

### Newsletter of Catholic Charities West Virginia | Fall 2025

## Building a Stronger Response Together

West Virginia is no stranger to natural disasters. In just over a year, our state has faced tornadoes, wildfires, a hurricane, and flash floods—from our southernmost counties to the northern panhandle. The June flooding in Ohio County alone claimed lives and damaged hundreds of homes.

In every crisis, West Virginians come together. Neighbors help neighbors. Volunteers muck out mud, clear debris, and donate supplies. But long-term recovery – helping families navigate resources and rebuild their lives – takes a different kind of support.

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is one of the few organizations in the state with the capacity, training, and infrastructure to provide that long-term help. Our disaster case managers guide families through the recovery process, connecting them to assistance and ensuring no one falls through the cracks.

Now, thanks to a grant from Catholic Charities USA earlier this year, we are expanding this expertise by launching a new training program for volunteer disaster case managers. These trained volunteers will be ready to step in quickly after a disaster to support survivors in their own communities, connecting families to resources and guiding them through the recovery process.



Ohio County Flood Recovery



Marion County Flood Recovery



Hurricane Helene Recovery  
in Mercer County

“By creating a network of trained volunteers across West Virginia, we’re building resilience for the future,” says Lora Pierce, CCWVa Disaster Services Specialist. “We’re proud to share our experience so more people can help their neighbors recover.”

Trainings will begin in fall 2025. Your support makes programs like this possible. Donations to Catholic Charities strengthen communities and ensure we’re ready to meet the next challenge together.

## NORTHERN REGION

When the Turner family came to Catholic Charities West Virginia, they were facing overwhelming challenges—delayed SNAP benefits and no electricity. Like so many families doing their best to care for their children, they just needed a hand to get through a difficult time. CCWVa extended that helping hand. Weekly food boxes bridged the gap in SNAP coverage, and emergency financial assistance helped restore power to their home. Through this trial, the Turners showed incredible strength and determination. Today, their lights are on, their table is full, and their SNAP benefits are active again. Their journey is a beautiful reminder of the resilience of families and the power of walking together in hope and compassion.



## SOUTHERN REGION

At Catholic Charities West Virginia's Webster Springs food pantry, the shelves are filled with more than food—they're filled with compassion, dignity, and hope. Every visitor is welcomed with kindness and offered fresh, nutritious choices that empower them to care for themselves and their families. A monthly featured recipe, with classic and healthier variations, includes ingredients found right in the pantry, giving families greater control over how they feed their households. One neighbor, "John," came to us after losing his job. He and his wife were struggling, and the pantry provided not just food, but strength and reassurance in a difficult time. John is not alone—last year, more than 700 West Virginians turned to the Webster Springs pantry knowing they wouldn't have to face hunger alone.



## EASTERN REGION

Catholic Charities West Virginia recently helped launch the first-ever Hampshire County Community Round Table—a hopeful gathering sparked by the belief that, if we create space for connection, people will come. And they did. Organized by our own Sherri Unger and Tanya from the Family Support Center, the event brought together local partners to openly discuss service gaps, share strengths, and dream of better ways to care for our neighbors. The energy was inspiring, and this spirit of collaboration will continue through quarterly meetings. It's a powerful reminder that when we come together in compassion and community, real change begins.

## WESTERN REGION

Just months after surviving the tornado that destroyed their home, Ms. T, 63, and her partner faced devastating floods. With no federal assistance available, neighbors, volunteers, and the American Red Cross rallied around them. Two feet of water had destroyed their walls, floors, and heat pump and left behind mold. Their home was unlivable. CCWVa's Disaster Case Management and the generosity of West Virginia Catholics intervened. New flooring and sheetrock, mold remediation supplies, paint, and heat pump repairs meant Ms. T and her partner could go home again. Today, they are surrounded by the walls they



## Join in Our Mission to Reduce Poverty in West Virginia

Please give and support in our mission, as we look forward to extending our reach and making a lasting difference in the lives of people confronting adversity.

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