

volunteer  
WEST VIRGINIA

EVERY MOUNTAINEER  
IS A VOLUNTEER

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





Volunteering brings people together from all backgrounds, creating a stronger community and common goal—because in West Virginia, **EVERY MOUNTAINEER IS A VOLUNTEER.**”

VISIT [WWW.VOLUNTEER.WV.GOV](http://WWW.VOLUNTEER.WV.GOV) TO FIND A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY NEAR YOU.





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# WELCOME

Dear Friends,

2024 has been a great year at Volunteer West Virginia! We continued promoting our volunteer opportunity website, and now you can find over 400 volunteer opportunities across all 55 West Virginia counties. Our public service announcement campaign, Every Mountaineer is a Volunteer, reached many of you, and we saw a significant increase in visits to our website from people eager to find ways to volunteer in their communities.

With new funding for the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, we partnered with 11 organizations to host more than 20 service days, engaging over 1,900 volunteers statewide. It was an amazing effort, and we are incredibly inspired by the dedication of these organizations in creating unique and meaningful volunteer projects. We can't wait to see what 2025 will bring!

This year, we also launched two new AmeriCorps programs, provided mini grants to help organizations recognize their volunteers, and conducted a strategic planning process with all our partners. Your participation in surveys and focus groups was invaluable in shaping our plans for the future. We're excited to present our State Service Plan goals for 2025-2027 in this report, which include offering more training opportunities, increasing outreach, and deepening our collaboration with all of you.

We are honored to serve as your State Commission for National and Community Service. Thank you for all that you do for West Virginia.



In service,

Hawley Carlson



# 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Volunteer  
West Virginia's  
programming  
reached

**55**  
counties.

Awarded over

**\$3.4  
MILLION**

dollars in AmeriCorps  
Education Awards.

Granted over

**\$6.5  
MILLION**

dollars to support  
AmeriCorps programs  
and volunteer  
programs.

In 2024, for every state dollar  
invested in Volunteer West  
Virginia, the state received  
an additional

**\$23.41**

from federal, local,  
and private sources.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Friends of Volunteer West Virginia:

There's no doubt when you look around our great state, you're sure to find people volunteering from all walks of life - mountaineers young and old working together to make their communities better. Volunteering is good for the soul, and it's great for West Virginia!

An even closer look will reveal an amazing number of AmeriCorps members serving in a variety of capacities across our state. These members come from all over West Virginia and across the nation.

In this annual report you'll see the great work our AmeriCorps members have accomplished this past year. You'll see the return-on-investment AmeriCorps dollars bring to our state, the amount of healthy meals provided, the number of youth served, and the Veterans and their families whose lives we touched.

The thing that might not be so obvious, though, is the effect the AmeriCorps program has on its members. The wonderful thing about the AmeriCorps program is that it not only helps with getting things done in our communities, but it provides our members with the types of civic engagement and skill-building experiences that will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on their lives, too.

Through their service, AmeriCorps members learn to solve problems. They learn to think critically about important issues. They learn to work hard and get their hands dirty. They learn to work together and be part of something much greater than any one person. It's a win-win situation!

Thanks to the work of our amazing team at Volunteer West Virginia, the AmeriCorps program is thriving in our state. Our team at VVV works diligently "to inspire and empower all West Virginians to embrace volunteerism and service as strategies for building stronger communities." And now, with the completion of our latest strategic plan, Hawley Carlson and her team are poised to increase their impact even more, providing more and more opportunities for every mountaineer to become a volunteer.

As an AmeriCorps alum, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as the chair of the State's Commission for National and Community Service. On behalf of my fellow commissioners, thank you to everyone who works hard every day to keep this program moving forward. I'm excited to see all the great things the future is sure to bring.

Yours in service,



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.

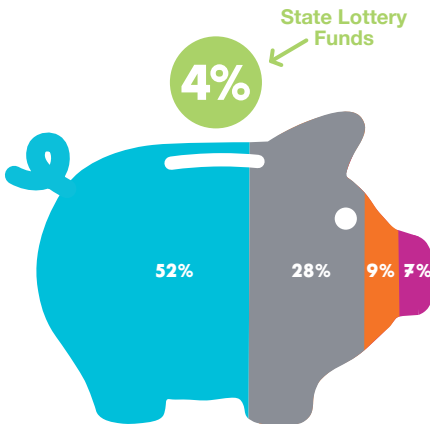
Promote emergency preparedness and disaster volunteerism.



## OUR PROGRAMS



## 2024 FUNDING



Federal Grants to Communities  
\$6,503,297.00

AmeriCorps Education Awards  
\$3,486,594.60

Cash Match  
\$1,118,945.90

Federal Support Funds  
\$849,862.88

State Lottery Funds  
\$510,744.00

Total 2024 Funding  
\$12,469,444.38



# Volunteer West Virginia Mini Grants

This fall, Volunteer West Virginia provided mini grants of up to \$500 to organizations to assist with volunteer recognition projects and events. Thanking volunteers is an important part of managing and retaining volunteers. The goal of the grant was to develop new volunteer recognition programs and events in the community.

Volunteer West Virginia granted over \$16,000 to host 35 volunteer recognition projects throughout the state. Through this grant, 1,259 volunteers were recognized.



The Grant County 4-H Leaders Association hosted a volunteer recognition and achievement night at the local bowling alley, honoring their 4-H leaders with certificates, gifts, and free bowling. Volunteers enjoyed the surprise t-shirts, pins, and framed certificates, making for a fun and morale-boosting event.



Voices Against Domestic Violence volunteers in Charles Town were honored with t-shirts to thank them for their dedicated support in raising awareness and assisting neighbors affected by domestic violence. During The Domestic Violence Awareness Weekend, volunteers helped make the block party, 5K Run/Walk, and Soulful Survivors program a success.



The Community Markets Inc. volunteer recognition project in Charles Town was a great success, creating a sense of belonging among frequent volunteers. The event included a potluck featuring pizza donated by Andy's Pizza and custom t-shirts for regular volunteers.





Volunteers from One Unique Recovery House's OUR House organization in Buckhannon came together to create themed t-shirts recognizing their efforts, proudly labeling themselves as superheroes, proudly labeling themselves as superheroes. This "create a t-shirt" gathering brought immense joy to the fully volunteer-run organization, highlighting the power of community.



Volunteers from the Pleasants County Neighbor Network show off their new yard signs recognizing their dedication to Mountaineer Food Bank distributions. One volunteer shared her plan to proudly display the sign at her mother's house, saying her rural home is "too out of the way for anyone to see it!"



The Wetzel County Family Resource Network and WATCH Coalition hosted an event to honor volunteers who supported their youth and family programs in 2024. Carolyn Goddard, their most active volunteer and a longtime community partner, expressed pride in receiving her first-ever certificate of appreciation, which she plans to hang in her home office.



# September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance Grants

In 2024, Volunteer West Virginia awarded 11 grants for the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, totaling \$103,286. This funding was used for the development of large volunteer projects that served a community need.

The funded projects included making a 1960s community park accessible, distributing backpacks with essential items for Veterans, and organizing community clean up days.

Over **1,900 volunteers** joined together throughout West Virginia to help with these projects.



AmeriCorps Regional Office staff, Michelle Teare and Emily Schoen Pratt, attend the 9/11 Day of Service volunteer celebration at Ken Ellis Memorial Park in Campbells Creek.



Naomi Bays, Director the West Side Neighborhood Association, Mayor Amy Goodwin, and Charleston Fire Department Captain Austin Smith, join volunteers to plant poppies at the new 9/11 Memorial Garden on the West Side of Charleston.



**Honor.  
Serve.  
Unite.**



The WVU Center for Community Engagement and the Center for Veteran, Military and Family Programs hosted the Climb to Clean service day at Seneca Rocks, honoring Veterans with a memorial trail cleanup. Participants came together to pay tribute while enjoying the beautiful scenery.







**GOVERNOR'S**  
*Service Awards*

## 2024 RECIPIENTS

### YOUTH CATEGORY

**ISABELLE SCARLET SMITH-POUNDS, HEDGESVILLE**

### ADULT CATEGORY

**DANIEL PAN, MORGANTOWN**

### SENIOR CATEGORY

**QUENTON NORTHCRAFT, WHEELING**

### SENIOR CATEGORY

**KATHY EASLEY, BLUEFIELD**

### GROUP CATEGORY

**BOB AND SHARON SELBE, RUPERT**

### GROUP CATEGORY

**BAND OF BROTHERS, BUCKHANNON**

## 2024 GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS

In 2024, there were six recipients of the Governor's Service Awards, the state's most prestigious volunteer award.

This year's recipients promoted body positivity for children, mentored students as they prepared for college, fed neighbors and supported the unhoused, and saved lives through suicide prevention efforts.

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



### Group Photo

(From left to right) Tim Rock, Deanna Gillum, Kevin Hawkins, Quenton Northcraft, Isabelle Scarlet Smith-Pounds, Kathy Easley, Bob Selbe, Sharon Selbe, Marilyn Keith, Alan Tucker

# DISASTER SERVICES



**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.**



Ready WV conducts preparedness outreach during West Virginia's Flood Resilience Day at the State Capitol.

*For Seniors  
&  
Caregivers*

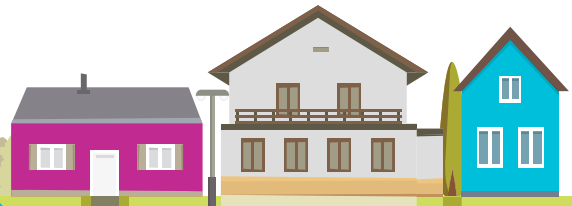


**National Preparedness Month 2024**

FEMA guest speakers presented during Volunteer West Virginia's National Preparedness Month webinar.



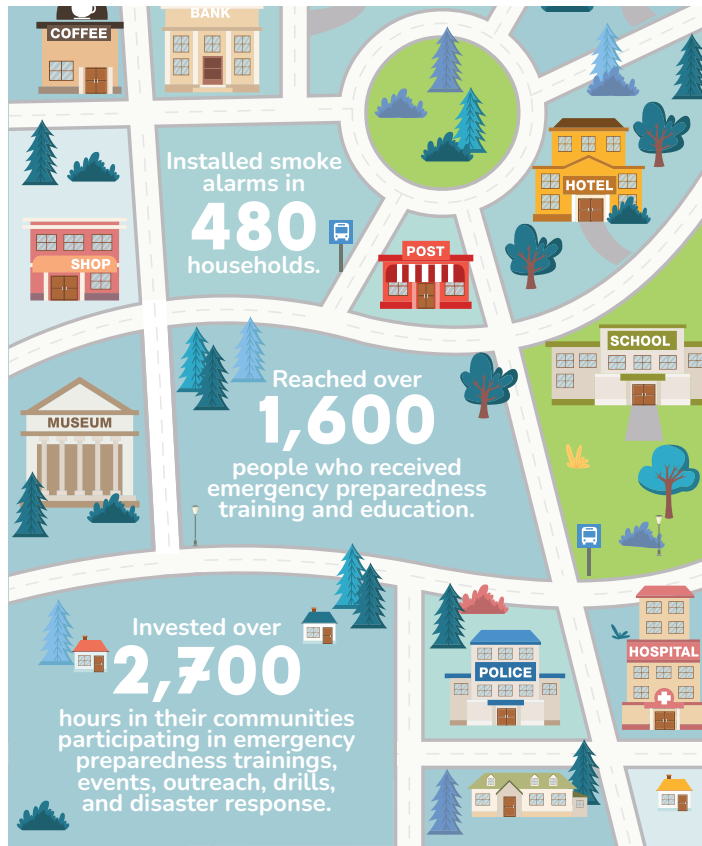
In June, for Pet Preparedness Month, Volunteer West Virginia teamed up with the Kanawha Charleston Humane Association to promote disaster preparedness for pets.





# 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.



Beckley CERT provides fire extinguisher training as part of their CERT class, preparing volunteers with crucial skills for emergency situations.



Clay CERT donated a mini fridge to their county health department for storing essential medical supplies.



Upshur County CERT's newly trained volunteers who support emergency preparedness and response efforts in their community.



# AmeriCorps West Virginia

This year marked the 30th anniversary of AmeriCorps in West Virginia. Since 1994, more than 16,000 people in West Virginia have served approximately 22 million hours and earned education awards totaling more than \$41.0 million.

Each year, 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, 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**

**EDUCATION AWARD FOR COLLEGE OR STUDENT LOANS**

**TUITION WAIVER FOR WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

**STUDENT LOAN FORBEARANCE**

**CAREER EXPERIENCE**



# 2024 AMERICORPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each year, more than **500** AmeriCorps State and National members serve throughout the state in programs funded by Volunteer West Virginia.

**65,785**

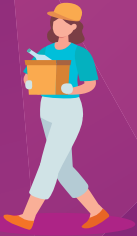
healthy meals provided.

**138**

miles of trail maintained.

**110**

Veterans and military family members served.



**4,255**

volunteers recruited and managed.

**3,361**

individuals received training in environmental stewardship.



**18,852**

children served.

**11**

historic properties restored.



**7**

miles of new trail constructed.

**6,987**

acres of public lands supported.

**1,480**

individuals received drug intervention services.







# AmeriCorps Highlights



Sam Kniery receives the 2024 Outstanding AmeriCorps Member Award for his service with the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area's AmeriCorps program. Serving at the Mon Forest Towns Partnership, he used his graphic design skills to enhance the organization's brand and grow its social media presence, while promoting local activities and events to strengthen community connections.



AmeriCorps Program Directors attend the 2024 grant kickoff training at Hawk's Nest State Park. Thank you to this team for working so hard to make AmeriCorps a success in West Virginia!



The 2024 AmeriCorps West Virginia Conference gathered more than 200 AmeriCorps members from around the state for a day of training and networking. Participants also took the AmeriCorps Pledge, officially committing to a year of service.



This year, two new programs joined the AmeriCorps West Virginia family!



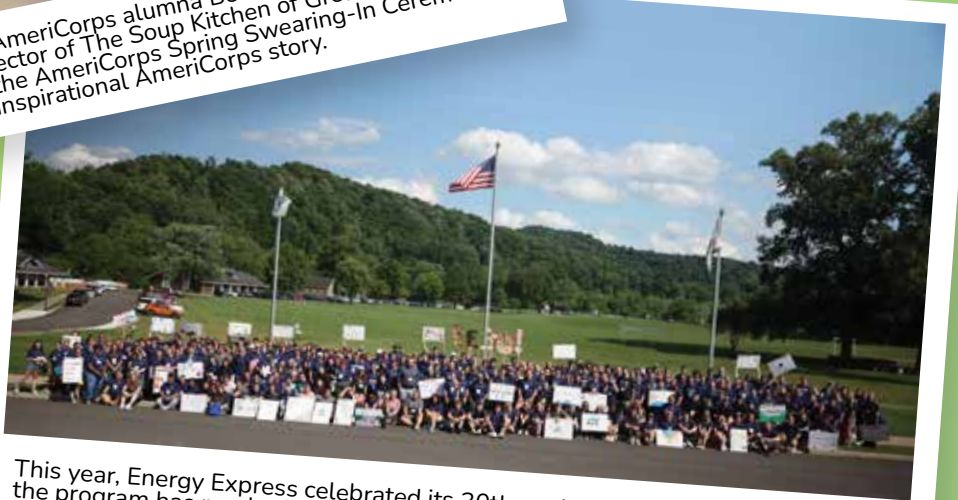
FamilyCare AmeriCorps members support health outreach in West Virginia by organizing community events and educating individuals with chronic diseases about available resources to improve health outcomes.



The City of Weston AmeriCorps program enhances community engagement through physical activity and beautification projects in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Department.



Outstanding AmeriCorps alumna Becky Shilling-Rodocker, Executive Director of The Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling, Inc., attends the AmeriCorps Spring Swearing-In Ceremony to share her inspirational AmeriCorps story.



This year, Energy Express celebrated its 30th anniversary. Since its inception, the program has reached over 84,000 children across the state and served more than 1,747,000 meals. Since 2006, the program has distributed 360,000 take-home books to children. Over 13,600 AmeriCorps members have devoted their summers to serving with Energy Express.

# 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*  
Moya Doneghy, *Special Projects Lead*  
Pam Engle, *Director of West Virginia's Promise -  
The Alliance for Youth*  
Gina Namay, *Disaster Services & Planning Lead*  
Chass Low-Wolfe, *Fiscal Officer*  
Blake Turley, *Program Coordinator*  
Cameron Waggoner, *AmeriCorps Program Officer*

### 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*  
Crin Joy, *Wheeling*  
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*  
Philip Keith, *Buckhannon*  
Christine Westgate, *South Charleston*  
Jillian Winters, *Philadelphia*  
Brett White, *Fairmont*

### Volunteers

Susan Aloï  
Deborah  
Butler-Case  
Jeremy Carter  
Sam Calvert  
Christina Cochran  
Kerri Cooper  
Octavia Cordon  
Meredith Dreistadt  
Candice Helms  
Vandy Justice  
JJ Johnson  
Brooke Jones  
John Kee  
Julie Keehner  
Lauren Kemp  
Joyce Martin  
Tammy O'Dell  
Jordan Pruett  
Kathryn Ryan  
Jeannie Smith  
Olivia Sokos  
Kim Suder  
Erin Susman  
Lance Trent  
Josh Wanstreet  
Brett White  
Ann Worley

# Grants

## AmeriCorps State and National

**Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area**  
\$750,000, *Statewide*

**City of Weston**  
\$233,245, *Weston*

**FamilyCare, Inc**  
\$125,000, *Statewide*

**Grow Ohio Valley**  
\$197,394, *Wheeling*

**High Rocks Educational Corporation**  
\$1,432,160, *Statewide*

**Preservation Alliance of West Virginia**  
\$537,493, *Statewide*

**The Education Alliance**  
\$805,454, *Statewide*

**United Way of Central West Virginia – LifeBridge**  
\$869,525, *Statewide*

**West Virginia University Research Corporation – Energy Express**  
\$798,999, *Statewide*

**Tygart Valley United Way – Flipside AmeriCorps**  
\$231,665, *Marion County*

**Conservation Legacy – West Virginia Ready**  
\$235,750, *Statewide*

## AmeriCorps State and National Planning Grant

**West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition**  
\$49,505, *Statewide*

## AmeriCorps VISTA

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

## September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance Grants

**Bethlehem Farm**  
\$14,967, *Talcott*

**Greenbrier Valley Hellbenders Youth Mountain Biking Team**  
\$7,689, *Lewisburg*

**Huntington Children's Museum**  
\$11,885, *Huntington*

**Morgantown Sober Living**  
\$13,550, *Morgantown & Charleston*

**Ohio County Cemeteries Foundation**  
\$5,000, *Wheeling*

**Parents Auxiliary**  
\$14,957, *Campbells Creek*

**Valley Comprehensive Community Mental Health**  
\$10,876, *Morgantown & Clarksburg*

**West Side Neighborhood Association of Charleston**  
\$5,081, *Charleston*

**West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine**  
\$8,600, *Lewisburg*

**WVU Extension, Morgan County**  
\$2,100, *Berkeley Springs*

**WVU Center for Community Engagement**  
\$8,581, *Morgantown*

## Volunteer West Virginia Mini Grants

**Alum Creek Lions Club**  
\$473.43, *Alum Creek*

**Barbour County Family Support Center**  
\$356.27, *Belington*

**Berkeley Senior Services,**  
\$500, *Martinsburg*

**Bethany College - Career Office**  
\$500, *Bethany*

**Bethlehem Farm, Inc.**  
\$500, *Talcott*

**Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle**  
\$500, *Martinsburg, Charles Town, and Berkeley Springs*

**Catholic Charities West Virginia**  
\$479, *Wheeling*

**City of Ravenswood**  
\$500, *Ravenswood*

**Clay County CERT**  
\$488.23, *Clay*

**Community Markets Inc.**  
\$500, *Charles Town*

**Free Meals Appalachia**  
\$497.31, *Buckhannon*

**Friends of Blackwater**  
\$500, *Thomas*

**Gabriel Project of West Virginia**  
\$495, *Charleston*



# Grants

## Volunteer West Virginia Mini Grants Cont.

**GFWC WV The Woman's  
Club of Dunbar**  
\$500, *Dunbar*

**Grant County 4-H**  
\$449.51, *Petersburg*

**Grow Warwood Pride**  
\$316.01, *Warwood*

**Habitat for Humanity of  
the Eastern Panhandle**  
\$480.04, *Martinsburg*

**Heart and Hand Outreach  
Ministries**  
\$492, *South Charleston*

**Mineral County CASA**  
\$500, *Keyser*

**Multiple District 29C Lions**  
\$486.18, *Statewide*

**New Roots Community Farm**  
\$486.18, *Fayetteville*

**One Unique Recovery House**  
\$407.53, *Buckhannon*

**Playmates Preschools**  
\$500, *Huntington*

**Pleasants County Neighbor  
Network**  
\$407.95, *St Marys*

**Prestera Foundation**  
\$500, *Huntington*

**TEAM for West Virginia  
Children**  
\$364, *Huntington*

**The Center for Children  
and Families – WATCH**  
\$500, *New Martinsville*

**The Salvation Army**  
\$498.61, *Charleston*

**Town of Cowen**  
\$497.52, *Cowen*

**Voices Against Domestic Violence**  
\$300, *Charles Town*

**Wellspring of Greenbrier**  
\$500, *Rupert*

**West Virginia – Pancreatic Cancer  
Action Network**  
\$500, *Clarksburg*

**West Virginia Scenic Trails  
Association**  
\$500, *Green Bank*

**WVU Extension Roane Co 4-H**  
\$500, *Spencer*



# LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

## OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS IN 2025-2027



### SHARING OUR STORY

We share the story of volunteerism and service in West Virginia. Our story is making federal and state government requirements easy to understand for organizations involved in volunteerism and National Service.

**In 2025-2027, Volunteer West Virginia will increase our training and transparency on government grantmaking and expand our outreach and promotion of volunteer and service opportunities throughout the state.**



### ADVANCING MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

We believe in being a government office guided by the community. We involve partners and communities in our work.

**In 2025-2027, Volunteer West Virginia will create more community advisory committees to make sure we are meeting local needs and use their feedback to find more resources for West Virginia.**



### SUPPORTING OUR PARTNERS

We help our partners by providing training and support, welcoming their input, and reducing compliance challenges.

**In 2025-2027, Volunteer West Virginia will develop a process to guide new organizations in handling federal grants, create outreach materials that share all our available support to voluntary organizations, and have meaningful conversations to ensure we are meeting the needs of our partner organizations.**



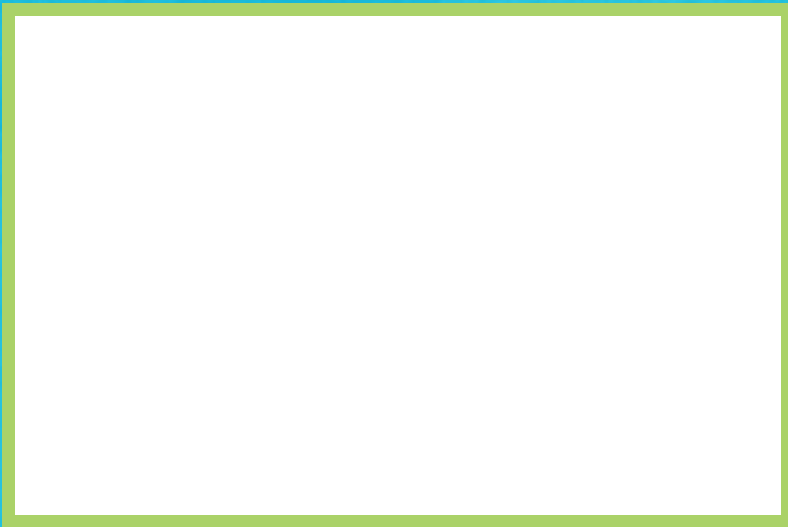






# volunteer

WEST VIRGINIA



## OUR VISION

All West Virginians are inspired and empowered to build stronger communities through volunteerism and service.

## OUR MISSION

We identify and mobilize resources to support individuals and agencies in addressing community challenges through volunteerism and service.



**volunteer**  
WEST VIRGINIA

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