



Eastern-in-the-News



EASTERN STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION LEADS HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVES

Moorefield, WV — Nov. 23, 2011 — As many of us gathered with family and friends around a bountiful Thanksgiving table this year, the blessings we gave thanks for seemed all the more cherished as we remembered our nearly 15-million fellow Americans who remain unemployed this holiday season. And to those in our area who find themselves without this year, a local group of college students — even before they sat down to their own dinners — had been working for weeks to bring at least a small share of Thanksgiving favors.

“We delivered 200 pounds of non-perishable food in cans and boxes to the MAC (Moorefield Active Caring) House the week before Thanksgiving,” said Machele Turner, president of the Student Government Association (SGA) at Eastern WV Community and Technical College.

Organized by the SGA, and staged over the course of three weeks at the college’s Moorefield Center, the Thanksgiving Food Drive collected all manner of food stuffs, including green beans, pancake mix, macaroni and cheese, hamburger helper, cake mixes and icing, tea, corn, peas, tuna, ravioli, vegetable, tomato and chicken noodle soup, “and lots more,” Turner recounted.

At the MAC House, clerk/manager Margaret Redman expressed gratitude for the donation. “We really appreciate Machele doing it, and it couldn’t have been at a better time, because starting now, we’ll be hit really hard.”

Local Need Growing

The MAC House, which also provides clothing at bargain basement prices and

gives away some winter coats, has already seen a surge of local need during the past three or four months. “In October alone, we fed some 30 families, and it will get worse,” Redman pointed out, “and stay pretty bad really until the weather breaks again.”

Started after the flood of 1985, the MAC House program now provides food to “anyone who needs it,” Redman emphasized. Clients must first complete an application through the Eastern West Virginia Community Action Agency (401 Maple Avenue, Moorefield; phone: 304-538-7711), and bring a confirmation slip to the MAC House. There, Redman and her co-worker, Jean Helmick, will distribute food from one of two sources: the Community Pantry, or government-surplus food.

“The Community Pantry is the one the college students gave to,” Redman noted.

“The purpose of this food drive was to give back to the community,” said SGA president Turner. “It is good when we all come together and work as a team for a great cause!”

The SGA will sponsor a Christmas Food Drive at Eastern starting November 29 and running through December 17. All non-perishable food items are welcome, Turner added.

For more information about Eastern’s financial aid opportunities, programs of study, workforce training and community education, call 304-434-8000; or toll free: 877-982-2322; or check the College’s website: “www.eastern.wvnet.edu”.

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