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## **FIRST QUARTER REPORT: SPRING BREAK** **We are off and running!**

**Spring break college/school groups** came from Cabrini College, Notre Dame University, George Washington University, Penn State, and the College of Wooster, and University of Louisville. We will also host Holy Ghost Prep School from Philadelphia, Loyola School of NY, and St Peter's Prep of NJ.

You can call this spring break if you want, but it was WINTER here! Students endured extremes in temps that went from 70's to 12 degrees in a matter of hours. They worked around ice and snow, they put up with pouring rain then freezing rain. What troopers! I don't know how many times they wished they had gone to Daytona or some other warmer spring break destination, but we are thankful they came here!

**Estimated value of volunteers through March 31, 2014:** Total number of volunteers: 97  
Total volunteer hours: 3,104. Valued at \$21.79 per hour, the total value of these volunteer hours is \$67,636.16.

In two different weeks in **Hampden**, students from George Washington University and Loyola School, NY worked on a mobile home that is a collaboration of WVMAW, Catholic Charities and Community Lutheran Partners. This mobile home is being rebuilt for a family whose home flooded in 2012. It will be raised above flood level before it is set back on the property belonging to the family. Collaboration and Mitigation! They also helped to build a wheel chair ramp and finish an addition to a home. Read the story from Christine Chronin, student from George Washington University:

*I was fortunate enough to return to Hampden for my 2nd Alternative Spring Break trip. This year the moments that stuck out to me the most were my interactions with your community. I was privileged to work on Cindy and Randy's home up in the mountains. As crazy as it sounds, my favorite memory from the entire week was crawling around in the mud trying to insulate underneath their new addition. I loved getting to know my group members better. I also loved getting to work with Beeper all week and hear his personal stories. He really made me think about what I am doing in my life to help others and that is something that I will work on everyday. He is an amazing worker and I was so happy that I got to know him better throughout the week. I also enjoyed getting to play with the kids at the church. I had so much fun playing football, duck-duck-goose, and talking to them.*

*It has now been a few weeks since I returned to DC and still look back on my spring break week and vividly remember the conversations that I had with the community members at the church and on my work site. I am still in awe at the sense of faith and community that everyone we met seemed to have. It is so easy to get discouraged in this world, but everyone we met during the week has the utmost faith in God and trust in their friends that everything will work out. I have been trying to incorporate this mentality into my own life and stay focused. If we all continue to work hard and help one another, in whatever way we can, then God will provide just as he always does. Thank you for another amazing week! .*



Students in **Point Pleasant** were from Cabrini College, Notre Dame and State College. They worked on a home that had burned. The family is living in a mobile home next door while teams have helped them to rebuild.



Students in **Colcord** were from the College of Wooster. The most diverse of our college teams, there were two students from China, and one from Vietnam, Nepal and Russia.

Students from the University of Louisville worked in **Webster Springs** where they helped to make home repairs for several families. Here WVMAW partnered with Webster County Workcamp, First Baptist Church, and the United Methodist Church to address needs in that community.

**Looking Ahead:** There are 76 total groups on the books for 2014 from all over the US. We will have teams in ten different locations around WV: Hampden, Webster Springs, Mount Hope, Montgomery, St. Albans, Colcord, Clarksburg, and two new locations of Point Pleasant, Ronceverte, and Church of the Covenant in Hurricane.

**Response:** Subject to change any given day, WVMAW is finishing up some long term recovery projects from flooding and blizzard damages in Webster Springs and Hampden. We stand ready to collaborate with first responders with clean up teams in the event that this changes, and we will be there for the long haul for recovery. Poverty continues to be the greatest disaster in WV. By the work we do, we hope to **MITIGATE** against major disaster for families whose homes need repair.

We have groups in WV during Holy Week and throughout the spring. Please continue your prayers for the site supervisors, the volunteers, and the families they serve. God is doing amazing things right here in West Virginia!

Joan Stewart

Executive Director

*...What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*