalia County CERT
Monongalia County
50 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Raleigh County CERT
Raleigh County
56 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Summers County CERT
Summers County
9 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Tyler County CERT
Tyler County
50 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Upshur County CERT
Upshur County
50 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Wheeling Neighborhood Assistance Volunteers
Wheeling
15 Volunteers
In-Kind Support

Pendleton County CERT
Pendleton County
21 Volunteers
In-Kind Support



Mission Statement

Volunteer West Virginia, the state’s Commission for National and Community Service, challenges West Virginians to strengthen their communities through service and volunteerism. We identify and mobilize resources, promote an ethic of service, and empower communities to solve problems and improve the quality of life for individuals and families.



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