

MID-OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MOVRC Monthly Newsletter
<http://www.movrc.org/>
304-422-4993

May 2019

Bloom Where You Are Planted



The Senior Companion Program held a Spring Recognition on May 10, 2019 in Buckhannon, WV. Sixty Senior Companion volunteers from several counties attended the event. The theme was Flower Power "Bloom Where You Are Planted". Senior Companions do just that. Companions "bloom" in their service to others. This celebration was in honor of those dedicated volunteers that serve the communities where they live by helping others maintain their independence. Everyone enjoyed a day of food, games, prizes and entertainment. Thank you to the volunteers that make the Senior Companion Program a success each year.

Pictured above are the Senior Companions serving Wood County: Betty Lamb, Eddie Hayden, Sharon Ball, Natasha Spriggs (SCP Volunteer Coordinator) and Albert Eddy. Not pictured is Wood County Senior Companion Betty Morrison.

**Thank
you!**

RSVP Holds Annual Recognition



The Retired Senior Volunteer Program held their annual recognition luncheon at Cedar Lakes on Wednesday, May 1st. This year there were over 200 volunteers from 7 counties attending. It is a wonderful opportunity to thank the volunteers and everyone associated with the program for all their hard work in their communities throughout the year. This year, representatives from both Senator Manchin and Senator Capito's office were in attendance, as well as Mr. Waybright from the Jackson County Commission, who supports RSVP each year. Brian Aluise read a proclamation from Senator Manchin and Todd Gunter read a greeting from Senator Capito. Mr. Dewey Taylor provided entertainment for the event.

Pictured above: Brian Aluise, MariJo Tedesco, Tammy Raines, Dick Waybright, and Todd Gunter



Grandma Dolores Celebrates 20 Years



Pictured above: Janet Somerville, FGP Director; Kim Kehrer, Pleasants County Schools Special Programs Director; Mike Wells, Pleasants County Schools Superintendent; Dolores Stewart, FGP volunteer; Jeff Sole, St. Marys High School Principal.

Foster Grandparent Dolores Stewart was recognized for her 20 years of outstanding service and dedication to serving the students in Pleasants County on Monday, April 29, 2019. A spring fling surprise recognition was held to honor Grandma Dolores at the Pleasants County Schools Maintenance Board Room. Many were in attendance including Dolores' family, fellow foster grandparents from Pleasants and Tyler Counties, Pleasant County Schools staff, St. Marys High School students, MOVRC staff and friends of the program.

Dolores began her service as a Foster Grandparent volunteer in 1999 at Belmont Elementary. In the mid 2000's she was placed at St. Marys High School. Currently, Dolores serves in J.D. Smith's classroom. Janet Somerville, Foster Grandparent Program Director said, "Grandma Dolores is an inspiration to all. She goes above and beyond inside the classroom as well as outside the classroom. She is always willing to help those in need." Somerville presented Dolores with a plaque and thanked her for her years of service and stewardship.

Somerville also recognized the other Foster Grandparents from Pleasants County: Coleen Barnhart, Carol Campbell, Lucille Farson, Sharon Greenleaf, Sharon Heiney, Sharon Janes, Millie Jewell, Charlotte Wilson and Tyler County Foster Grandparents: Karen Baker, Ruth Hoover, Barb Roberts, Pasha Taylor, Debbie Wells and Ramona Williamson. Somerville said, "It is an honor to be the director of the Foster Grandparent Program and a joy to have these volunteers that make a difference in their communities." Somerville went on to say that she appreciated the collaboration she has with Pleasants County Schools and thanked the staff for allowing the Foster Grandparent volunteers to be a part of the learning process for the students in Pleasants County.

Kim Kehrer, Director of Special Programs for Pleasants County Schools praised the Foster Grandparent Program and stated, "Both our pre-k program and our special education program were recently audited by the WV Dept. of Education. These are two programs that our foster grandparents are significantly involved with. The monitors in both programs, as well as the parents interviewed and surveyed, all responded how wonderful our grandparents are and what an awesome impact they have on our programs here. One parent that was surveyed responded with the following: "I greatly appreciate the attention and devotion that I have seen from the teachers, administrators, aides and grandmas that interact with our daughter. All of my interactions have been positive and friendly, and I get a sense of commitment to the success!"

Community Development News

Transportation Alternatives Project:

The deadline for Intent to Apply (ITA) for Transportation Alternative funding was April 26th. Staff (primarily Tim Meeks) assisted thirteen local governments with ITAs. The deadline for full application is May 31st. That means the Community Development staff will be busy in May. Please bear with us if we don't respond as quickly as normal.

Potential applicants include: Grantsville, Spencer, Reedy, Elizabeth, Ravenswood, Williamstown, St. Marys, Belmont, Sistersville, Middlebourne, Pennsboro, Harrisville, and Wood County.

Ripley Emergency Water Supply Project:

The City of Ripley has a low head dam on Mill Creek that was built in 1912 that creates a pool for the water treatment plant intake. The dam has deteriorated and is now leaking. With sandbags as a temporary fix the City is still able to produce water. However, a permanent fix for the dam is necessary to insure the City's ability to supply water to over 5,000 customers in the Ripley, Evans and Southern Jackson areas.

Staff has worked with the City and Thrasher Engineers to apply for emergency funding through USDA Rural Development's Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant program and the WV Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council. Total project cost is estimated to be \$525,000.



Workforce Updates

- May 16, 2019 a quarterly mentor event will be held at Trinity Church in Point Pleasant. Partnering with Mason County FRN, participants will have the opportunity to talk to employers. There will also be a presentation given by two incarcerated women, who will share their story.
- The MOVWDB is in the developing stages of a podcast. Podcast episodes should be available after July 1.

