



Hazard Perry County Community Ministries, Inc.
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Community Connection

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Starland Opening in June

After a long hiatus, Starland Child Development Center will be open for children in June.

The new Starland will have 99 slots of high-quality, affordable childcare available for infants 6 weeks old through school aged children up to 12 years old. Its design features ample space just for the school age program.

The building will feature a new computer lab designed for school aged children, a safe place to play outside, and lots of activities for the summer.



Believe it or not, Starland will be ready for children on June 1. We appreciate the hard work and fast pace of the general contractor, Balis Campbell Inc..

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A Taste of Hazard May 8

On Thursday, May 8, HPCCM will hold the second annual Taste of Hazard.

Enjoy an evening of food, drink, and music provided by our community's finest cooks! Guests will sample gourmet dishes, mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres, and delectable desserts in a relaxing, social atmosphere.

This year's event will feature

local musician Rev. Charlie Edmonds on the piano and guitar.

All proceeds will benefit the programs and services of Community Ministries.

A Taste of Hazard will be held at the First Federal Center, Hazard Community & Technical College, from 6 to 8 p.m.

For tickets, call Adrienne Bush at 439-1122.



Board of Directors

- Donna Engle, *Chairperson*
- Carol Anne Kilgore, *Vice-Chair*
- Cindy Plummer, *Secretary*
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- Alison Wells
- Annie Williams
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It Takes a Village

Sometime in mid-October, I received a call from Ilene Scott, a case manager from McDowell Appalachian Regional Healthcare Home Health Services.

Ilene was seeking housing options for "Rachel," one of her clients and through a series of phone calls to the Perry County area, someone had recommended Community Ministries. Ilene explained Rachel's situation: a woman in her forties, paraplegic, limited income, and virtually no family support. And to make the situation

worse, Rachel was homeless and desperately wanted to move back to Perry County, where she was born and raised.

With the help of different community partners, Rachel has home health services, weekly housekeeping services, medical transportation, case management and a whole host of people looking out for her.

I explained our housing programs to Ilene, including the Permanent Supportive Housing Program which provides rent subsidies to people who are homeless and have a disability which then allows them to rent a home

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Message from the Executive Director

As I write this, I am distracted. My vacation starts next week and my mind is already there. But as visions of lazy days and spending quality time with my husband and family fill my head and cause me to be unproductive, I can't help but wonder if that's all it is.

Yesterday, Bradley Dean, our beloved and long-time shelter director lashed out in anger and frustration because we never have enough money to put into crisis aid – the fund for emergencies.

And rightly so. Just this morning I heard a story on the radio that confirms this is a national crisis.

Food pantries across the United States are overwhelmed with need. Jennifer Weeber, Director of Community Programs, says we're seeing a whole new class of poor at the food pantry – the "wealthy poor" – people who simply can't get by on the wages they are working hard to earn. Most of their money is going for gas, or childcare, or healthcare, or housing, or the laundry list of other things many of us just numbly do every day with maybe just a grumble about how high things are getting.

Community Ministries, like so many other nonprofits we know, is stretched so thin that

some days our very survival as an organization is in question. The board and staff are looking at all of the programs and services we have delivered to people in the community for the past three decades and trying to figure out what we can still do, because we know we can't continue to do it all. Maybe we've reached the famous tipping point.

That's why I'm not sure my distraction is all about going on vacation. I think what's really going on is a natural desire to pull the covers over my head and make it all go away. It feels like too much. I think that's where many of us are. But this is real, and people without groceries for the week aren't a distraction. It's a disaster. And we have to gather our community and figure out how to address it.

Our community is full of people inspired by hope and a will to make things better for everyone. If you're reading this newsletter, you're one of them.

Community Ministries has always been about providing help. When people don't have a job, or the skills to get one; when they have job and still can't pay the rent; or when mental illness or addiction grabs on so tight they cannot function; people need help. They need help to acquire skills, to obtain affordable housing, to become more stable. We provide that help. But with that help there has to be hope. Hope for independence within a community of support. Hope for meaningful life and work. Hope that things will get better. And I for one still believe that they will.

Our community is full of people inspired by hope and a will to make things better for everyone. If you're reading this newsletter, you're one of them. I have no doubt we will keep working together to build houses, educate our children, create jobs and improve health care. But even as we build and improve our systems for the long term, basic human needs have to be met today.

So I'm asking you to give. If you've already given, think about giving again. There is much work to be done. We cannot be distracted.

Gerry F. Roll, Executive Director

Donors

We appreciate your support of the Feinstein Challenge, which helped raise \$8,000 in cash and in-kind food contributions to help families in need. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The following people have made financial and in-kind gifts from February 1 through April 30.

Ad East	Community Presbyterian Church	Trista Hoskins	Perry County Central Baseball
Rocky Adams	Lauranetta Cornett	Dennis Howard	Perry County Central High School JROTC
JoAnne Adams	Rebecca Cornett	Lily Howard	Perry Co. Coal Corporation
Margaret & E.L. Adams	Davidson Baptist Church	D. Hurt	Petrey Memorial Church
Pam Adams	JoAnn Davis	Kathy Ann Ivey	Pine Branch Coal Sales
Scott Alexander Campaign	Day's Bread Store	Deloris S. Justice	Ann Porter
Alpha XI Chapter Beta	Kim Dean	Kiwanis Club of Hazard	Marlene Quinn
Sigma Phi	Lisa Deaton	Randall Kloth	Ron & Teresa Reed
AEP/KY Power Co.	Dennis Wooten	Arlene Langdon	Reno's Roadhouse
JJ Anderson	Elementary School	JC & Diane Leedy	Mark Reynolds
Appalachian Regional Healthcare	David & Susan Duff	Little Blue Smokehouse	Susan Ritchie
Dwight L. Avery, Optometrist	Timothy Dunn	Benjamin Lynn	Alvonda Ronnebaum
Wilma Baer	Dwarf Baptist Church	Ma Kate Circle	Rotary Club of Hazard
Benny Ray Bailey	Cathy & Joe Evans	Maggard Funeral Home	Mike Sammons
Stephanie Bailey	Wanda Eversole	Pam Maggard	Linda Schott
Mack B. Baker	Sherry Farmer	Jayne Marsh	Ron Severance
Mr. & Mrs. W.D. Begley	Laura Fields	James Massey	Afton & Diane Slone
Big Creek Baptist Church	First Presbyterian Church	Carolyn B. May	Emily Smith
William Bishop	William Fletcher	Scott R. May	Troy Smith Jr.
Jessica Bowman	April Francis	Michael & Robin McCaffrey	Diane & Afton Slone
Bowman United Methodist Church	Marie Francis	Jessica McGuire	David Smith
Jay & Gayle Box	Tonya Gambill	Pat Miller	Lyle B. Snider
Donna Brashear	Rhonda Gay	Dr. Yuiry Minkevich	Adam W. Stacy
Eugene & Paula Broadus	Girl Scouts Troop 327	Julia B. Mitchell	Lana Stacy
Ginger Brown	Gaylan & Sandy Good	Vincent J. Mongiardo	Joan R. Stewart
Buckhorn Lake Area Church	Dewey Gorman	Mary Mullins	Veronica Stidham
Buckhorn Scenic Trails	Greater Apostolic Church	Kevin Moore	Barbara & David Touchette
Guyla Burhans	George F. Green	Tiffany Moore	Grady Varney
Craig & Ronda Campbell	Janie Hackney	Bill & Betty Morton	Vicco Presbyterian Church
LeeAnn Campbell	Eileen Haddix	Mother of Good Counsel	Michelle Watts
Paul & Linda Campbell	Melanie Hale	Catholic Community	Jennifer Weeber & Chris Doll
Della Caudill	Charles & Juda Hall	Loretta & Sam Mullins	Marjorie & Tom Weeber
Marsha & Robert Caudill	James Hamblin	Gayle Muncy	Helen Wells
Betsy Clemons	Scott Hamblin	Regina Napier	Naomi C. White
Leon Colwell	Mary Beth Hammond	New Hope Church	Dora & Kevin Whitman
Amber Combs	Dr. Katherine Haynes	Teresa Niece	Annie T. Williams
Bob Combs	Hazard High School	Goldie & Sharon Noble	Pat Wooten
Gary & Wanda Combs	Hazard H.S. Basketball	Virginia Noffsinger	Donell Wooton
Harold & Linda Combs	Hazard H.S. Football	Browne Oliver	Geraldine Wooton
Kim Combs	Christie Henson	Veronica Oxford	Kim Wooton
	Jeff Henson	Papa John's Pizza	Joyce Wright
	Alice & Michael Hethke	Katy Peercy	Wesley & Maulta Yonts
	Linda Holliday		

Our Mission is to respond actively to unmet needs of individuals and families working in partnership with churches, agencies and individuals interested in the social welfare of the community.

Community Connection
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For corrections, address changes, or article submission, please send to:

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Case Management & GAP
436-0051

Corner Haven Crisis Center
436-5043

New Beginnings Daycare
439-1122

Rental Program
487-1891

Our programs and services depend on financial gifts from our friends and supporters. All gifts are tax deductible.

Thank You to Our Supporters

As I write this I think of how many individuals and families come for services at Corner Haven Crisis Center and Homeless Shelter. The Shelter provides a safe, decent place for those individuals who need emergency shelter.

But at Corner Haven we do so much more. We help with crisis aid for electric disconnects, emergency food boxes, clothing, and household items and try to assist with whatever needs the person or family may have. The staff is sometimes frustrated because we cannot do more or what we feel is needed. But we do provide many services, and we are able to do that because of the generosity of individuals and organizations that donate to HPCCM. Our community partners who give us donations are essential for the staff at Corner Haven to be able to help those in need. The donations are all equally important whether it be money, clothing, household goods, or food items.

When I am thankful for the generosity of our community, I think of a gentleman who has donated faithfully to the Shelter for years. Once a month this elderly gentleman brings \$10.00. In rain or shine, he is here with a check for us. He does not do it for the recognition but to be able to help those who need it. As a part of our procedure a receipt is written. When we ask if he wants the receipt his reply is always the same, "The man upstairs writes my receipts." This is just of one many examples of someone who has made a difference in the lives of our clients, \$10.00 at a time.

To each and everyone who has donated to HPCCM; please know you have made it possible for the staff to do what we can to assist those in crisis situations. It may have been anything from food, to a warm coat, to money, and you are very much appreciated and will be blessed for your gifts.

*Submitted by Kim Combs,
Assistant Shelter Director*

Honor and Memorial Donations

Abigail's Cookie Jar

In Memory of Randy Roll

Rolane Appliance & Marine, Inc.

In Honor of George & Mamie Anderson

Mr. & Mrs. George B. Anderson, Jr.

In Honor of David & Susan Duff

In Honor of Missy & Bill Gorman, Jr.

In Honor of Carolyn Barret May

In Honor of Les & Audrey Rogers

Mike & Lila Cooper

In Honor of Sister Virginia Farrell

Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Community

In Memory of Lee Roy Baker

Ruth Baker

In Memory of Jerry Hall

Charlene Clemons

In Memory of Tommy Caldwell

Sharon Caldwell

In Memory of Mary Kloth

Sarah Gasper

In Memory of Lillie Mae Lunce

Rebecca & Paul Cornett

In Memory of Ruth Pigman

Charlene Clemons

In Memory of Howard G. Smith

LaDonna Smith

In Memory of U.N. & Gertrude White

Mr. & Mrs. George B. Anderson

In Memory of Edythe Williams

Anne Gilbert

Corner Haven Crisis Center Wish List

Light bulbs

One-gallon zip lock bags

Q-tips

OTC medication

Canned goods

It Takes a Village

Continued from page 1

on the private market. This program is provided with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

During the next several days, Ilene and I communicated often including coordinating the housing assessment and other paperwork needed. Finally, we were able to get Rachel approved for our Permanent Supportive Housing Program and she moved into a handicap accessible, modern, clean mobile home in Perry County. Her landlord, who is a childhood friend, assists Rachel with some daily chores. But Rachel insists on being as independent as possible, doing most of her own housework. I've been able to link her to some other services in the area but she often tells me she doesn't need much and that she has all she needs: a good warm, safe home.

As Rachel's case manager, I'm amazed at her spirit, determination, and independence. But every time I go to her home, I'm also amazed at the physical differences in her appearance. She has gained some much needed weight and strength, her coloring is no longer pale and gray and she laughs and smiles constantly now. During my last home visit, she showed me the results of a new hobby: she can now crochet, something



Case Manager Barb Thomas visits with Rachel in her new place in Perry County.

she told me she had not been able to do since her accident over twenty years ago, and has almost completed a large bed-sized afghan.

Rachel continues to thrive and improve. Will she ever walk again or use her legs?

Unfortunately, no, she won't. But with the help of different community partners, she has

home health services, weekly housekeeping services, medical transportation, case management and a whole host of people looking out for her. And when everybody works together for the betterment of just one person, that's the way it should be.

*Submitted by Barbara Thomas,
Case Manager*

Seniors Access Economic Stimulus Package

Community Ministries is helping retirees, disabled veterans and low-wage workers who would not normally be required to file their taxes to do so in order to receive their economic stimulus payment late this spring. We have already assisted 325 low-income seniors in qualifying for their stimulus payment.

To receive a stimulus payment a person must have a valid

social security number and at least \$3,000 in income and file a 2007 tax return. Income can be in the form of earned income, Social Security income, veterans' payments, or railroad retirement payments. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) does not qualify as income for the stimulus payment.

While the IRS has encouraged everyone to file before the traditional April 15th deadline in order to receive their payment beginning in May, people who are not required to file a tax return can file up until October 15th without an extension and still receive a stimulus payment.

Community Ministries will keep its doors open for tax preparation beyond April 15th in order to help people qualify for their stimulus payment. For more information on our tax preparation services or to schedule an appointment, please contact Samantha at 487-1891. For more information on the stimulus payments, visit www.irs.gov.

*Submitted by Jennifer Weeber,
Director of Community Programs*

New Trees at New Beginnings

Community Ministries and Pathfinders of Perry County participated in a special Earth Week project at New Beginnings.

On April 18, Pathfinder Lyle Snider took time to teach the students how to plant redbud trees, donated by the Kentucky Division of Forestry. He worked with the children and planted several trees during the afternoon. Later over the weekend and the next week, other Pathfinders joined the efforts. New Beginnings now has 100 redbud trees throughout the grounds surrounding the building.

Many thanks to all of the Pathfinders. They worked tirelessly over several days to make sure all of the trees were planted well. Pathfinders of Perry County is a nonprofit citizen action group that promotes community wellbeing, health and engagement through development of routes and destinations for non-motorized transportation and recreation. They can be seen around the community clearing side-walks and developing walking paths, including Memorial Drive and Bobby Davis Park. For more information about Pathfinders, call Cynthia Cole at 439-3557 ext. 8-3568.

Those of us at New Beginnings are grateful for the new trees, and we look forward to watching the redbuds grow over the years to come.



Photo courtesy of Cynthia Cole

Starland Opening in June

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All of Community Ministries' childcare and preschool programs participate in Kentucky's Stars for Kids Now quality initiative. Prior to closing for renovation, Starland was a 3 star rated center. Community Ministries remains committed to providing the same high level of care at the new Starland.

Starland is an important part of our community in terms of education, workforce development, and revitalizing downtown Hazard. We look forward to providing high-quality childcare and preschool

at the new Starland. For more information, call 439-1122.



Needed: 30 Scholarships for Summer Day Camp Children

This year marks the re-opening of our full-scale Summer Day Camp. At this time we anticipate approximately 30 children will need scholarships to participate. Most of the children are siblings of children enrolled in our child care program. Most of them are also low income families who work but live on the edge. Each child needs an extra \$150 for the entire ten week summer break (\$15 a week) to pay for outings to the water park, bowling alley and such. If you or anyone you know would be interested in sponsoring a young person this summer, please call 439-1122.

