

# PLANTING NEW SEEDS AND GROWING OUR ROOTS

2022 Annual Report



**volunteer**  
WEST VIRGINIA

A stylized illustration on the left side of the page. It features a tree with a brown trunk and two shades of green foliage. At the base of the tree is a shovel with a red handle and a grey blade. To the right of the shovel is an orange wheelbarrow with a single wheel and a handle, containing three tulips in yellow, red, and blue.


# 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Granted over \$6.6 million dollars to support AmeriCorps programs and volunteer programs.
- Awarded over \$2 Million dollars in AmeriCorps Education Awards.
- Volunteer West Virginia's programming reached 52 counties.
- In 2022, for every state dollar invested in Volunteer West Virginia, the state received an additional \$36.29 from federal, local, and private sources.



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## Welcome

Dear Friends and Partners,

It was an exciting year at Volunteer West Virginia. We returned to in-person events and trainings. It was wonderful to see you at the Governor's Service Awards, grant review, the AmeriCorps Family Reunion Conference, Grant Writing Training, and site visits across the state. Our staff and Commissioners enjoyed a visit to Arthurdale Heritage where we learned so much about the history of West Virginia and how AmeriCorps members continue to preserve it.

It truly felt like we were planting seeds this year. Thank you for coming out and being a part of our events and welcoming us to your spaces. It meant so much to us to recognize outstanding volunteers from across the state at the Governor's Service Awards and to see over 200 AmeriCorps members at the AmeriCorps conference networking and taking their service pledge together.

We know that people want to get back out in their communities and volunteer. We are excited to be supporting organizations and volunteers in creating connections for great volunteer service. In 2023 we will be promoting volunteering through our new website that makes it easy to post and find volunteer opportunities. We will be making grants to strengthen volunteer programs, and we will be providing training to sustain these efforts. We will also be supporting new AmeriCorps programs and finding partners to create programs in communities across West Virginia. We are looking forward to seeing the seeds we have planted grow in 2023!

Thank you for being a part of our work and our vision for the future.



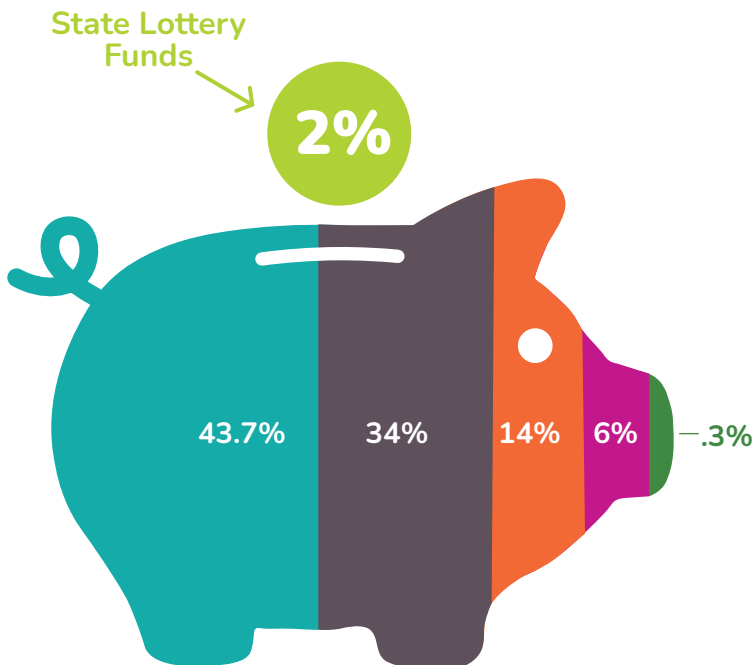
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hawley Carlson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Hawley Carlson, Executive Director



# 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.



**Federal Grants to Communities: 43.7%**  
\$7,037,530

**Cash Match: 34%**  
\$5,444,182

**Education Awards: 14%**  
\$2,244,076

**Federal Support Funds: 6%**  
\$921,253

**State Lottery Funds: 2%**  
\$374,980

**Homeland Security Funds: .3%**  
\$49,000

**Total 2022 Funding**

**\$16,121,021**

## A Message from the Board Chair

Dear Volunteer WV Family and Friends,

After pushing through the COVID pandemic, it is time to move forward with a renewed emphasis on supporting volunteers in our wonderful state. With the support of engaged Commissioners, Volunteer West Virginia staff has planted the seeds that will support the growth of volunteer efforts across the state.

This year we were able to launch the new volunteer opportunity website and a television and radio campaign to encourage people to get back out and volunteer in their communities. We returned to holding the Governor's Service Awards. It was an honor to host this event. It allowed me the opportunity to meet many awesome volunteers from around the state. We held the AmeriCorps conference in person which was welcomed by the members. The Commission also held an in-person meeting at Arthurdale Heritage in Preston County, which provided historical information on its development and allowed Commissioners to interact with staff and volunteers. These were just a few of the highlights for the year which helped volunteerism grow.

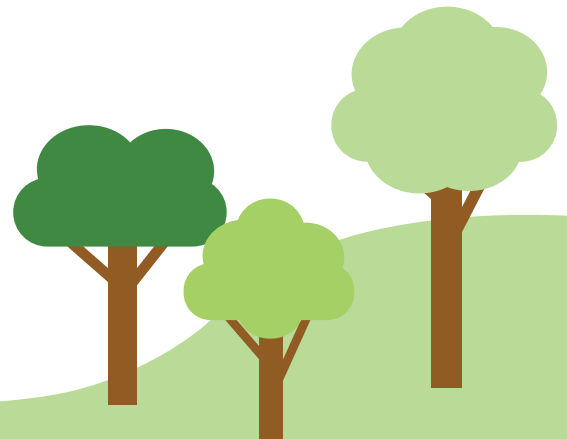
The Volunteer West Virginia Commission would like to extend a "thank you" to the staff for their creativity, leadership, and support in developing volunteer opportunities and programs for the citizens and communities of West Virginia.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dwight Coburn".

Dwight Coburn, Commission Chair



# PLANTING NEW SEEDS AND GROWING OUR ROOTS

After the world came to a standstill during COVID-19, the past year brought a wave of new growth at Volunteer West Virginia.

## Projects Started In 2022

- Launched our new website, [www.volunteer.wv.gov](http://www.volunteer.wv.gov), which makes it quick and easy for West Virginians to find volunteer opportunities.
- Returned to in-person events and trainings after COVID-19.
- Started our Volunteer Management Training, a free training series to support West Virginia's hardworking volunteer programs.
- The Governor's Service Awards returned after COVID-19.
- Awarded Volunteer Generation Fund Grants across the state.
- Funded two new AmeriCorps Programs, Flipside AmeriCorps and WV READY.
- Brought our AmeriCorps members back together again for an AmeriCorps Family Reunion themed conference and swearing-in ceremony.

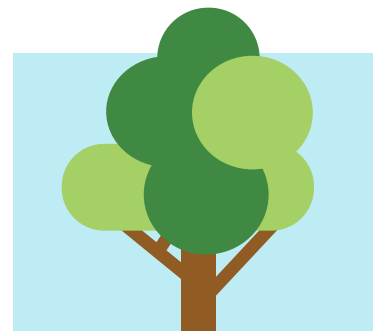




# VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

In 2022, Volunteer West Virginia awarded 8 Volunteer Generation Fund grants totaling \$67,704 to support volunteer programs. 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.

## Volunteer Generation Fund Highlights



Board members, staff, and volunteers from the River House in Capon Bridge gather to envision a strong volunteer program. These photos capture the involvement, organization, and fun they had in the process.

Chrissy Hall proudly shows off Appalachian Forest Heritage Area's newly developed Volunteer Management Handbook.



## 2022 Volunteer Generation Fund Grantees

**Catholic Charities WV** used VGF funds to develop a strategic plan for a new volunteer program and to purchase volunteer management software that county offices across the state could use.

**Tamarack Foundation** hired a consultant to help them develop a new volunteer management and tracking program. Using an asset mapping approach, the consultant documented what was working well in similar organizations and made recommendations.

**WVU Extension 4-H Youth Development** program used its award to increase the competence of 4-H Extension educators in volunteer management through a series of regional volunteer training events.

**Pantry Plus More Inc.** used VGF funding to develop formal volunteer policies and procedures. They also developed a volunteer training manual and job descriptions.

**Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Panhandle** was able to purchase volunteer management software and develop and produce volunteer training manuals.

**Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area** purchased a volunteer management software program and developed a volunteer manual.

**Stewards Individual Placements** used its award to provide volunteer management and other vital training for its Volunteer Days coordinators.

**The River House Arts and Music Community** worked with a consultant to use Appreciative Inquiry to develop a strategic plan for using volunteers. Based on the results of this process, they were able to develop a volunteer manual.



# AMERICORPS

Each year, more than 900 AmeriCorps State and National members serve throughout the state in programs funded by Volunteer West Virginia. Some of these members serve in their hometowns, while 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.



## Benefits

- Monthly Living Stipend
- Health Insurance
- Education Award for College or Student Loans
- Student Loan Forbearance
- Tuition Waiver for West Virginia Universities and Colleges
- Career Experience

## 2022 AmeriCorps Programs



# 2022 AMERICORPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**166,873**

healthy meals provided.



**50,453**

children served.



**9,753**

volunteers recruited and managed.



**2,091**

individuals received drug intervention services.



**961**

Veterans and military family members served.



**640**

acres of public lands supported.



**13**

historic properties restored.



## AMERICORPS FOCUS AREAS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Basic Needs

10%

Community Development

11%

Conservation

6%

Heritage

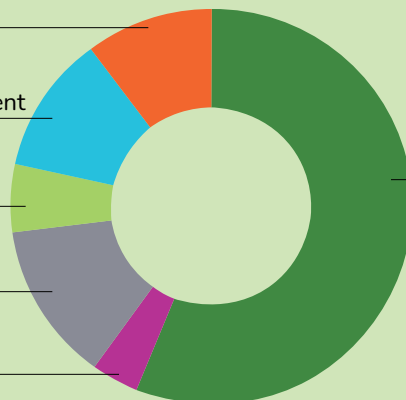
13%

Health

4%

Education

60%





# AMERICORPS CONFERENCE

This fall, over 200 AmeriCorps State and National members gathered in Charleston for an AmeriCorps Family Reunion themed conference. The two-day event, hosted by Volunteer West Virginia, featured training and family reunion activities. The event concluded with the annual AmeriCorps swearing-in ceremony, where members are sworn into a year of service through the AmeriCorps pledge.



LifeBridge AmeriCorps members and staff enjoying the conference.



Becky Mathis-Stump sharing an inspiring and memorable keynote on the meaning of family.

## A Special Thank You

Volunteer West Virginia would like to thank all the presenters, partners, AmeriCorps Member Advisory Team members, and volunteers for helping to make this conference possible.



## *AmeriCorps members take the following 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.



“ As we took our pledge as AmeriCorps service members, I looked around the room and saw so many people with good hearts, great intentions, and hope for a great year of service. My pledge for service included the circle of people at our table, the group of people inside the ballroom, the people outside in the streets of Charleston, the folks in WV needing so much from all of us...and the streams, and rivers, and trees, and animals, and air, and water... I dedicated my pledge to serve all beings here in our amazing state.”

- Lisa Gum, High Rocks AmeriCorps Member



# AMERICORPS HIGHLIGHTS



This year, the West Virginia Legislature enacted Senate Bill 228 to create the AmeriCorps West Virginia tuition waiver. AmeriCorps members that complete a year of service in West Virginia are now be eligible for up to 8 semesters of tuition waivers for undergraduate or graduate programs at public colleges and universities in the state. Volunteer West Virginia would like to recognize Sarah Riley and her team at High Rocks for working tirelessly over the past several years to make this tuition waiver a reality.



In 2022, Volunteer West Virginia kicked off a statewide campaign to encourage West Virginians to join AmeriCorps. The campaign featured career fair visits, postcards, billboards, and television commercials.



Energy Express AmeriCorps members begin their summer of service. Each year, more than 240 college students serve as AmeriCorps members in this program reaching over 6,000 children throughout the state.



Grow Ohio Valley AmeriCorps members team up for a neighborhood cleanup in East Wheeling.



Ryan Ewing, a LifeBridge AmeriCorps member, serving Thanksgiving meals in Wheeling. Ryan shared, "I can't think of a better way to spend today than with people I love and with my community." **13**



Preserve WV AmeriCorps members participate in a window restoration project at Pricketts Fort State Park in Fairmont. Participants received instruction on window anatomy, repair tools, techniques, and the care of historic wooden windows. The group then worked to assess the condition of the Job Prickett House windows and removed those selected for restoration work.



This year, Tygart Valley United Way worked hard to start the Flipside AmeriCorps program. The after-school program serves middle school students in Marion and Taylor County. Every day students receive a hot meal, homework help, opportunities for physical activity, and arts and science activities.



Launched in 2022 by Stewards Individual Placements, the West Virginia Rural Engagement Ambassadors for Development and Youth (WV READY), is a new AmeriCorps program that pairs AmeriCorps members with agencies to assess, develop, and grow West Virginia's regional outdoor recreation.





West Virginia's Promise Director Pamela Mellott and Outreach Director Morgan Weister visit AmeriCorps Summer Associate Siarah Armstrong at Mountaineer Food Bank. During their visit they discuss the impact of the Fresh Initiative Kids Market and Summer Feeding Programs across the state.



Congratulations Angela Collier and Mindy Robinson for becoming Program Directors at LifeBridge AmeriCorps. We love seeing how far our AmeriCorps alumni go! They both served four years in LifeBridge AmeriCorps. Angela is now the AmeriCorps Director and Mindy is the Associate Director.



“It is an amazing honor to be able to support and encourage others in a program that I know first-hand can do so much for communities throughout the state. Because of LifeBridge AmeriCorps my life is on a path I would have never crossed if it weren't for serving.”

- Mindy Robinson

“When the opportunity came to become the Program Director of LifeBridge AmeriCorps, there was no question on moving in that direction. It's been such an amazing opportunity and absolute blessing to be a part of where my passion for service began.”

- Angelia Collier



# 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.



## Disaster Services Highlights



Volunteer West Virginia was a sponsor and guest speaker at the 2022 West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) conference.



Wetzel County Emergency Management utilizes ReadyWV materials for their public preparedness outreach events.



In honor of National Preparedness Month, Volunteer West Virginia hosted a Get ReadyWV Preparedness Webinar with guest speaker Tim Keaton, West Virginia Emergency Management Division Flood Specialist.

# Community Emergency Response Teams

Community Emergency Response (CERT) volunteers support their community with basic disaster response skills such as first aid, search and rescue, and disaster preparedness.



## In 2022 CERT Volunteers

- Invested over 2,000 hours in their communities participating in emergency preparedness trainings, events, outreach, drills, and disaster response.
- Reached 6,252 people, who received emergency preparedness training and educational materials.
- Partnered with the American Red Cross to hold local blood drives.
- Helped at local warming shelters.
- Provided personal hygiene kits to local fire departments for distribution to those impacted by disaster.

## West Virginia CERT Programs

- Beckley CERT
- Clay County CERT
- Dunbar CERT
- Hardy County CERT
- Mason County CERT
- Mercer County CERT
- Mid-Ohio Valley Regional CERT (Wood Co.)
- Monongalia County Health Department CERT
- Pleasants County CERT
- Tucker County CERT
- Tyler County Search & Rescue
- Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Dept. CERT (New)





# CERT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022, the West Virginia Emergency Management Division recognized five CERT Programs for their volunteer support at COVID-19 testing locations, vaccination sites, and much more. The programs recognized were: Beckley CERT, Clay County CERT, Hardy County CERT, Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department, and Monongalia County Health Department.

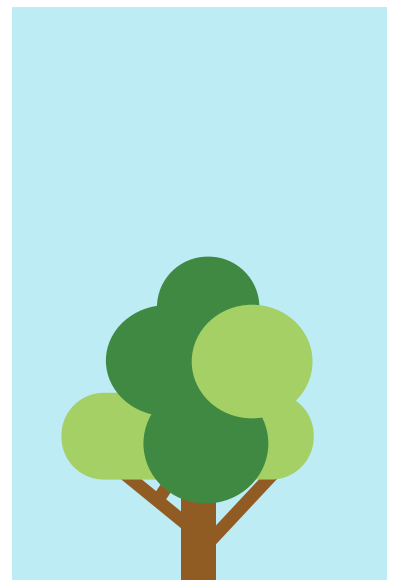
Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department



Monongalia County Health Department



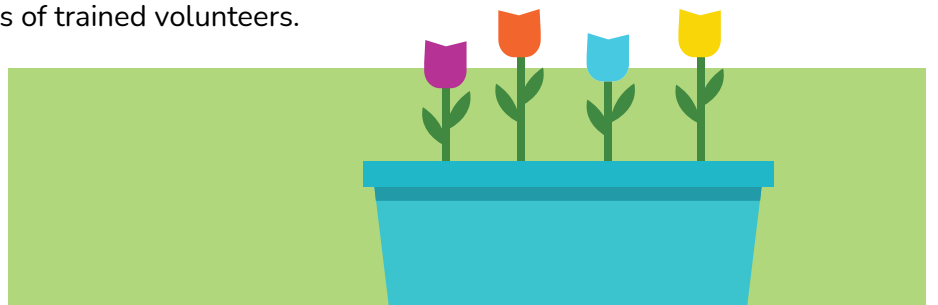
Hardy County CERT Program



Beckley CERT volunteers assemble over 500 preparedness kits for their Spring Preparedness Fair.



Beckley CERT Program's newest class of trained volunteers.



# GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS

In 2022, there were 6 recipients of the Governor's Service Awards the states most prestigious volunteer award. The award honors individuals and groups who make an impact through volunteerism in West Virginia.

This year's recipients provided critical COVID-19 support by setting up vaccination clinics and blood drives. They helped to make their hometowns shine through community beautification projects, Christmas celebrations, and cared for our state's beautiful parks and trails. They served as leaders during COVID-19, stepped up to organize service projects, and much more. Visit Volunteer West Virginia's YouTube Channel to see the stories of this year's recipients.



Back Row (From Left): Rick Macak (Beckley Rotary), Carol McCarthy (Beckley Rotary), Kristi Dumas (Beckley Rotary), April Elkins-Badtke (Beckley Rotary), Jim Crews (PACF), Randy Dick (PACF), Joe Caltrider (PACF), Kenneth Adams, Dr. Jerry Carr Jr.,  
Front Row (From Left): Bobbi Trimboli, Robert Wright (PACF), Kiki Angelos, Mary Wright (PACF), Nicole Wilson-Carr



## 2022 RECIPIENTS

**Dr. Jerry Carr Jr.  
and Nicole Wilson-Carr**  
Morgantown, Adult Category

**Barbara "Bobbi" Trimboli**  
Elkins, Senior Category

**Kenneth Adams**  
Cairo, Senior Category

**Kiki Angelos**  
Parkersburg, Lifetime Achievement

**Rotary Club of Beckley**  
Group Category

**Parkersburg Area Community  
Foundation Facilities Committee**  
COVID-19 Category



## 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  
 Sheila McEntee, Compliance Officer  
 Pam Mellott, Statewide Director of West Virginia's Promise  
 Gina Namay, Disaster Services & Planning Lead  
 Chloe Sockman, West Virginia Governor's Intern  
 Hannah Stone, AmeriCorps Program Director  
 Chass Low-Wolfe, Administrative Coordinator  
 Morgan Weister, Outreach Director for West Virginia's Promise



### Commissioners

Dwight Coburn, Chair, Huntington  
 Susan Aloï, Buckhannon  
 April Elkins-Badtke, Surveyor  
 Leslie Baker, Beckley  
 Angela Beblo, Charleston  
 Quinten Burton, Charleston  
 Mercedes Jones Castle, Scott Depot  
 Monica DellaMea, Charleston  
 Kim Good, Charleston  
 Lora Grady, Philadelphia  
 Michael Hooper, Wheeling  
 Blake Humphrey, Morgantown  
 Julia Keehner, Buckhannon  
 Philip Keith, Buckhannon  
 Erica Mani, Charleston  
 Susie Nelson, Wheeling  
 Margaret Ann O'Neal, Charleston  
 Gregg Puckett, Princeton  
 Paul Smith, Wheeling  
 Jane Tabb, Kearneysville  
 Brett White, Fairmont





## AmeriCorps Advisory Team Members

Kylee Bethel, Education Alliance  
Jessica Black, AFNHA  
Kendyl Bostic, AFNHA  
Joseph Brooks, High Rocks  
Dale Bowyer, Education Alliance VISTA  
Stephen De Vita, AFNHA  
Kirsten Jaquish, West Virginia's Promise VISTA  
Tammy McClanahan, LifeBridge  
Emily McCormick, West Virginia's Promise VISTA  
Mindy Robinson, LifeBridge  
Kristin Schofield, Education Alliance  
Olivia Sokos, Education Alliance VISTA  
Molly Sutter, High Rocks  
Marisa Terwilliger, PAWV



## Volunteers

Dr. Lindsay Acree  
Mara Boggs  
Sam Calvert  
Jeremy Carter  
Deborah Butler-Case  
Jenna Green  
Patricia Greenley  
Courtney Hill  
JJ Johnson  
Janet Jones  
John Kee  
Joyce Martin  
Carl McLaughlin  
Dr. Michael Pennington  
Jordan Pruett  
Tammie Rizzio  
Callie Sams  
Lida Shepherd  
Jeannie Smith  
Janet Somerville  
Aiden Taylor  
Ann Worley





## GRANTS

### AmeriCorps State and National

#### Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area

\$863,600, Statewide

#### Stewards Individual Placements – WV READY

\$221,403, Statewide

#### United Way of Tygart Valley - Flipside AmeriCorps

\$206,714, Statewide

#### Grow Ohio Valley

\$307,674, Wheeling

#### High Rocks Educational Corporation

\$1,084,320, Statewide

#### Preservation Alliance of West Virginia

\$309,580, Statewide

#### The Education Alliance

\$766,434, Statewide

#### United Way of Central West Virginia - LifeBridge

\$1,030,118, Statewide

#### West Virginia University Research Corporation - Energy Express

\$1,710,465, Statewide

#### Williamson Housing Authority

\$49,795, Planning Grant

## AMERICORPS VISTA

### West Virginia's Promise

\$30,000, Statewide

## VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND GRANTS

**West Virginia University Research Corp**

\$10,000, Statewide

**Tamarack Foundation**

\$10,000, Statewide

**Appalachian Forest Heritage Area**

\$10,000, Elkins

**The River House Inc**

\$10,000, Capon Bridge

**Conservation Legacy**

\$1,520, Beckley

**Pantry Plus More Inc**

\$9,984, Morgantown

**Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Panhandle**

\$9,500, Martinsburg

**Catholic Charities**

\$7,000, Statewide



# GET INVOLVED

Plant new seeds and grow your roots in West Virginia.

- If you have a minute: Spread a small act of kindness: Give a stranger a compliment, pay for someone's coffee, leave a kind note for someone to find.
- If you have an hour: Visit [www.volunteer.wv.gov](http://www.volunteer.wv.gov) to find a volunteer opportunity near you.
- If you have a year: Pay-it-forward as an AmeriCorps member in West Virginia. Positions are available throughout West Virginia, use the QR code below.



## 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/>  
600 Capitol Street, Charleston WV 25301

   @VolunteerWV

