



WV MINISTRY OF ADVOCACY & WORKCAMPS, Inc.

Micah 6:8 Justice...Kindness...Humility...

Spring Break Groups Arrive!

Ronceverte, Webster Springs and Hampden welcome alternative spring break students

They could have gone to sunny Florida—and after the winter we had who could have blamed them? Instead, students from Cabrini College, Notre Dame University, George Washington University, Penn State University, and the College of Wooster chose to come to West Virginia for an alternative spring break. WVMAW also welcomes returning spring students from Loyola School in New York City, and the boys of Holy Ghost Prep School from Radnor, PA. We literally break the ground running with the return of the students who come to WV on a learning mission as much as lending a helping hand. They served families in need, and got to explore a bit of WV—including the Exhibition Coal Mine in Beckley and some of the caves of Greenbrier County. They got the opportunity to share meals with their host churches and talk to people in the community. We are grateful for their choice to share their energy and learn new skills as they brought hope, joy and comfort to so many!



The West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW) is a Christian ministry supported in part by the Presbyterian Church (USA) that offers the opportunity for discipleship by partnering with those in need whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters or by the disaster of poverty in areas of West Virginia.

The Long Cold Winter

No great blizzard has caused major damage to any one area of WV. However the deep freeze, the thaw, the rain, the snow—repeated many times over—has compounded existing damages to homes that have needed repairs for many years. Roofing is one of our major requests—from patching a persistent leak to major need for a complete roof. This is also our most expensive project that often involves far more than just the roofing materials alone. In many cases the very “bones” of the roof have rotted, and insulation ruined.

Leaking roofs lead to interior damages in ceilings, walls and floors. Mold develops and permeates the breathable air, leading to an unhealthy environment for a family to thrive. It does little good for volunteer teams to fix any interior problems if the cause is not addressed.

We are always grateful for the groups that are willing to do roofing work. We have skilled project managers who can lead and guide them safely. And not everyone needs to get up in the air! If heights are your fear, we can use you on the ground to measure, to cut, to hand up and always, always to pray!

Making homes warm, safe and dry is our goal. Mitigation—preventing future damage—is a hand up to a family that needs to be able to withstand the coming storm. So although the winter storms did not necessarily cause the persistent damages to many homes, the freeze, the thaw, and the snow certainly have led to deterioration and further problems. We ask for your prayers, your hands, and your gifts as we seek to find ways to help families recover from the winter challenges.



Spring Break teams really enjoyed the local hospitality of their hosts in Hampden, Ronceverte, and Webster Springs. There is nothing like church dinners! It was a gift for the teams to meet the folks in the communities that they serve. WVMAW is grateful for the churches in the communities that serve dinner, or bring in dessert or treats, and spend time getting to know the volunteers.



Relationship Building

Leyna Belinsky, Coordinator of Student Life at Penn State Lehigh Valley, wrote, "I love working with WVMAW because of the amazing people we get to meet. We start the week as strangers and end the week as a part of the community."

From GWU student: "When I first came to Hampden three years ago, I was struggling to find myself and more importantly my faith. You, Pastor Cab, your workers, and community all demonstrated so much passion, love, and enthusiasm for helping people and you all truly inspired me. Your willingness to share your faith has also been incredibly motivating and beautiful, and you all have driven me to be more open with my own faith and trusting in God's plan for me. I came to West Virginia three years ago to help people. I never could have imagined that you all would actually be the ones helping me and shaping my life".

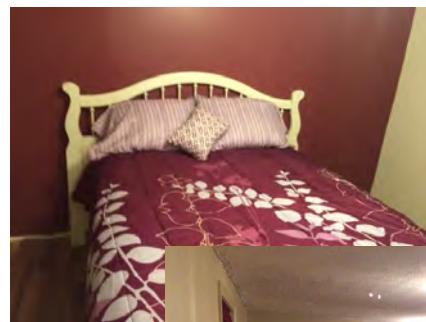
...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God...

Micah 6:8



Warm, Safe and Dry for Matthew and Mary

Who knew that a tree falling on their roof would end up bringing good news? Besides rotting floors, warped walls and mold issues from the roof leaks, the Goodman family struggles with caring for 12 year old Mary with kidney problems, and 8 year old Matthew who has Muscular Dystrophy. In collaboration with Catholic Charities, groups from WVMAW have almost rebuilt their entire home: floors, walls, roofing, plumbing, wiring, and even a bedroom for Mary. The children now have a home that is warm, safe and dry, and their parents can focus on caring for their physical needs rather than worrying about the next big disaster in their home.



Locations for 2015

Volunteer teams are booked from March through November in Hampden (near Gilbert) with Cab and Bonita Wolford; Point Pleasant with Mike Williams, Clarksburg with Jeff Mitchell, Webster Springs with Rick Parton, Ronceverte and Maxwelton with Tim Stewart, St. Albans with Mike D'Aversa, and Colcord with Art Petty. Projects include repairs, construction of wheel chair ramps, helping in local ministries, and even Vacation Bible School. Housed in churches or church property, groups will be invited to join people in the community for dinner, and will get the opportunity to build relationships with the families they serve. They will also get to explore Wild Wonderful West Virginia, learning her stories, her challenges and her beauty. They also get a day for FUN hiking, rafting, picnicking, touring an exhibition coal mine or exploring caves.

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