

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

Annual Report 2023



volunteer
WEST VIRGINIA



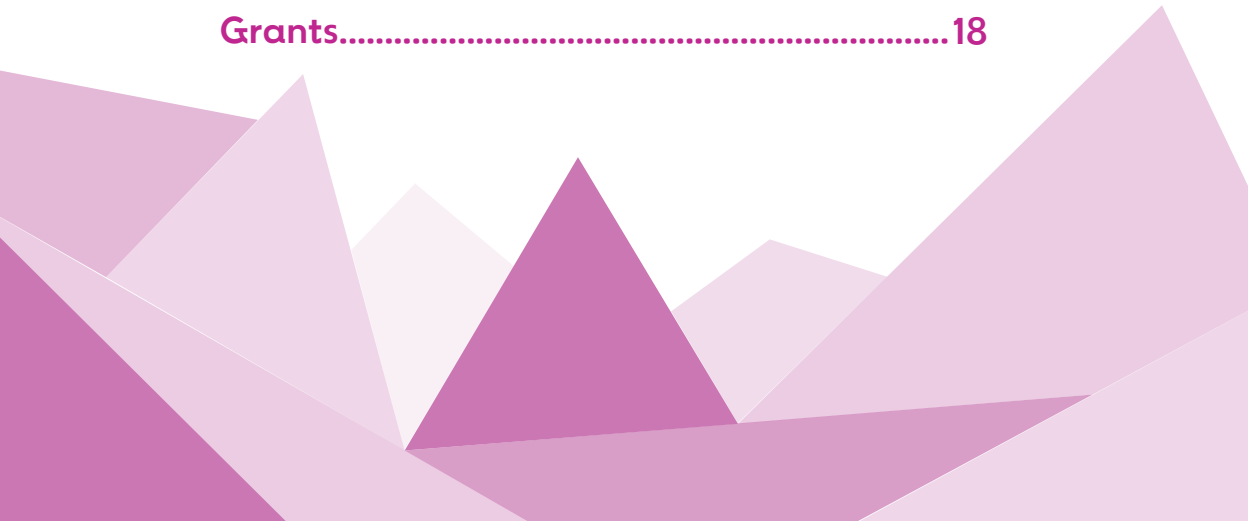
Volunteerism has the remarkable ability to bring people together, like pieces of a puzzle.





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Welcome

Dear Friends,

At Volunteer West Virginia, we are always “Putting the Pieces Together” to support volunteerism in our state. I am so proud of our work in 2023 and the many opportunities we had to show how wonderful West Virginia is. I’m happy to be sharing some of the year’s highlights with you in our annual report.

We had some exciting new things happen this year.

In January, we launched our new website, www.volunteer.wv.gov. The website showcases all that we do and allows West Virginians to connect to volunteer opportunities across the state.

In May, Volunteer West Virginia was honored to be selected to host the Eastern Regional National Service Conference in Charleston. More than 400 of our National Service colleagues from as far away as Texas visited West Virginia, many for the first time!

In September, we received notification of new funding to sponsor September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance service events. We look forward to partnering with organizations across the state to celebrate a statewide day of service in West Virginia in 2024.

The popularity of our Volunteer West Virginia Wednesday webinars continues to grow. Once a month, we offer a free opportunity for anyone to participate in training ranging from disaster preparedness to grant writing.

In 2024 we are looking forward to more opportunities for West Virginians to serve and volunteer. Together we can put the pieces of the volunteering puzzle together, knowing that the whole is so much more than the sum of its parts.

We hope to see you out there!

Thank you for serving your community and making West Virginia wonderful,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hawley Carlson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hawley Carlson, Executive Director



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Volunteer West Virginia's programming reached all 55 counties.

Awarded over \$2 Million dollars in AmeriCorps Education Awards.

In 2023, for every state dollar invested in Volunteer West Virginia, the state received an additional \$27.99 from federal, local, and private sources.

Granted over \$7 million dollars to support AmeriCorps programs and volunteer programs.

A Message from the Board Chair

Dear Volunteer West Virginia Community,

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the mission to promote volunteerism in West Virginia. The team at Volunteer West Virginia works tirelessly every day to make it easier for people to volunteer across our state.

In this report you'll learn more about all that great work, including the amazing impact volunteerism is having on so many of our communities and in the lives of so many of our people. Across our state, programs and organizations are utilizing volunteers every day to address critical needs and to make West Virginia a better place to live.

Whether it's through the preservation of historic landmarks, combating food deserts, revitalizing public lands or responding to natural disasters, it's easy to see how our volunteers are making a big difference in the lives of so many.

On behalf of the State's Commission for National and Community Service, I want to thank all the staff at Volunteer West Virginia for their dedication and hard work. Your energy and enthusiasm for volunteerism is infectious, and I'm proud to be part of such a great organization!

Here's to "Getting Things Done!"



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip M. Keith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Philip Keith, Commission Chair

WHAT WE DO



Make it easier for West Virginians to volunteer.



Provide funding and support to AmeriCorps programs.



Support and strengthen West Virginia's nonprofits and volunteer programs.



Promote emergency preparedness and disaster volunteerism.

Our Programs

BE KIND.
#volunteerwv



AmeriCorps
West Virginia



2023 FUNDING

Federal Grants to Communities: 54%

\$7,224,851.00

Cash Match: 19%

\$2,493,813.28

Education Awards: 18%

\$2,379,809.25

Federal Support Funds: 5%

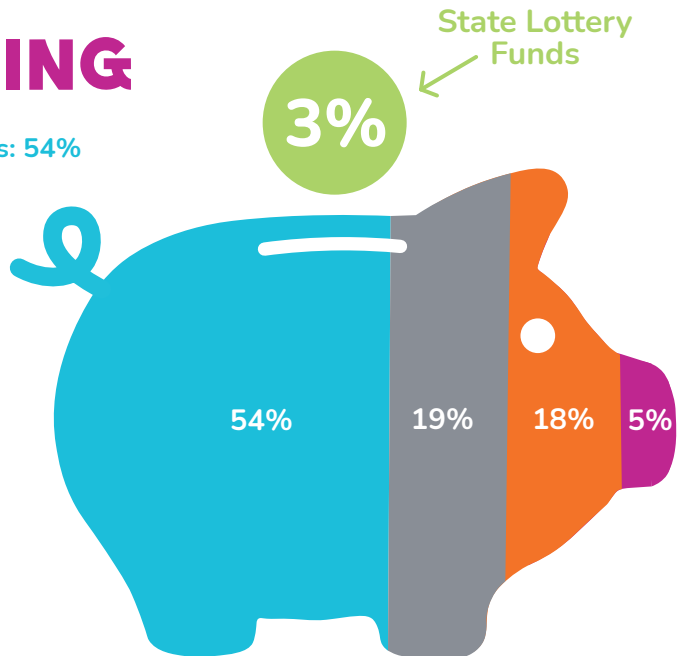
\$718,311.00

State Lottery Funds: 3%

\$457,916.00

Total 2023 Funding

\$13,274,700.53



VOLUNTEER WEST VIRGINIA MINI GRANTS

This fall, Volunteer West Virginia provided mini grants of up to \$500 to organizations to host a volunteer project in their community. The goal of this project was to bring volunteers together to make a positive impact in their community and to encourage West Virginians to be kind and volunteer. Volunteer West Virginia granted over \$12,000 to host 28 projects throughout the state.



The Preservation Alliance Of West Virginia hosts an Arthurdale High School Windows Workshop, where community volunteers and AmeriCorps members learn how to restore historic windows.



Volunteers from Lewis County First clean headstones at the Old Arnold Cemetery in Weston. Established in 1822, the cemetery holds historical significance for the community, with its numerous graves of local and historic citizens.



With the help of volunteers, Mountain Heritage Trails, Inc. starts a new garden to provide fresh, culturally specific produce to pregnant and postpartum women of color in Hardy County.

Human Animal Bond hosts a volunteer event at Ridgeway Farm in Morgantown. The property is being transformed into housing for young adults that are phasing out of foster care into a university setting.



Volunteers at the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia work to complete the center's outdoor classroom.

VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

In 2023, Volunteer West Virginia awarded 13 Volunteer Generation Fund grants totaling \$116,350 to support volunteer programs in the state. Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grants are intended to help build or strengthen an organization's capacity to administer a volunteer program. Grantees used their awards to work with consultants to develop new or strengthen existing volunteer programs, purchase volunteer management software, and produce volunteer manuals.



For the toughest jobs, send in the toughest roofers! Volunteers serve at Bethlehem Farm's low-income home repair program in Alderson.



United Way of the River Cities, Inc. staff attend the Nonprofits LEAD Conference at Marietta College.



Heart and Hand volunteers in South Charleston enjoy new t-shirts and goody bags to thank them for all their hard work.

GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS

In 2023, there were six recipients of the Governor's Service Awards, the state's most prestigious volunteer award.

This year's recipients filled blessing boxes with food, created a "Bags of Care" program for the unhoused, organized fundraisers and community events, supported first responders, helped neighbors during disasters and floods, and spread cheer and positivity where it was needed the most.

Visit Volunteer West Virginia's YouTube Channel to see the stories of this year's recipients.



Group Photo
From left to right: Fran Welton, Sequoia Ware, Susan James Hagan, Mark Roy & Ellie, Libby Lucas, Maren Boblits

2023 RECIPIENTS

Youth Category

Maren Boblits, Edmond

Lifetime Achievement

Fran Welton, Moorefield

Young Adult Category

Sequoia Ware, Huntington

Group Category

Mark Roy & Ellie - Davis Medical Center Pet Therapy Team, Elkins

Adult Category

Susan James Hagan, Wheeling

Senior Category

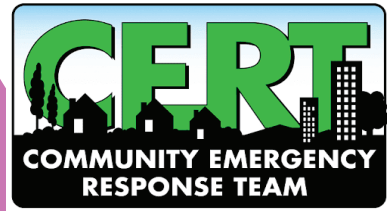
Libby Lucas, Ansted



DISASTER SERVICES

How We Help

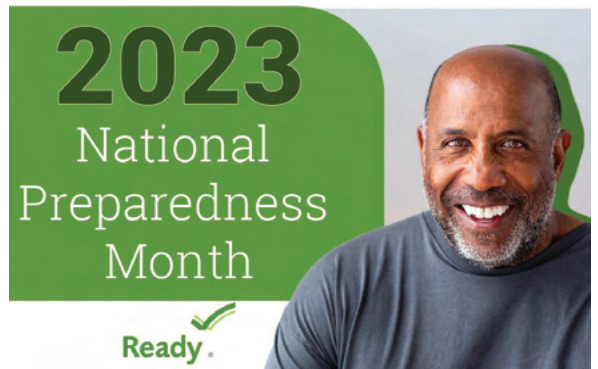
- ▶ Support Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).
- ▶ Promote disaster preparedness through Ready WV.
- ▶ Mobilize AmeriCorps members to help respond to disasters.
- ▶ Partner with response agencies to engage volunteers in disaster response and recovery.



ReadyWV conducts emergency preparedness outreach and education at the National Weather Service Open House in Charleston.



ReadyWV partnered with the Charleston Police Department's Neighborhood Assistance Officer program to conduct a National Night Out event at Abundant Life Ministries on the East End of Charleston.



For National Preparedness Month in September, Volunteer West Virginia hosted a webinar that focused on emergency preparedness, pet preparedness, and disaster volunteerism with guest speakers from the American Red Cross and Team Rubicon.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program trains volunteers in basic disaster response skills, such as first aid, search and rescue, and disaster preparedness. They support their community in a variety of ways.

IN 2023 CERT VOLUNTEERS...

Reached over
1,200
people who received emergency preparedness training and/or educational materials.

Served over
7,000
people during disaster response.

Invested over
3,900
hours in their communities participating in emergency preparedness trainings, events, outreach, drills, and disaster response.



Upshur County CERT conducted a mock disaster drill at the end of their CERT Training. This provided hands-on experience to practice the skills they learned.



Clay County CERT conducted a multi-agency Active Shooter Exercise at their local high school. Several agencies and volunteers participated in helping their community test response capabilities.



Beckley CERT conducted a Stop the Bleed training for their CERT members. The training teaches citizens how to stop bleeding in a severely injured person, which can help save a life.

AMERICORPS

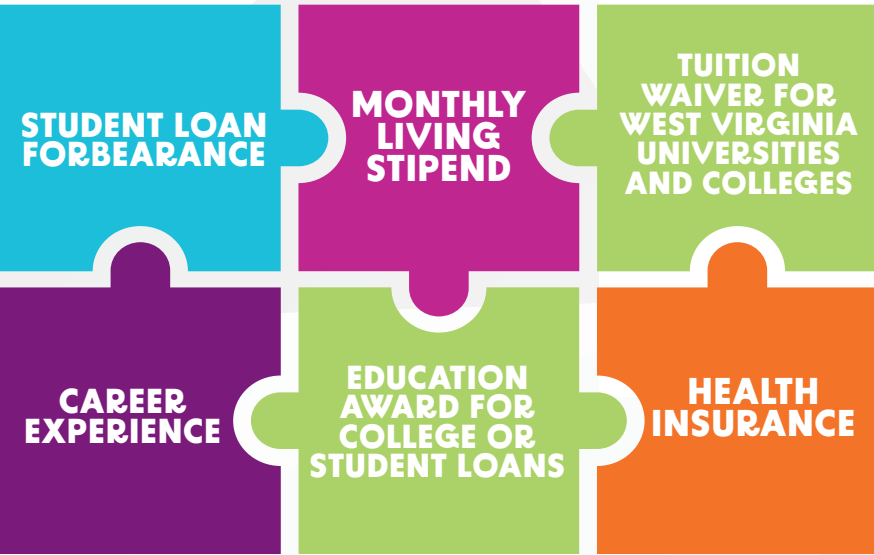
Each year, almost 500 AmeriCorps State and National members serve throughout the state in programs funded by Volunteer West Virginia. Some of these members serve in their hometowns, others come from across the country to make West Virginia their home for a year. Likened to the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps members serve at nonprofits, schools, and public agencies. AmeriCorps members mentor youth, grow local food, restore historic properties, conserve natural habitats, and help make West Virginia wonderful.



AmeriCorps
West Virginia



Benefits



2023 AmeriCorps Programs



2023 AMERICORPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS



81,518

HEALTHY MEALS PROVIDED.



1,739

**INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
DRUG INTERVENTION
SERVICES.**



2,706

**ACRES OF PUBLIC
LANDS SUPPORTED.**

60

**VETERANS AND
MILITARY FAMILY
MEMBERS SERVED.**



66,422

CHILDREN SERVED.



8,683

**VOLUNTEERS RECRUITED
AND MANAGED.**

14

**HISTORIC
PROPERTIES
RESTORED.**

AMERICORPS HIGHLIGHTS



In 2023, The Education Alliance AmeriCorps program piloted a partnership with the West Virginia Department of Education's Grow Your Own Pathway to Teaching Program. Students enrolled in this program serve as mentors through the Education Alliance AmeriCorps program, growing their professional skill set while giving back to the community.



The AmeriCorps Member Advisory Team met at the Great Bend Museum in Ravenswood to share feedback on their experience in AmeriCorps, recommend training topics, and support networking and events held throughout the year.



AmeriCorps Program Directors attend an in-person grant kickoff training at Cedar Lakes Conference Center. This was the group's first in-person kickoff since 2019.

James Martin receives the 2023 Outstanding AmeriCorps Member Award. As part of his LifeBridge AmeriCorps service at the United Way of the Mid Ohio Valley, James answers 211 calls, assists clients with immediate needs and helps them navigate the onsite pantry and professional clothing closet. During his one-year AmeriCorps term, James has helped over 700 individuals.



Phyllis Baxter receives the 2023 Legacy of Service Award. As the former Executive Director of the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (AFNHA), Phyllis led their AmeriCorps program for seventeen years, writing AFNHA's first AmeriCorps grant in 2006.



The 2023 AmeriCorps West Virginia Swearing-In Conference brought together over 200 AmeriCorps members from across the state. This year celebrates 30 years of AmeriCorps State and National programming.

AMERICORPS PLEDGE



I WILL GET THINGS DONE FOR AMERICA – TO MAKE OUR PEOPLE SAFER, SMARTER, AND HEALTHIER.

I WILL BRING AMERICANS TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES.

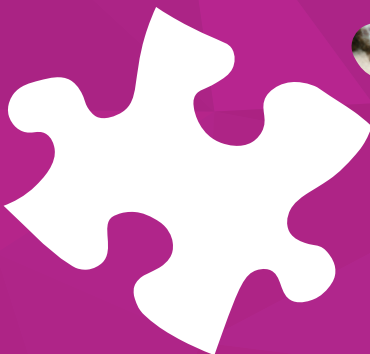
FACED WITH APATHY, I WILL TAKE ACTION.

FACED WITH CONFLICT, I WILL SEEK COMMON GROUND.

FACED WITH ADVERSITY, I WILL PERSEVERE.

I WILL CARRY THIS COMMITMENT WITH ME THIS YEAR AND BEYOND.

I AM AN AMERICORPS MEMBER, AND I WILL GET THINGS DONE.



SPECIAL MENTIONS

Staff

Hawley Carlson, *Executive Director*
Krista Bradshaw, *Finance and Operations Director*
Dana Bryant, *Outreach Officer*
Christina Cochran, *AmeriCorps Training Officer*
Moya Doneghy, *Special Projects Lead*
Shelia McEntee, *AmeriCorps Assistant*
Gina Namay, *Disaster Services & Planning Lead*
Hannah Stone, *AmeriCorps Program Director*
Chass Low-Wolfe, *Fiscal Officer*
Pam Mellott, *Director of West Virginia's Promise - The Alliance for Youth*
Morgan Weister, *Outreach Director for West Virginia's Promise - The Alliance for Youth*

Commissioners

Susan Aloï, *Buckhannon*
Leslie Baker, *Beckley*
Angela Beblo, *South Charleston*
Valerie Bright, *Elkins*
Quinten Burton, *Charleston*
Dwight Coburn, *Huntington*
Ryan Elkins, *Branchland*
April Elkins-Badtke, *Surveyor*
Corinne Chamberlin, *Wheeling*
Lora Grady, *Philadelphia, PA*
Christopher Graham, *Beckley*
Natalie Henson, *Morgantown*
Mercedes Jones Castle, *Scott Depot*
Susie Nelson, *Wheeling*
Margaret Ann O'Neal, *Charleston*
Paul Smith, *Wheeling*
Cynthia Sorsaia, *Charleston*
Erin Susman, *South Charleston*
Jane Tabb, *Kearneysville*
Philip Keith, *Buckhannon*
Christine Westgate, *South Charleston*
Brett White, *Fairmont*

AmeriCorps Advisory Team Members

Dale Bowyer, *Education Alliance*
Jacob Bryant, *WV Ready*
Erica Honaker, *LifeBridge*
Jennifer Jones, *High Rocks*
Corbin Lanker, *Grow Ohio Valley*
Misty Myhalsky, *Tygart Valley United Way*
Vanessa Pena, *PAWV*
Devin Price, *Energy Express*
Faith Walker, *PAWV*
Josh Wanstreet, *AFNHA*

Volunteers

Susan Aloï
Sam Calvert
Deborah Butler-Case
Kerri Cooper
Jenna Green
Stephanie Hyre
JJ Johnson
Brooke Jones
Vandy Justice
John Kee
Julie Keehner
Joyce Martin
Sherrie Myers
Jordan Pruett
Kathryn Ryan
Callie Sams
Doris Selko
Susan Shew
Ashley Shaw
Jeannie Smith
Courtney Summers
Erin Susman
Brett White
Ann Worley
Juliann Yacavon

GRANTS

AmeriCorps State and National

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area
\$792,000, *Statewide*

Grow Ohio Valley
\$310,984, *Wheeling*

High Rocks Educational Corporation
\$1,154,600, *Statewide*

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia
\$315,048, *Statewide*

The Education Alliance
\$803,754, *Statewide*

United Way of Central West Virginia – LifeBridge
\$894,735, *Statewide*

West Virginia University Research Corporation - Energy Express
\$1,724,777, *Statewide*

United Way of Tygart Valley - Flipside AmeriCorps
\$220,068, *Randolph County*

Stewards Individual Placement – West Virginia Ready
\$235,750, *Statewide*

Williamson Housing Authority
\$139,379, *Williamson*

AmeriCorps State and National Planning Grant

WomenCare, Inc
\$31,161, *Statewide*

City of Weston
\$49,999, *Weston*

AmeriCorps VISTA

West Virginia's Promise – The Alliance For Youth
\$30,000, *Statewide*

Volunteer Generation Fund Grants

Active Southern West Virginia
\$9,594, *Beckley*

Bethlehem Farm
\$10,000, *Talcott*

Community Resources Inc.
\$8,690, *Parkersburg*

Faith in Action of the Greater Kanawha Valley
\$7,558, *Charleston*

Good Shepherd Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers
\$10,000, *Shepherdstown*

Hatfield and McCoy Foundation
\$8,089, *Sarah Ann*

Heart and Hand Outreach Ministries
\$8,944, *South Charleston*

Historic Shepherdstown Commission
\$6,775, *Shepherdstown*

Huntington Children's Museum
\$7,547, *Huntington*

Jefferson County Parks & Recreation Commission
\$9,986, *Harper's Ferry*

RenewAll Inc.,
\$9,429, *Huntington*

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Outreach
\$10,000, *Huntington*

United Way of the River Cities
\$9,738, *Huntington*

Volunteer West Virginia Mini Grants

4-H Camp Pioneer

\$500, *Beverly*

Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia

\$500, *Morgantown*

Brooke Hancock Family Resource Network

\$500, *Weirton*

Catholic Charities

\$111.22, *Huntington*

Catholic Charities

\$500, *Wheeling*

City of New Martinsville

\$500, *New Martinsville*

Council of the Southern Mountains

\$500, *Welch*

Delta Omega Honorary Society Gamma Mu Chapter

\$200, *Morgantown*

Eastridge Health Systems

\$500, *Martinsburg*

Friends of Monroe, Inc.

\$500, *Union*

Gassaway Area Improvement Council

\$500, *Gassaway*

Heart and Hand Outreach Ministries

\$500, *South Charleston*

HumAnimal Bond

\$500, *Morgantown*

Kiwanis Club of Wellsburg

\$500, *Wellsburg*

Lewis County First

\$500, *Weston*

Mineral County Family Resource Network

\$205, *Keyser*

Mountain Heritage Trails, Inc.

\$500, *Mathias*

Mountain SOL

\$335, *Morgantown*

North Elementary

\$500, *Morgantown*

Ohio County Family

Resource Network

\$500, *Wheeling*

Ohio West Virginia Youth Leadership Association

\$500, *Sutton*

One Unique Recovery House

\$500, *Buckhannon*

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia

\$500, *Arthurdale*

Shepherdstown Community Club

\$500, *Shepherdstown*

Stewards Individual Placement

\$500, *Beckley*

Troop 0088 Mountaineer Area Council Scouts BSA

\$500, *Coalton*

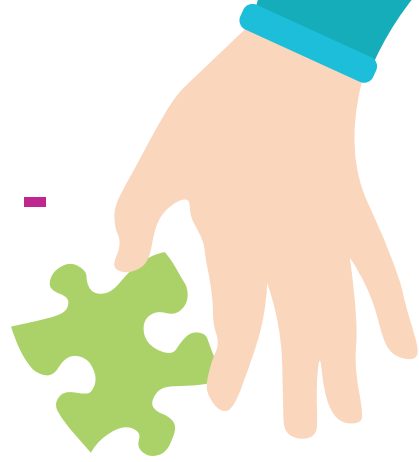
Upshur County Parks & Recreation - Upshur County Trails

\$150, *Buckhannon*

WVU Extension – Mercer County

\$475, *Bluefield*

GET INVOLVED - YOU'RE THE MISSING PUZZLE PIECE!



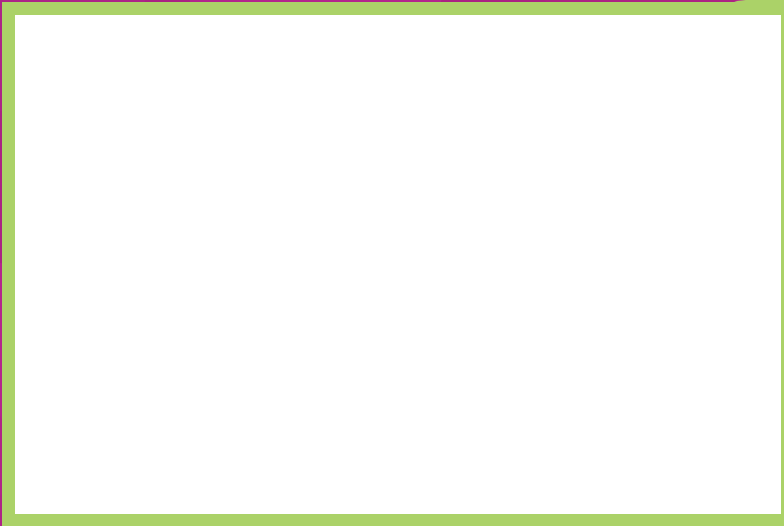
Volunteering is like putting together a puzzle. Each piece, no matter how small, plays a crucial role in creating a bigger, more beautiful picture. Your time, skills, and compassion are pieces of the puzzle.

We invite you to join us in this effort to create positive change. Whether it's lending a hand at a local shelter, mentoring a student, or participating in a community clean-up, every act of volunteerism brings us one step closer to a more vibrant and connected community.

If you're wondering how to get involved, visit our website at www.volunteer.wv.gov to find a volunteer opportunity near you.

Remember, it's not about the size of the puzzle piece, but the heart behind it. Together, we can transform lives and build a better West Virginia.





MISSION STATEMENT

Volunteer West Virginia, the State's Commission for National and Community Service, challenges West Virginians to strengthen their communities through volunteerism and service. 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.

volunteer
WEST VIRGINIA

<https://volunteer.wv.gov/>
803 Quarrier Street, Suite 400,
Charleston, WV 25301