

'The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.'  
- G.K. Chesterton



# Newsletter

January 2010

Marshall County, West Virginia

Vol. 1 No. 10

## Winter Carnival a bright light to start new year

Threatened bad weather held off and the crowds came to Jefferson Avenue in downtown Moundsville on Dec. 31 for the Marshall County Winter Carnival.

The carnival's second year was an unqualified success. People said goodbye to 2009 with a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities that were coordinated by the Marshall County Family Resource Network.

More than 1,000 people attended the Winter Carnival, with many of them staying for

long periods of time to enjoy the event. More than 200 people were on the street at any one time throughout most of the carnival hours.

The Winter Carnival kicked off with the Wendy's Winter Blast Kids' Fun Run, a 100-yard dash open to children 9 and under. Kids dashed down Jefferson Avenue for the fun run, cheered on by their parents and loved ones.

After the race, hundreds enjoyed the activities of the

Please See Page 2, **CARNIVAL**



## 'Youth and Alcohol' forum discusses issues

You've been hearing a lot on the Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition's TV and radio commercials about how underage drinking brings a lot of families together tragically. But it can bring communities together to take positive action.

Underage drinking was the subject of a community forum on Friday, Jan. 8, called "Youth and Alcohol: How Do We Keep Our Children Safe and Healthy?"

The forum was sponsored by the Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition, the Marshall County Family Resource Network (FRN) and the West Virginia

Center for Civic Life. In 2009, the Center for Civic Life had picked Marshall County for a pilot project to build citizen involvement in preventing underage drinking. Marshall County was one of only three West Virginia counties picked to participate in the project. Since then, the Center for Civic Life has held a daylong training in Marshall County on how to moderate community forums and then smaller community forums have been held on underage drinking. A discussion guide, "Youth & Alcohol: How Do We Keep Our Children Safe and Healthy?" was prepared by the FRN and the Center

for Civic Life. Copies of the discussion guide were distributed at the Jan. 8 forum. A copy can also be found at the Marshall County FRN's Website, [www.marshallcountyfrn.com](http://www.marshallcountyfrn.com).

The Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition is focusing on underage drinking in one of its major multimedia public-service campaigns, which began in December 2009. Beyond Marketing created the TV and radio commercials and the billboards. The marketing campaign was funded through a Drug Free Communities Grant from the federal Office of National Drug Control Policy.

# Carnival

WesBanco Winter Wonderland. Those activities included children's inflatables including the ever-popular Euro Bungee, Balloon-a-Tic balloon artist, a strolling magician, a caricature artist and a face painter. The caricaturist and face painter were popular all day inside Remke Helping Hands Medical Supplies at 227 Jefferson Avenue.

A particular crowd pleaser were two jugglers who delighted the crowd with their expertise in throwing and catching items. Some of them were even on fire.

The fun-filled event was widely covered by local media, including TV reports on WTRF and WTOV and stories in The Intelligencer, News-Register and The Journal.

"It's a nice, old-fashioned family time," Olivette Fisher of Brownsville, Texas, told The News-Register's Art Limann. New Martinsville resident Delilah Day told Limann: "It's fun. The kids are entertained, and they say they are having a blast."

Many Jefferson

Avenue merchants had special offers going during the carnival, and saw an increase in traffic between noon and 5 p.m.

The Winter Carnival spirit stretched beyond Jefferson Avenue this year:

- The West Virginia Penitentiary offered free 45-minute tours that day, even though it would normally be closed.

- The Marx Toy Museum was also open and provided toy demonstrations.

- St. Francis School offered special activities and concessions for kids.

- The Moundsville-Marshall County Public Library opened for a special standing-room-only performance by We're Holden Puppets.

- Andrea Keller, outreach coordinator at the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, made native American-style rattles out of recycled water bottles.

- Wild Horse Entertainment kept everyone in the festive mood by spinning musical favorites.

- Green Acres Power Sports sponsored a wood carving demonstration that fascinated scores of carnivalgoers.



- More than 100 people took advantage of the photo booth sponsored by the Healthy Families Coalition of Ohio and Marshall Counties.

- All day children learned about fire safety from a smokehouse trailer run by the Marshall County Firefighters Association.

- Spike, the costumed character from the Wheeling Nailers, and Wendy of Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers greeted children earlier in the day. The event ended with a fireworks show from Grand Vue Park in Moundsville conducted by Presutti, Inc.

The 2009 Marshall County Winter Carnival couldn't have gone on without the generous support of its sponsors.

The event sponsors were Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers; WesBanco Bank Inc.; and the Marshall County FRN.

The platinum sponsors were Consol Energy Inc.; Chesapeake Energy; the law firm of Gold, Khoury & Turak; Lamar

Advertising; the Marshall County Commission; the City of Moundsville; and Robinson Law Offices.

Gold sponsors were Walmart; Savage Heavy Highway Corp.; the Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition; Vance Printing and Graphics LLC; and the Healthy Families Coalition of Ohio and Marshall Counties.

Silver sponsors were BB&T; Bridgeport Equipment & Tool; Green Acres Power Sports; the Ohio Valley Medical Center; Project BEST; Reynolds Memorial Hospital; and Wheeling Office Supply.

Additional sponsors were Bayer Heritage Federal Credit Union; Candy Bouquet; the City of Glen Dale, WV; Grisell Funeral Homes & Crematory; Hartley & Straub Pllc; Jerry's Mini Mart; Moundsville Rotary Club; New Horizon Consulting; Remke Helping Hands Medical Supplies; and Warren Distribution.



# FRN logged busy '09 for Marshall County

## January

- More than 40 people attend a "Sustainability and Fund Development" workshop with noted speaker Frank Lopez sponsored by the Marshall County FRN.

## February

- The Marshall County FRN and other organizations expand tobacco prevention efforts by launching a media campaign targeting youth ages 11 to 18, thanks to a grant from the American Lung Association.

- The agency receives a Purdue Pharma Asset Forfeiture Funds Grant that will be used to increase compliance checks and provide training to retailers to stop the sale of alcohol to minors. The Training for Intervention ProcedureS trains more than 80 retail employees.

## March

- The FRN participates in the annual Marshall County Home and Business Expo sponsored by the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce.

## April

- More than 60 youth and adults at 15 local retailers participate in Project Sticker Shock, a Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition initiative to eliminate youth access to alcohol.

- Marshall County teachers attend an Action Based Learning workshop with nationally known educational consultant Jean Blaydes Madigan. It is her third trip to Marshall County thanks to the Carol M. White Physical Education Grant.

- An April 30 forum "Parent to Parent: A Dialogue on How To Talk to Your Children about Drugs" caps a monthlong effort by FRN staff and Anti-Drug Coalition members to bring an informational message to local adults. The forum was held at Calvary United Methodist Church in Moundsville.

## May

- Famed community development expert Vaughn Grisham makes three inspiring community development presentations in Marshall County on May 14. The event is sponsored by the Marshall County FRN at Grand Vue Park.

## June

- More than 75 people attend the Business After Hours event sponsored by the Marshall County FRN. The after-

hours benefits the Chamber of Commerce and gives the FRN a chance to showcase its work in the community.

- Development expert Peter Hille gives a daylong workshop on "Community Mobilization Techniques" on June 4 and then meets with the Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition on June 5.

- The FRN shows its community spirit by designing and selling a "Home is Where My Heart Is" T-shirt and, for West Virginia Day, leads efforts to beautify the outside of the Historic Federal Building it calls home on Route 2 in Moundsville.

- Marshall County Youth in Action, the Anti-Drug Coalition's youth group, holds its first community event: A family fun day to benefit the We Bark No-Kill Animal Shelter. A volleyball tournament in July nets more than \$200 for Marshall County Special Olympics.

## July

- FRN executive director Stacie Dei and substance abuse prevention director Latrisha Whitelatch are recognized for leading the movement to change the state's youth alcohol law. The use of alcoholic beverages by minors is now a juvenile delinquency offense.

- A report on WTRF-TV highlights the Anti-Drug Coalition and FRN's successful efforts on alcohol-law compliance checks.

## August

- The Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition wins a Drug Free Communities Support Program continuation grant to help with its work of ending substance abuse among Marshall County youth. The \$125,000 grant is administered by the Marshall County FRN.

- Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers becomes the first event sponsor of the Winter Carnival.

- More than 50 educators and law enforcement personnel attends a substance abuse prevention workshop sponsored by the Marshall County FRN.

- The West Virginia Center for Civic Life chooses Marshall County as one of three pilot projects in the state to increase citizen involvement. The FRN and the Anti-Drug Coalition join others in the community to tackle the issue of underage drinking.

## September

- FRN executive director Stacie Dei and Adolescent Health Initiative

coordinator Dara Pond are instrumental in the acquisition of the Sanford School from the Marshall County Board of Education and, later in the year, the creation of The Sanford Center. Pond becomes chair of The Sanford Center board.

## October

- West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin III awards the FRN with a \$25,520 Safe and Drug Free Communities Grant to provide substance abuse and violence prevention programs in Marshall County schools.

- Substance abuse prevention director Latrisha Whitelatch is named a member of the WV Partnership to Promote Community Well-Being, appointed by Gov. Joe Manchin III.

- The FRN joins others in a daylong "Moderating Community Forums" session conducted by the West Virginia Center for Civic Life.

## November

- The Marshall County Family Resource Network played host to the West Virginia Standards for Excellence Clinic Series, training representatives from 10 nonprofit organizations in the Northern Panhandle.

- More than 100 youth and adults participates in the Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition's Project Sticker Shock on Veterans Day, putting stickers on alcoholic beverages in 15 retailers in the county.

- FRN substance abuse prevention director Latrisha Whitelatch is a featured speaker at Gov. Joe Manchin's Drug Summit, held Nov. 16 in Charleston. Whitelatch speaks about how the West Virginia Partnership to Promote Community Well-Being has made a difference in West Virginia.

- More than 650 students attend a Resource Day at John Marshall High School hosted by the Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition and featuring Dara Pond, Adolescent Health Initiative coordinator.

- For the second year, the FRN created and presented a float highlighting the Marshall County Winter Carnival in the Nov. 21 holiday parade in Moundsville.

## December

- More than 1,000 people - some as far away as Texas and Louisiana - attend the second annual Marshall County Winter Carnival held on New Year's Eve.

# New staff join Marshall County FRN

The Marshall County Family Resource Network in December hired Tim Bishop as its Community Outreach Coordinator and Sarah Phillips as Administrative Assistant.

Julia Chesla, the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) coordinator for the nonprofit agency started in September 2009.

Bishop is a lifelong resident of Wheeling who went to Wheeling Central Catholic High School and graduated from West Liberty State College with a

bachelors of science degree in communications with a specialization in television and radio. He has worked at WTOV-TV and the Ohio County Circuit Clerks office.

Phillips is a native of Moundsville and graduated from John Marshall High School in 2006. In December 2009, she earned her bachelors degree in broadcast journalism from Point Park University in downtown Pittsburgh. Phillips was previously employed by Point Park's admissions office and held internships at

WTRF-TV in Wheeling and at VH1 News in New York City.

Chesla is a native of Jewett, Ohio, and graduated from the Ohio State University with a bachelor of arts degree in mass communications and social issues.

She has worked as a research associate for the American Institutes of Research in Washington, and was the program administrator at the Transformation Management Office at the District of Columbia Public Schools before joining the FRN in September.

## Productive 2009 for Anti-Drug Coalition

The following was written by Latrisha Whitelatch, substance abuse prevention director of the Marshall County Family Resource Network, to review the Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition's year.

Hello Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition Members and Concerned Citizens:

I would like to thank all of you for your dedication and commitment to the coalition's mission of reducing substance abuse among Marshall County residents, particularly youth, on a sustained basis. I know it can be very difficult for each of you to attend coalition meetings, since so many of you give your time to a variety of organizations. Please know that I truly appreciate everything that you have done to get to the root of alcohol and drug abuse in our community.

This year we have made great strides toward achieving our vision of a safe and healthy drug-free community, and I would like to recap our efforts and accomplishments. In January, two of our members attended the first of several required meetings for new federal Drug Free Communities grantees. The following month, as a result of our CMCA one on ones, we began advocating for a variety of legislative changes at the state level. We also started working on our media campaign designed to increase the number of parents talking to their children about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

In late March, we began conducting our compliance checks, and in April, we implemented Project Sticker Shock. We also conducted a parent forum to wrap-up our media campaign, and we learned that, as a result of our efforts, underage drinking was no longer a status offense, but a delinquency offense. We had successfully changed state law.

In May, we decided to focus on improving our coalition. That month, we revisited and revised our mission and our vision (both of which are referenced above). We also started working on coalition bylaws. Additionally, May marked the start of Youth in Action team meetings for Marshall County youth.

In June and July, our Youth in Action team sponsored 2 events designed to give Marshall County youth something to do other than use drugs and alcohol. In July, our coalition blog celebrated its first birthday! We were extremely busy in August - we provided a substance abuse prevention training to Marshall County Schools personnel, hosted a CMCA advanced training,

and started working with the WV Center for Civic Life on a project designed to increase public dialogue about the problem of underage drinking. We also adopted our bylaws.

In September, we were rewarded our SPF SIG and Drug Free Communities Support Program grants, and in October, we elected officers and hosted a community forum moderator training. In November, we implemented Project Sticker Shock again, and we had over 100 volunteers!

We also sponsored a resource day at John Marshall High School during the month of November, provided TIPS training for the employees of every fraternal organization in Marshall County, and completed our alcohol compliance reviews. In December, we learned that our alcohol compliance rate had improved dramatically from the previous year - we had a 12.6% non-compliance rate in 2009 versus a 93.8% non-compliance rate in 2008. We also launched 2 media campaigns: One designed to prevent underage drinking, and the other designed to prevent binge drinking.

In addition to implementing all of these projects, we continued to conduct one on ones regarding youth access to alcohol, provided presentations and information to a variety of groups in Marshall County, and assisted with prevention education efforts in Marshall County Schools. We also added four new members and received accolades for our coalition blog. And we're not done yet: The Marshall County Winter Carnival, which we are sponsoring, will be held on December 31 from noon until 5pm in Moundsville.

Wow! We've done a wonderful job! And, I am sure that this list does not include everything that we've done as a coalition!! Again, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. I look forward to working with each of you in the new year. Please remember our first event, the community forum regarding youth and alcohol, will be held Jan. 8 at 11am, and our first meeting will follow at 12:30pm.



# Sanford Center Plans Event-Filled 2010

The new year is finding a lot of new things happening at The Sanford Center: A sale of surplus equipment on Jan. 23, a fund-raising drive and a donation from the Moundsville Economic Development Corp.

A sale of surplus equipment will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at the former school. For sale will be student desks and chairs, office desks, filing cabinets, storage cabinets, tables and electronics. The Moundsville Economic Development Corp. announced recently that it had given \$5,000 to The Sanford Center. The money will go to help build The Center and its programs. Meanwhile, The Sanford Center Board of Directors recently approved the following membership levels:

- Alumni (\$15): Window cling.
- Membership (\$25): Window cling, membership card with special discounts and newsletter.
- Friend (\$50): All the benefits of membership level plus a personalized engraved mug.
- Donor/Bronze (\$100): All the benefits of friend level plus engraved plate on bronze-level plaque at main entrance and invitation to annual dinner.
- Donor/Silver (\$250): All the benefits of friend level plus engraved plate on silver-level plaque at main entrance and invitation to annual dinner.
- Donor/Gold (\$500): All the benefits of friend level plus engraved plate on gold-level plaque at main entrance, invitation to annual dinner and special recognition as a gold-level donor.

- Donor/Platinum (\$1,000): All the benefits of friend level plus engraved plate on platinum-level plaque, invitation to annual dinner and special recognition as a platinum-level donor.

- Partner (\$2,500): All the benefits of friend level plus an individual engraved plaque at main entrance, invitation to and special recognition at annual dinner and a spotlight article to be printed in e-newsletter and local press.

- Humanitarian (\$5,000): A room will be named in your honor at The Sanford Center, with an engraved plaque displayed by the entrance to the room. You will receive special recognition at the annual dinner. You will be featured in a spotlight article in the Sanford e-newsletter and local press plus receive all the benefits of friend level membership.

- Visionary (\$10,000): An investment of \$10,000 or more would be welcomed and would receive special recognition with your wishes in mind. Other benefits include a spotlight article in the e-newsletter and local press, special recognition at the annual dinner and the benefits of membership.

The Sanford Center is now leasing space at the former school, with negotiations under way for several spots. There are 12-14 spaces remaining on the first and second floors of the center with monthly rents from \$200 to \$450. The second floor, however, is not handicapped accessible. Anyone interested in leasing should contact Rick Healy at (304) 843-1784.

For more information about The Sanford Center, please contact Dara Pond at (304) 845-3300.

## Jefferson Avenue business lends a helping hand

Phil Remke might still be selling furniture and appliances at his family's longtime Jefferson Avenue store if it weren't for the birth of his son Christopher 26 years ago and their experiences ever since.

Christopher was born with Cerebral Palsy, a group of permanent disorders of the brain that hinder movement and posture. Since birth, Christopher has been in and out of hospitals, stopped breathing numerous times and has had more than one doctor give up hope. But losing hope is something that Remke and his wife, Loretta, have never done.

They've traveled countless thousands of miles to find treatment and answers for Christopher. They've lived through difficulties of finding specialized medical supplies or having to travel 100 miles or more to get them. The Remkes also know what patients and their families go through every day emotionally and physically.

"We never found anything locally," Remke said. "We needed to go to Pittsburgh or Columbus for items for Christopher."

A few years ago, the Remke's furniture and appliance business was at a crossroads. Remke's father William started the business in 1948, and bought the Jefferson Avenue building in 1960. Phil Remke joined the business in 1973 and since then it has expanded into neighboring storefronts including a grocery store, bar and the Diversified Savings & Loan. In 2001, Remke had started a durable medical supply store off to the side of the furniture business. In January 2009, the Remkes decided to make it their full-time business.

It was their experiences with Christopher that helped lead to that decision. Phil saw that the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia and eastern Ohio didn't have a convenient store to meet

the medical-equipment needs of its residents.

"When you're sick, you don't want to travel far," Remke said. "When you're old, you don't want to have to go to Pittsburgh or Columbus for the items you need."

Remke Helping Hands Medical Supplies offers a wide range of durable medical equipment and supplies, including:

- Hospital beds, bed rails, bed pans, bed wedges, cardiac recliners and air pressure mattresses.
- Bath lifts, toilet seat risers, shower chairs and safety bars.
- Bariatric walkers, wheelchairs and Hoyer lifts.
- Diabetic shoes and socks, compression stockings, back supports and other orthotics.
- Lift chairs, stair lifts, electric wheelchairs, electric scooters, canes/walkers and nebulizers.

They also rent hospital beds, wheelchairs, scooters, power wheelchairs and transport wheelchairs.

Remke Helping Hands remains a family business, with his daughter Stephanie joining the company. Through it all, Phil Remke remembers the foundation of the business is family and it's never far from his mind.

A picture of Christopher graces the office wall, and Phil Remke said that people come in all the time to ask how Christopher is. The answer, Remke said, is that he's doing better after recent treatment at a Steubenville facility.

"He's the inspiration for Remke Helping Hands Medical Supplies," Phil Remke said of Christopher.

*Remke Helping Hands Medical Supplies is located at 227 Jefferson Ave. in Moundsville. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. It can be reached at (304) 845-8551.*

# Marshall County Calendar

**Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010**

**Public CPR Class**, Grand Vue Park, Moundsville. Time and fees to be announced. Call (304) 845-9810 to register or for more information.

**Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010**

**Marshall County Family Resource Network General Membership Meeting**, 11 a.m., Historic Federal Building, 324 7th St., Moundsville.

**Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010**

**Marshall County Tourism Monthly Meeting**, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., The Grave Creek Mound, Jefferson Avenue. All are welcome to attend.

**Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010**

**The Sanford Center Surplus Sale**, 9 a.m. Student desks and chairs, office desks, filing cabinets, storage cabinets, tables, electronics.

**Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010**

**Marshall County Chamber of Commerce Monthly Membership Breakfast**, Young's Cafeteria, Route 2, Glen Dale.

**Friday, Feb. 5, 2010**

**Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition Monthly Meeting**, Noon, Historic Federal Building, 324 7th St., Moundsville.

**Wednesday, March 3, 2010**

**Marshall County Chamber of Commerce Monthly Membership Breakfast**, Huddle House, Route 2, Moundsville.

**Friday, March 5, 2010**

**Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition Monthly Meeting**, Noon, Historic Federal Building, 324 7th St., Moundsville.

**Friday, April 2, 2010**

**Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition Monthly Meeting**, Noon, Historic Federal Building, 324 7th St., Moundsville.

**Wednesday, April 7, 2010**

**Marshall County Chamber of Commerce Monthly Membership Breakfast**, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, Route 2, Moundsville.

**Friday, April 16, 2010**

**Marshall County Home & Business Expo**, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m., Mollohan Building, West Virginia Penitentiary, Moundsville. Sponsored by the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce. Fireworks at 8:15 p.m. inside the Pen walls.

**Saturday, April 17, 2010**

**Marshall County Home & Business Expo**, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mollohan Building, West Virginia Penitentiary, Moundsville. Health fair from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Friday, May 7, 2010**

**Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition Monthly Meeting**, Noon, Historic Federal Building, 324 7th St., Moundsville.

## YWCA offers visitation program

The supervised visitation and exchange program offered by the YWCA Family Violence Prevention Program was established to help any family experiencing domestic violence, stalking, sexual abuse, or child abuse.

Its mission is to provide an environment that promotes safety to families who are experiencing domestic violence.

The Y program is a licensed agency offering free services in Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel Counties and may be obtained through a court order, local social service agencies or can be self referred.

For further information about the program contact Cheryl Maltese at [fvppvisitation@hotmail.com](mailto:fvppvisitation@hotmail.com) or call (304) 232-2748.

Advocates also are available to speak to any organization that would like to know more about the visitation and exchange program as well as domestic violence.

## FRN Newsletter January 2010 Vol. 1 No. 10

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