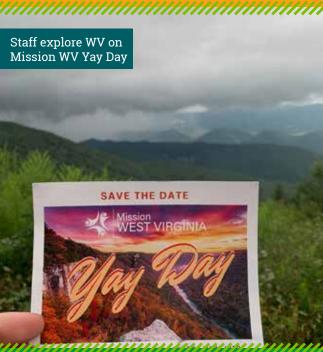




MISSION STATEMENT

Mission WV changes the lives of youth and families. We promote positive futures by recruiting foster families, providing life skills education and creating community connections.



WHO WE ARE

At Mission West Virginia, our staff works to advance the safety, stability, and success of youth in West Virginia by providing life skills education, connecting them to essential services, supportive relationships, and permanent families.

WHO WE SERVE

Our FrameWorks program serves children and teens placed in the foster care system and guides individuals and couples through the foster/adoptive process. Our THINK program guides youth into making healthier life choices, and provides parents, community members and youth services workers with training and tips to better connect with youth on the ever-changing issues they face.

WHAT SETS US APART

FrameWorks has been dedicated to finding safe and loving homes for children waiting in the foster care system for over 20 years. We recruit foster families statewide and work with each family to find a foster or adoption agency that is the best fit. Once we find interested families, we prioritize helping families navigate the certification process and provide one-on-one assistance to 2,000 families per year. We believe that it is vital for youth in foster care to have the same experiences as their peers which has driven us to fill in service gaps when and where we can.

The THINK Program is the largest provider of evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programming in the state of West Virginia. We teach full curricula to 14,000-16,000 youth a year, utilizing a holistic approach by teaching about communication, anger management, self-esteem, personality differences, sexual assault, consent, dating violence, abuse, drugs/ alcohol, cyber safety, and many more critical topics. To ensure our program is delivered effectively, we evaluate our THINK Educators and conduct program knowledge surveys routinely with participants.

Above all, it is our staff that sets us apart from the rest. Our staff are passionate individuals who want nothing more than for the youth we serve to have a brighter future, regardless of their age, background, or circumstance.

VISION STATEMENT

One people, one state, working together to provide every child with a loving family and the knowledge to make positive choices for a healthier future.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Friends! It was a Friday the 13th like no other when we got the call that WV schools were releasing due to Covid concerns. As the days turned to weeks and months, the question I continued to ponder during the workday "How will we reach our kids and families?" And the question that kept me up at night, "How are our kids really doing in isolation?"

The world as we knew it was rocked to the core and our lives turned upside down in a matter of days. Many of us were separated from our extended families while quarantined to our homes. There were financial affects and even those with available resources had difficulties with the scarcity of food and other essentials. Messages from the media and our elected officials changed from day to day which made trust and reliability challenging. Our team could no longer do their job as they always had, outside in the community and in classrooms. We were all removed from our schools, extracurricular, friends, churches, and communities. And for some, there was an ultimate loss, a loss of life or a loss of a loved one. We were left with frustrations, fear, heartache, and uncertainty and had no choice but to adapt.

Early on, I recognized a powerful parallel between the experience of living through a widespread pandemic and living as youth placed in foster care. The stress and uncertainty we all felt the ten months under pandemic restrictions supplied us a tiny glimpse as to what children in foster care may experience their entire childhood. In spite of legal mandates and court schedules, they never really know when they will go home, if they will go home, or who will be there for them.

And despite efforts to find foster families nearby, children are often removed from their school, community, and friends. And when removed, they do not always get to take their belongings and prized possessions. Regardless of the efforts of a team to work toward their permanency, it is never guaranteed to them that reunification or adoption will happen. This has been their life in care, even before a pandemic.

And as we worked through the year and encountered more needs from our families, the answers began to appear. There has never been a time in the history of Mission West Virginia that our services were more critical. With stay-at-home orders, we witnessed a surge in mental health needs, especially among our teens. With increased use of social media to stay connected to friends, our youth was increasingly vulnerable to online predators or bullying. Even more alarming, we saw a decrease in child abuse reports while children were out of school and the watchful eyes of school staff.

While carefully monitoring public health guidance, our team reimagined and strengthened our programming to ensure we could continue to deliver our mission without interruption. We met our families where they were and helped with the most basic needs such as hygiene products for students, delivering school lunches, buying mattresses and bedding, and technology to help with virtual schooling. Staff became more familiar with technology and delivered education or visited our teens virtually. We secured additional funding so that our services would continue without interruption. In addition, we answered many of calls from concerned and loving citizens of our state, who despite all the uncertainties around us, wanted to start the process to foster and adopt.

I am proud of our teamwork during this time and with the support of our partners, donors, and board it enabled us to achieve the results summarized in this annual report. With determination, optimism, courage, and creativity we continued to faithfully fulfill our mission — to change the lives of youth and families in West Virginia.

2021 will be a year of rebound and our team is ready!

With sincere thanks for your support,



Kelly Thompson, MSW/LSW MWV Executive Director

Kelly M. Thompson

YEAR AT A GLANCE



1,843 InquiriesFamilies who inquired about foster/

adoptive care.



418 Families Connected

Families connected to a local foster/adoptive



190 Families Certified

Families who have completed all certification requirements to becoming a foster/adoptive family.



219 Families Trained

Families who have completed all training requirements to become a foster/adoptive family.



347 Families Served

Families served through our Relatives As Parents Program warm-line.



5,584 Served Served 5,584 youth with

curriculum through the THINK Program. Numbers are based on TPP, Title 5, PREP and SRA grants.



16,583 Follow Up Contacts

Follow up communications with families who are pursuing foster care/adoption.



252,572 Facebook Page Reach

Total number of people reached through our Facebook posts and ads.





Helping children find forever families.

During 2020 we were tasked with the challenge of recruiting foster families during a pandemic. Solid teamwork with the foster care agencies combined with a change in our messaging resulted in 1843 people still willing to step up.

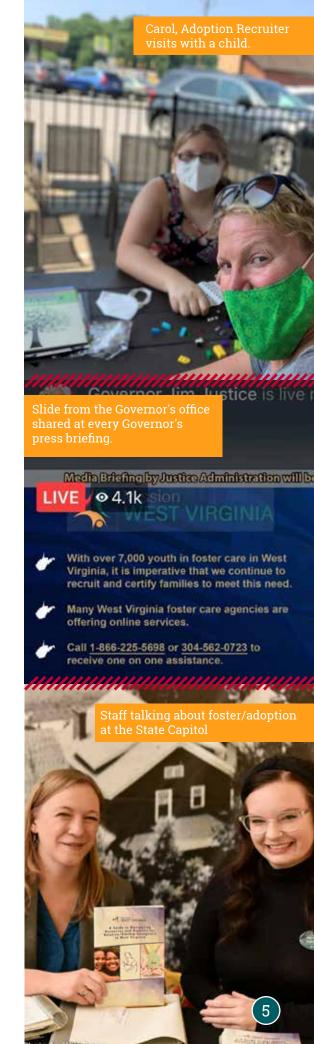


PANDEMIC SURVEY

In early 2020 the WV DHHR reached out to ask our Navigator program for help with conducting a COVID contingency survey, ensuring that relative and kinship families knew the proper protocols if anyone in their household was to test positive, and that they had a plan for the children if the caregivers became ill. Our team pulled together and made nearly 900 calls in a 2-week period. Most families were happy to talk to someone, had made good plans for their household, and appreciated the check-in.

RELATIVES AS PARENTS

The shut down in early 2020 meant that many grandparents and relatives were suddenly isolated with limited resources and tasked with helping their children with virtual school across platforms they had never used before. Our RAPP Liaison quicky jumped in, setting up virtual support groups and providing grandparents individual lessons on using Zoom. In 2020 we assisted 300 callers through our warm line, providing a listening ear and concrete advice and resources for relatives caring for youth.





FINDING FOREVER FAMILIES

In an average year, our Wendy's Wonderful Kids® adoption recruiters visit each child on their caseload monthly, building relationships, looking for adoptive resources, and preparing the child for adoption. In 2020, our agency had to make a quick adaptation. How could we be sure that we preserved our relationships with our youth? We made the best of our virtual visits and supplemented with anything we could mail, including: cards, letters, care packages for every holiday, craft activities, and gifts. One child asked why they had gotten a package and we got to explain, "This is what it looks like when someone cares about you."

ADOPTIONS

Our Wendy's Wonderful Kids® program celebrated four adoptions in 2020! In a year when many things were postponed, we were grateful to everyone who ensured that youth did not wait any extra time to have permanency with their families. The adoption hearings might have been over Zoom and the gifts mailed but we were no less excited for our four youth. Congratulations to Kobe (age 11), Jasmine H. (age 15), Jasmine D. (age 15), and Dillon (age 16).

ZACH'S STORY

Zach remembers not celebrating holidays or birthdays in foster care. Thankfully, adoption changed his journey. Now 20, Zach has experienced so many special firsts with his forever family by his side.

Zach entered foster care at age 6 and he recounts, "I felt alone in the world, I didn't feel loved." Despite his fears that no one would want to adopt an older child, Zach was adopted into his loving family at age 11, with the help of his Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter, Carol Phipps. Eight years later, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption returned to film Zach with his family and to show what love, consistency and stability can do for a child. Zach is currently in college with plans to become a teacher, just like his mom.

All the kids that are in foster care, the kids I work with... they need one person, just one person.

- Carol Phipps, Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter

EMERGENCY AID GRANT

Through an Emergency Aid Grant awarded through the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, we were able to award \$20,000 in grants to 13 schools to support youth in foster or kinship care. The funds could be used for immediate needs or for ways to help normalize the school experience for these youth.

One school bought school branded hoodies for youth in need of warm clothes. The school said, "We wanted them to feel connected and have a sense of belonging/pride while they are here at school."

One counselor noted that some of her students who were being raised by grandparents had trouble maintaining their hair. She purchased brushes, detangler, and hair barrettes/bows with the fund. She said, "When I gave the detangler to some of our students they thanked me over and over. Although buying hair detangler seems so small, the thanks I received were so big!" Another staff reported, "This student was wearing shoes that were not in good shape at all. She has relied on donations for most of her life. Being able to pick out shoes that she liked and that would fit her well was a huge confidence boost and will help ensure she is warm while waiting for the bus as temperatures drop."

"Providing these supplies helped the student feel safe, secure, and cared for in a new environment."

- Staff Feedback

NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Our four Kinship Navigators work with relatives as soon as DHHR places children in their homes. Their job is to help relatives understand how to work with DHHR and the courts, to help them find resources and services and to help take care of any immediate needs. During 2020 we served 339 families across the state.

What is a frequent need for relatives when children are placed with no notice? Beds. Over the last year we have purchased toddler beds, bunk beds, trundles, bed frames, mattresses, and cribs. The best part is picking out a brand-new bedding set, with input from the family on what the child loves. It is not just about necessities; it's about recognizing each individual child and making them feel special.

"Honey, I sure don't have a clue what I would do without you and Mission WV. You all have really saved me and these kids several times."

- Grandmother



Staff feedback

"This student came to (school) in a state of trauma. Providing basic supplies which would enable her to help care for herself was a confidence booster."







GLAM GALA

Mission WV was selected as the beneficiary of funds for the second year in a row from the Glam Gala hosted by the MOMS Club of Teays Valley, WV. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the group was forced to reschedule and eventually cancel the physical event. However, this did not discourage the Moms Club from raising money and awareness to benefit youth in foster care. The club decided to continue with an online portion of the event and created an online auction to continue raising more money for youth in care.

Despite the many obstacles we faced in 2020, the Glam Gala exceeded expectations and once again broke its record and donated \$18,000 in 2020 to Mission WV! We have been honored to receive a 2-year total of \$34,000 donated to our organization. The funds donated in 2019 and 2020 have allowed us to purchase things such as clothes, shoes, coats, school supplies, Christmas gifts, mattresses, bedding, diapers, cribs, car seats, bunk beds, dressers, special care packages for children in residential care, and much more. As we reflect on the past two years of support from the GLAM Gala, we are overwhelmed by the generous support we have received from the MOMS Club of Teays Valley and the community.

Event Sponsors: O'Dell Orthodontics, The Facial Center, Bailey & Bailey Contracting, Creative Pediatric Dentistry, Putnam County Bank, Baker Truck Equipment Company, Creative Kitchens Inc. West Virginia Paving Farmers Bank, Jan Ramey- Real Estate Professional, Kanawha Scales & Systems, Larry Bevins: Allstate Insurance Specialty Groups, Inc., Walton Chiropractic, PLLC

WEBINARS

To make up for the lack of physical events we were unable to have, we hosted a webinar series for current and potential foster families.



November 19, 2020: The Journey of a Former Foster Youth Tasha Hall presented on her personal journey, what helped her achieve success and what she wishes her foster parents had known.



December 1, 2020: Noni's Natural Basics: **Hair Care Webinar**

Elizabeth Caul presented on natural hair care techniques and products for an audience of transracial foster and adoptive families.



December 8, 2020: Bridging the Gap: Birth and Foster Families Working Together

Chauncey Strong presented on building and maintaining relationships and communication between birth parents and foster/adoptive parents.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

"We must see and understand West Virginia as it is today and must have a vision of what it can be in the new time of the new century... one people, one state, working together for mutual progress." -Cecil H. Underwood, January 13, 1997

Mission WV stands in solidarity with our friends, families, and colleagues in the Black community who have suffered from racial injustice, and demand change. There is no place for racism at Mission WV. The tragedies stemming from racism are all around us, and it is well beyond time that we as organizations speak up, self-examine and do better. While Mission WV cannot solve this problem alone, we are committed to continuing to provide respectful and inclusive learning environments and developing compassionate, open-minded leaders who step up for what is right and treat all people with fairness, dignity, and respect.

Racial injustice stands directly in the way of Our Vision which is: One people, one state, working together to provide every child with a loving family and the knowledge to make positive choices for a healthier future. Our staff and board stand behind our statement and will use this time to better equip ourselves to ensure we are honoring both our Vision and our Mission. Mission WV is committed to strengthening a culture of diversity and inclusion across our team.



to say "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.







2020 was a year unlike any we have ever experienced before. In addition to adapting to virtual and blended school platforms during a global pandemic, schools were also faced with the task of aiding youth who are experiencing mental health issues, teen pregnancy, opioid abuse, unstable or abusive family environments, and inadequate resources. While the safety precautions put in place by the schools have reduced our ability to provide our services in person in the classroom, we sought new ways to help.

To continue supporting our youth, schools and communities, Mission WV offered the following resources:

- Virtual education on healthy relationship, communication skills, self-esteem and self-worth building, goal setting, and more.
- Monthly webinars on current topics relative to the youth.
- Referrals to youth friendly resources in areas we serve.
- Virtual presentations that satisfy state requirements covering topics such as sexual assault prevention and consent, sexting and cybersafety, bullying, and many others.
- · Hygiene items for students in need.
- We added a Youth Resource Coordinator to our staff. This staff
 member will work closely with students who identify a need
 for resources or community referrals, offer specialized training
 and support students working through difficult situations.

STATS:

2,772 Student Lessons Taught 5,584 Students Served 3,888 Students Completed Curriculum 62 Sites Impacted (Schools, Juvenile Justice Centers, Group Homes, etc)

STUDENT REFERRALS

Healthy Relationships
Violence Prevention
Vocational Education
Educational Services
Primary Health
Mental Health
Reproductive Health
81%

Student Referrals are requests for topics, or services available to them. Percentages reflect the percentage of students who asked for a referral on a specific topic. Students may request referrals for multiple topics.

STUDENT ASSEMBLIES

We partnered with several counties to provide youth with consent and sexual assault awareness training. Teaching youth about the skills of consent helps reduce sexual coercion, harassment, and even assault. Each of our Educators have their own story and speaking style, allowing them to reach students of different life experiences. Each educator aims to exceed expectations by supplying programs that are high-powered, engaging, and entertaining to students, while also presenting hard-hitting and purposeful messages.

In 2020, we educated 1,537 youth on consent and sexual assault awareness.

GRANT FUNDING

The THINK program was awarded two grants from the US Department of Health and Human Services. The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grant is from the Office of Population Affairs, and the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Grant is from the Family and Youth Services Bureau. These grants will help to ensure middle and high school youth receive the life skills training they need to make important life decisions. Between the two grants, Mission WV received a total of \$1,887,889 per year for a 3-year grant cycle. With this funding we will be able to reach nearly 13,000 additional students in 11 counties throughout WV.

THINK CONFERENCE

Due to COVID, we had to cancel the in person conference but we were able to host webinars on conference related topics.

Topics included:

May 14, 2020: Addressing Youth Mental Health

Autumn Wagoner, **THINK Educator**

May 21, 2020: Digital Citizenship **During Coronavirus**

Diana Graber, CyberWise.org

May 28, 2020: What is Information and Media Literacy?

Diana Graber, CyberWise.org

June 11, 2020: Poverty and the Brain

Jessica Sharp, MPA, Sharper **Brain Consulting**

June 18, 2020: How the brain and poverty impact teen pregnancy

Jessica Sharp, MPA, Sharper **Brain Consulting**

August 4, 2020: Working with Young Men

Ted Sikes, Wise Guys Program

August 20, 2020: Breaking the Stigma

Claire Dewdney, THINK Educator

September 10, 2020: How the **Brain Responds to Opioids**

Dr. Barry Steiner Ball



ACHIEVING OPTIMAL HEALTH

The THINK program is focused on the complete physical, emotional, and relational well-being of West Virginia's youth — not just the prevention of teen pregnancy. A large part of achieving this optimal health is having basic needs, such as hygiene, met. If a student is unable to wash their hair, brush their teeth, or wear deodorant it can make them feel self-conscious and interfere with their ability to focus on their education. The need for these efforts became even more apparent when COVID-19 hit WV and all schools went virtual.

Lincoln County schools reached out and expressed need among their students. The school counselor requested resources to meet the basic needs of 35 youth who needed hygiene items. Lincoln County experiences very high rates of poverty and unemployment. According to the U.S. Census, 22.9% of families and 26.3% of the overall population of Lincoln County live below the poverty line- with 31.7% of those being youth under the age of 18. These statistics alone show the grave need for our program's resources.

In response, our staff immediately went shopping for basic hygiene items and face masks. Given the statistics of Lincoln County and the grave need for our program services, we doubled up on items to ensure that not only the 35 designated youth would receive hygiene items - but other students in need as well. We were able to purchase over 700 items to meet the basic needs for students in one of our highest risk schools.

In Boone County there are also high rates of poverty, as well as a large number of youth in foster or kinship care. These youth not only need hygiene items, but "For a teenager, talking about relationships, expectations, and sex can be uncomfortable especially in front of classmates and a teacher you are going to have for an entire school year. This program does an amazing job of making the class comfortable and enjoyable for all students as well as fun and engaging. These are difficult but extremely important topics to cover at any age and I'm so happy that Mission West Virginia is available to my students. Truly an awesome program that all middle and high school students should experience."

- Mr. Stivason, Teacher, Logan High Schoo

often are forced to go without winter coats, hats, or gloves. To help address this issue, one of our Educators partnered with the schools to set up foster closets. Students can discreetly "shop" at the foster closet for necessities such as clothing, shoes, coats, gloves, scarves, hygiene items, school supplies, and even food.

In addition, our Educator partnered with Youth Leadership Council (YLC) students to create community pantries that are conveniently and discreetly located for youth in Boone County and are accessible 24/7. These "Little Free Pantries" are stocked weekly with donations from the Mission WV, as well as local community business and members with food and hygiene supplies. We supply items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, diapers, baby wipes, nonperishable food, and a supply of resource materials.





FINANCES

The following figures reflect Mission WV's expenses, inclusive of program implementation and administrative support costs. We keep our administrative costs low so funds can be directed to programming and those who need it most.

ASSETS

Change in Net Assets \$4,455

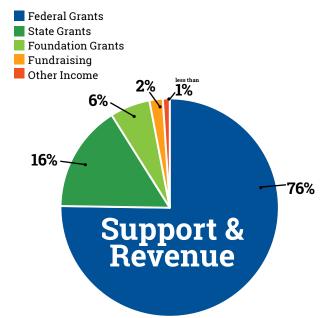
Net Assets - Beginning \$258,393

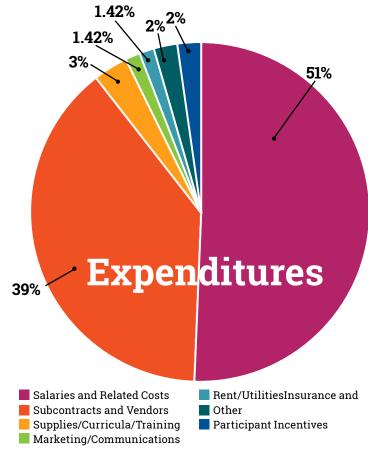
of period \$262.848

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Related Costs \$1,521,602
Subcontracts and Vendors \$1,168,421
Curricula, Supplies \$99,868
and Training
Marketing/Communications \$42,583
Rent/Utilities \$42,623
Insurance and Other \$67,877
Participant Incentives \$61,645

Total Expenses \$3,004,620





SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Total Expenses	\$ 3,009,076
Other Income	\$1,089
Fundraising	\$47,788
Foundation Grants	\$181,826
State Grants	\$485,937
Federal Grants	\$2,292,435



Thanks for the tooks I've envayed it. Thank you for being here for me and supporting me. your the one person I know I can count on. from me wing moved from place to place your the one person I know that gama be with me through all.

Thank you letter from a child to one of our adoption recruiters.
*name covered to protect the privacy of the child

7-29-2020

OUR SUPPORTERS

We are proud and efficient stewards of the funds entrusted to us. Because of our donors, WE CAN RESPOND to the needs we see among our children and families, from offering effective programing to thousands each year to meeting the basic needs of a child in care.

We would like to acknowledge the generous donors who supported Mission WV during the past fiscal year.

Governmental Support

State

- WV Bureau of Senior Services
- WV Department of Health and Human Resources—Bureau of Children and Families
- WV Department of Health and Human Resources – Bureau of Public Health

Federal

- US DHHS—Family and Youth Services Bureau
- US DHHS—Office of Population Affairs

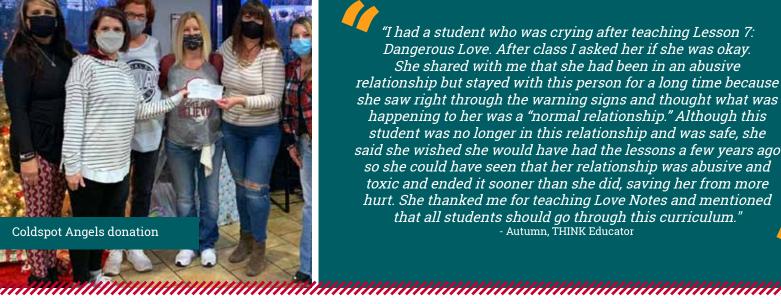
Private Foundations

- The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
- The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation

Private Funders/ Donors

- Aimee Warren
- Ali Rezai
- Ball Toyota
- Beth Weikel
- Carrie Kincaid
- Cold Spot, Angel Wing Committee
- Elaine Marion
- Encova (Brickstreet) Foundation
- Erica Wolfe
- First Baptist Church Ministry Outreach Donation
- H&R Block, Michael Carpenter
- Jackie Jarrett
- Jason Kaplitz
- · Joseph Marchese
- Joyce Frame
- · Kathi Huffman
- Kroger
- Margaret Loftis
- Morgan Stanley
- · Morgan Norman
- M.T. Benevity Fund
- · Padi Farah
- · Pamela Racanello

- Paradise Properties
- Patty Stewart Art
- Peter Gray
- Randi Henry
- · Ron Coles
- Ron Zelachowski
- Ronald Folev
- Sarah Jorgensen
- Shankar AVSB
- Shirley Cyrus
- Stacy Gill
- Stacy Miller
- Stephen Connors
- Susan Beasley
- Talmage
- Teays Valley Mom's Club
- Terri Dodrill
- Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal
- Todd Williams
- Tong Chiang
- William Welsh
- WV Council of Churches
- WV American Water
- Vanguard



"I had a student who was crying after teaching Lesson 7: Dangerous Love. After class I asked her if she was okav. She shared with me that she had been in an abusive relationship but stayed with this person for a long time because she saw right through the warning signs and thought what was happening to her was a "normal relationship." Although this student was no longer in this relationship and was safe, she said she wished she would have had the lessons a few years ago so she could have seen that her relationship was abusive and toxic and ended it sooner than she did, saving her from more hurt. She thanked me for teaching Love Notes and mentioned that all students should go through this curriculum." - Autumn, THINK Educator

Significant In-Kind Donors

- Thank you to all the wonderful reporters and staff with the media who have helped tremendously in reaching our mission.
- Thank you to our county schools who have entrusted us to serve youth in your area.
- Thank you to our crucial partners, Angela Marie Turner & Consultants, Rainelle Medical Center and CASE of Southern WV who deliver amazing services.
- And to everyone who donated luggage, hygiene items, care packages, supplies, etc.. to the Carry On campaign to help normalize life experiences of youth in foster care, thank you!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge our Board of Directors for their contributions, wise counsel and patient advice, and serving with our mission at heart.

ALISON JONES

Board President

Putnam County Bank, Executive Vice-President

EDISON DWIGHT CASTO III

Board Vice-President

Bankers Life, Field Agent

STEPHANIE BELFORD

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MEGAN DIEHL

Assistant to the Kanawha County Commission

MR. D.D. MEIGHEN

Emeritus Board Member

Retired Pastor

Right now you have the power to say "I will not let their story end like this."









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www.missionwv.org