

# **Marshall County Family Resource Network, Inc.**



www.marshallcountyfrn.com

**Stacie Dei, Executive Director**

324 – 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Moundsville, WV 26041

Phone: 304-845-3300

Fax: 304-845-3360

E-Mail: [marshallcountyfrn@comcast.net](mailto:marshallcountyfrn@comcast.net)

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Contact: Paul J. Gough, 304-845-3300, [frnpr@comcast.net](mailto:frnpr@comcast.net)

## **FRN Corner: Heroes of Winter Carnival**

By Stacie Dei

Executive Director

Marshall County Family Resource Network

The 2009 Marshall County Winter Carnival was a great success, with more than 1,000 people attending the festivities on Jefferson Avenue in downtown Moundsville. The Marshall County Family Resource Network (FRN) could not have coordinated such a successful event without the support of numerous community members, businesses, and organizations. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize their contributions and thank them for their hard work.

I would first like to thank the volunteers who gave so willingly of their time and effort. Volunteers staffed the ticket booths and sale table, helped coordinate the Wendy's Winter Blast Kids' Fun Run, and made themselves available to assist with whatever was needed. The event ran smoothly because of their hard work, and I thank them for their enthusiasm.

Phil Remke and the staff of Remke Helping Hands Medical Supplies generously contributed space to house the face painter, caricaturist, race registration area, and craft table. I thank them for allowing us to use their space, as well as for their willingness to lend a hand during the Carnival.

The City of Moundsville and the Moundsville Street Department deserve thanks for closing the area between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> streets on Jefferson Avenue. I also applaud the Moundsville Police Department and Marshall County Sheriff's Department for scheduling officers to patrol the event. I am grateful to Senator Kessler for starting the fun run, and for expressing his support of the Carnival.

Many thanks are extended to the owners and operators of the Carnival's main attractions. Moundsville Fire Chief Noel Clarke brought the Marshall County Firefighters Association's smokehouse to the event. The smokehouse was a big hit with the children, as were the inflatables, which were operated by John Tankovich and his crew at JK Tank Rentals. The crowd enjoyed wood carving demonstrations by Green Acres Power Sports, which was generous enough to donate the wood and the carvers' time. The DJ, John Varner from Wild Horse Entertainment, entertained the attendees with hours of fun, upbeat music. A photo booth donated by the Healthy Families Coalition was operated by Charles and Joan from Shifoto Studio, which

provided Carnival-goers with a free souvenir. The jugglers, caricaturist, face painter, balloon artist, and magician were loved by all, and Windswept Entertainment did an excellent job of coordinating their schedules.

I also greatly appreciate the support from other organizations and tourist attractions in the area, including the West Virginia Penitentiary, Marx Toy Museum, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, St. Francis Xavier School, and Moundsville-Marshall County Public Library. Each contributed something to the Carnival, even though they normally would have been closed. The Pen offered free 45-minute tours, while the Marx Toy Museum offered a discount on admission and held toy demonstrations every hour. Andrea Keller from the Mound set up a craft table at Remke's and helped kids make noisemakers out of recycled water bottles. St. Francis featured children's activities and concessions, and it was "standing room only" at the library during its afternoon puppet show by "We're Holden Puppets."

Thanks go to Craig White and his staff at Grand Vue Park for hosting the fireworks again this year. Grand Vue also brought disc golf to the Carnival to promote the park's outdoor course. Thank you to Savage Heavy Highway Corporation and Bridgeport Equipment & Tool for the generators and support staff to help make this event a success.

The support of local media outlets was integral to the success of the Winter Carnival. In particular, I would like to thank Art Limann, Jim Cochran, Brian Clutter, as well as the staff of the Echo, Wheeling News Register, Intelligencer, WTRF, and WTOV.

A very special thank you goes to my staff at the FRN: Latrisha Whitelatch, Dara Pond, Kimberli Green, Paul Gough, Julia Chesla, Tim Bishop, and Sarah Phillips. Their undying dedication and hard work never cease to amaze me. Our families and friends are also thanked for lending a helping hand during the event and supporting us through the process.

I am greatly indebted to the sponsors of the Winter Carnival. Without their contributions, this event would not have taken place. Finally, thank you to everyone who attended and enjoyed this wonderful community event!

*Stacie Dei is executive director of the Marshall County Family Resource Network. You can find out more about the agency's programs by visiting [marshallcountyfrn.com](http://marshallcountyfrn.com) or by calling (304) 845-3300.*