



# what's up WEST SIDE

a quarterly update on  
West Side events and resources

**WINTER EDITION**  
**DECEMBER 2022**  
issue no. 1

# what's good?

## HOME REPAIR & UTILITY ASSISTANCE



**UTILITY ASSISTANCE**  
**WV DHHR's Low Income Energy Assistance Program** 304.343.4663 [dhhr.wv.gov](http://dhhr.wv.gov)  
 low-income households responsible for heating may apply annually JAN-MAR

**WEATHERIZATION**  
**CCAP's Weatherization Services** 800.234.1706 [coalfieldcap.org](http://coalfieldcap.org)  
 low-income households, SSI, & TANF eligible for weatherization and energy efficiency repairs

**GENERAL REPAIR**  
**Appalachian Service Project** 423.854.8800 [asphome.org](http://asphome.org)  
 low-income homeowners may apply for repairs and accessibility (limited projects and wait list)

**Rebuilding Together Charleston** 304.343.4663 [rtwv.org](http://rtwv.org)  
 low-income homeowners of 3 years can apply for wait list, then receive a formal application

**SENIOR & DISABILITY MODIFICATIONS**  
**ACIL's Community Living Services Program** 304.965.0376 [acilwv.org](http://acilwv.org)  
 significant disability under ADA with lower income can apply for modifications such as ramps and bathrooms

# what's the word?

This Spring and Summer, the Westside Together outreach team knocked on over 3,300 doors in the Flats and on the Hill. The team was able to connect with 615 homes to see how folks are doing, identify neighborhood priorities, and learn how West Siders would like to get involved in the community. Resident input is already being used to guide neighborhood improvements and connect neighbors to opportunities and resources.



**46%** say need for home improvements is most pressing issue for their household

**46%** say safety is most pressing issue on their block

**39%** willing to improve their home if funds were available

**24%** interested in purchasing property on the Westside



**MORE FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS**

**SCAN ME**

[bit.ly/3uwYSZv](https://bit.ly/3uwYSZv)

# what's new?

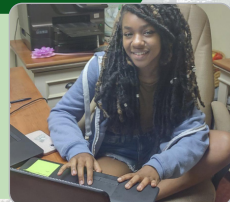
## Middle School Mentors

20 young adults from the Midian Leadership Project and Step by Step, Inc. (most of whom are West Siders) spent a week this past school year at West Side Middle School giving support to students and extra support for staff and teachers. The work led to a Congressional Earmark request for \$200,000 to support the growth of long-term mentor initiatives at West Side Middle.



## Westside Youth Works!

Last summer, 9 West Side students were hired by West Side organizations: NEW WV, Midian Leadership Project, Aspire Achievement Project, Restorative Actions, and Phat Daddy's on Da Tracks. The program included meet-ups for students to socialize and to learn job skills and financial management. This model is under review to extend the City of Charleston's summer youth employment program into neighborhoods.



*"I see hope... In spite of everything that's going on, still a lot of people are willing to put in the work, and they feel strongly West Side is the best side... So many people, different nationalities, different races, they're not moving because they believe in the West Side... I love the hope that I see in the community, that people are still hanging on no matter what."*

## Kanawha Dreamers Family Support Center @ Florida St & 4th Ave

Step By Step started the Family Support Center in 2019 to bring opportunities and resources to West Side families. In Spring of 2022, they moved the operation to its own building across the street from Risen City Church.

Katie Bonham, the Director of the Center shares that while the food pantry has been open longer, less neighbors are aware of what else is offered here and how accessible it is.

"People are actually really shocked at how easy it is. We operate on trust," Katie said.

The center is easy to use and doesn't require ID or proof of household size—all that's required is about 5 minutes to

complete an intake form. Then, families are set for life to walk in during regular hours. As well as access to weekly food pantry, hygiene, and baby product bags, neighbors can do laundry loads, pick out clothes from their closet, and get a hot shower throughout the week.

**"We have been told we have the hottest showers on the West Side!"**

They also have computers and a printer with assistance on hand.

"If someone [needs help with computers], we will help them—read the information to them or help them navigate online."

This Spring and Fall, the Center will host more resource fairs focused on physical

and mental health. In April, the FSC will celebrate how much it has brought to the neighborhood in its first year.

As they expand, the FSC hopes to host classes twice per month with topics such as resume building and parenting. The Center thrives on donations and partnerships. If you're interested in partnering with resources, classes, or have donations,

email Katie Bonham [KBonham@StepByStepWV.org](mailto:KBonham@StepByStepWV.org)



**you got it!**

## Dr. Octavia Cordon



"Superwoman" Octavia Cordon is making it happen on the West Side. Born and raised in NYC, Dr. Cordon became a mountain mama 20 years ago to cultivate better opportunities for her children. Since then, she's been engaged in the education system and started a non-profit education hub, **The Aspire Achievement Project**.

Aspire supports students and parents—revealing options, prepping for college, sending care packages, and organizing career fairs for graduates. You can also catch her helping homeless, educating about tobacco, and running Phat Daddy's on Da Tracks, a co-op restaurant she started with her family in the Elk City area.

To learn more about **Aspire Achievement**, email [AspireProjectWV@gmail.com](mailto:AspireProjectWV@gmail.com).

- clothing closet**  
 Fri 11am-1pm, 2pm-6pm  
 pick out clothes once per month
- computers & internet**  
 M-F 11am-1pm, 2pm-6pm  
 assistance & printing available

- food pantry**  
 M-F 11am-1pm, 2pm-6pm  
 1 bag/wk for 1-3 family members
- hygiene & baby supplies**  
 M-F 11am-1pm, 2pm-6pm  
 1 bag/wk for 1-3 family members

- laundry**  
 signup M-F 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm  
 1 load/wk for 1-3 family members
- showers**  
 M-F 11am-12:15pm, 2pm-5:15pm  
 close early for lunch and end of day



# what's happening?

to stay up to date on neighborhood events,  
go to the WESTSIDE TOGETHER Facebook page



## West Side Neighborhood Association Meetings

4th Thursdays, 6pm  
virtually via Zoom

engage with other West Side residents about neighborhood issues and projects

JAN 26 | FEB 23 | MAR 19

To join and to put a topic on the agenda, please email Chairman Chuck Overstreet [covers6053@aol.com](mailto:covers6053@aol.com)

## weekly wellness



### Tec Style Hip Hop Fitness

Tue | 6pm @ Health Right WV West  
511 Central Ave



### Stealthy Healthy Cooking Classes

Thu | 1pm & 5pm @ Health Right WV West  
511 Central Ave



### Charleston Parkrun

Sat | 9am @ Magic Island Park



### Kung Fu

Sun | 1pm @ UUC  
520 Kanawha Blvd W



### Tai Chi

Sun | 2pm @ UUC  
520 Kanawha Blvd W

## FOOD PANTRIES



### Kanawha Dreamers Family Support Center

1 per week (1 bag/families of 1-3, 2 bags/families of 4-6, etc)

Mon-Fri | 11am-1pm, 2pm-6pm

1401 4th Ave (304.414.4453)  
near KRT hub

### Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church

& available at closet & showers M,W (3-4:30pm), F (1-4pm)

Mon-Thu | 10am-2pm

317 W Washington St (304.346.0426)  
Elk City

### Switzer Center

first come first serve distributions

M, W, F | 11am-12pm

900 Griffin Dr  
by Orchard Manor

### Canaan United Methodist Church

1 per month, ID required, ask about senior boxes

Mon | 1pm-3pm

401 Roane St (304.342.6553)  
Elk City

### Hissom Inner City Mission

also can sign up for senior boxes

Tue | 1pm-4pm

1301 Pennsylvania Ave (304.421.0102)  
near Bigley Piggly Wiggly

### Fishers of Men

also can sign up for senior boxes

Wed | 1pm-4pm

847 Woodward Dr (304.421.0102)  
North Charleston

### A More Excellent Way Life Center

first come first serve distributions

3rd Sat | starts 12pm

504 Virginia St W (304.400.4111)  
Five Corners

### Manna Meal Truck

main location food pantry also available all week 8am-2pm

3rd Thu | starts 4:30pm

748 Virginia St W (304.345.7121)  
old Save-A-Lot parking lot

## stay connected

more stories and resources at [westsidetogether.org](http://westsidetogether.org)  
& the Westside Together Facebook page



What's Up West Side is produced by  
Create WV & Westside Together community partners

create  
west virginia

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TOGETHER