

# Happy Thanksgiving Stateline

A Newsletter For West Virginia State Government Employees

November 2003

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## Governor Wise Sends Holiday Greetings

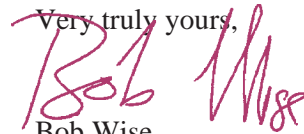
The purpose of this Holiday Season, with its magic and wonder, should never leave our minds or our hearts. This time of year binds us together in a very special way. It is a time to count our blessings and reach out to the less fortunate; a time to hope; a time to love; a time to care for one another; a time to work together to create a better world.

West Virginians are proud, caring people who love the Mountain State and its scenic beauty. As we go about celebrating the season, let us keep alive in our hearts those families who have sons and daughters who continue to serve our country or who have paid the ultimate

price while risking their lives to ensure our safety.

Also, in appreciation and honor of your hard work and dedication, and to allow you time with your families, I am declaring November 28 and December 26 as additional days off without charge to annual leave.

Enjoy your time off with your families. I wish you a joyous and memorable holiday season and a very happy New Year.

Very truly yours,  
  
Bob Wise

*Governor Wise is assisted by children at Joyful Night 2002. See Page 3 for information on this year's event.*



*Gov. Wise's allowance of additional time off for State employees does not create a legal holiday within the definition of the West Virginia Code, nor does it create a legal holiday for private businesses or local governments.*

## Seven Honored as Examples of Rehabilitation Success

Contributed by Jeff Seager of the Division of Rehabilitation Services; photo by Robin Hammer, also of Rehabilitation Services.



*Accepting congratulations from Gov. Bob Wise, from left: Janie Wright, Charles Hughes, Amy Everett, Brian Jones, Calvin Riggleman, and Karen Gardner. James Burnett, the Beckley District winner, was unable to attend.*

Seven West Virginians and their employers were honored October 16 by the State Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) at the agency's annual Rehabilitant of the Year Ceremony.

"West Virginia succeeds, in part, by improving the earning potential of all our citizens," Governor Bob Wise told an audience of more than 400 rehabilitation clients, counselors, employers and family members. "This agency's success in this regard has always been dramatic and impressive."

DRS provides work-related training for people with disabilities. Typi-

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cally, Wise noted, a rehabilitation client's annual earnings will be three to four times greater after receiving these services.

Janie Wright, 31, a registered nurse at Mariner Health Care in Huntington, earned special recognition as the 2003 West Virginia Rehabilitant of the Year. She also represents the Huntington District. The Lavalette resident was born with profound hearing loss that was not detected until she was 5 years old. With persistence and good humor, she has overcome numerous obstacles to employment. Drawing from her own experience, she also has been an advocate for the inclusion of people with disabilities in health-related professions.

Other honorees for 2003 are:

- ★ Charles Hughes, 43, of Reedy, representing the Charleston District.
- ★ Brian Jones, 22, of Paden City, representing the Wheeling District.
- ★ Amy Everett, 38, of Clarksburg, representing the Clarksburg District.
- ★ Calvin Riggleman, 22, of Capon Bridge, representing the Martinsburg District.
- ★ Karen Gardner, 40, of Montrose, representing the Elkins District.
- ★ James Burnett, 36, of Hinton, representing the Beckley District.

DRS provides services through seven district offices in Charleston, Huntington, Beckley, Clarksburg, Lewisburg, Martinsburg, and Wheeling. Each district has branch offices, for a total of 30 DRS offices statewide. In Institute, the agency also manages one of nine publicly funded comprehensive rehabilitation centers in the nation.

Rehabilitants of the Year were recommended by counselors and selected by an administrative team from among more than 2,000 clients who achieved employment goals this year.

Each October, DRS honors exemplary clients. Since 1945, Congress has designated October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Each year, DRS helps thousands of West Virginia residents to overcome their disabilities and lead more productive, fulfilling lives. These clients vastly improve their earning potential and gain independence from social services – sometimes for the first time in their lives.

For more information about DRS and its programs to empower people with disabilities, call 1-800-642-8207 (V/TDD) or visit the division's website at [www.wvdrs.org](http://www.wvdrs.org). In the Kanawha Valley, call 766-2634.

## WIC Program Promotes Reading to Children

*Contributed by Joe Thornton of the Department of Health and Human Resources.*

The importance of youth reading is now a part of the Department of Health and Human Resources' campaign to inform families about the variety of services the Women, Infant and Children's Program (WIC) provides. The WIC program has established a book distribution pro-



gram to the list of benefits provided for children under the age of 5.

Beginning November 3, WIC will provide a book to every child who receives WIC benefits and who has a birthday between November 1, 2003 and October 31, 2004. The emphasis behind the book distribution is to encourage parents to read to their children while promoting the importance of good nutrition.

In addition, WIC nutritionists will offer suggestions to parents throughout the year on how they can encourage good eating habits by reading such books as *Gregory the Terrible Eater* and *If You Gave a Mouse a Cookie* to their children.

"Every child on WIC who has a birthday in the next year will receive a birthday card in the mail" says Donna Barnhart, Outreach Coordinator for the State WIC Program,

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## Ground Broken for Veterans Nursing Home in Clarksburg

The dream of many veterans and State leaders is becoming a reality. On Monday, October 13, 2003, the official groundbreaking ceremony for a Veterans Nursing Home was held at its building site on the grounds of the Clarksburg VA Medical Center. Once completed, the nursing home will be the first of its kind in West Virginia.

Governor Bob Wise provided the event's keynote address. Also present and speaking at the ceremony were a number of State and federal leaders, including U.S. Senator from West Virginia John D. Rockefeller, IV; Deputy Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Laura Miller; Commander Douglas Arnold of the U.S.S. West Virginia; WV Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety Secretary Joe Martin; WV Division of Veterans Affairs Director Larry Linch; and Hershel "Woody" Williams, the State's only living recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The 120-bed facility will cost between \$20-25 million to build. Federal money will cover 65% of the construction costs. Additional funds will come from specific WV Lottery Veterans Cash scratch-off games, which were authorized by the Legislature in 2001.



*ABOVE, L-R: Deputy State Veterans Affairs Director Keith Gwinn, MAPS Cabinet Secretary Joe Martin, Shannon Quint Pitts, LTUSNR, Don Kinnard, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, State Veterans Affairs Director Larry Linch, CMH Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, Governor Bob Wise, Deputy Undersecretary Laura Miller, Commander Douglas Arnold, and Glenn Struchtemeyer break ground for the veterans nursing home in Clarksburg, WV.*



*LEFT: In one of his last appearances before his sudden passing on November 3, 2003, Delegate A. James Manchin was on-hand as a proud supporter of the nursing home initiative. Manchin (left) is pictured at the event with Governor Bob Wise.*



*Please join Governor Bob Wise at the Capitol for Joyful Night on December 4, 2003 from 6-8 P.M.*

*The program will last from 6-6:45 P.M. Attendees can take a leisurely stroll touring the State Capitol Complex until 8 P.M. to enjoy the decorations and entertainment at various locations including the Main Capitol Rotunda, the Governor's Reception Room, the Governor's Mansion, and the Cultural Center, as well as outside areas such as the Kanawha Boulevard side and the fountain circle.*

*Students from Holz Elementary School in Charleston wait their turn to perform at Joyful Night 2002*



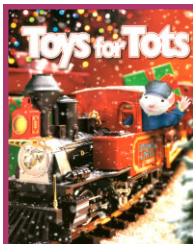
## United Food Organization Helps Feed Citizens

Contributed by Kathy Gallagher, UFO State Employee Coordinator.

Twenty-two years ago the United Food Operation (UFO) began collecting, warehousing, and distributing non-perishable food items to food pantries in Kanawha and Putnam counties. UFO operates in the winter, from January to April, when the need is greatest. Utility bills and other expenses are higher and there is less income that can be spent on food. Volunteers at local businesses collect non-perishable food items for the warehouse. All the food that is collected and arrives at the warehouse by Friday is distributed to the participating food pantries on Saturday. For some of the pantries, UFO provides 80% or more of their food.

Elaine Harris, UFO Chairperson says, "We'd like to be out of business, but it seems we serve more and more people each year. During these tough economic times, the need is even greater. Last year we provided food to twelve food pantries in Kanawha and Putnam counties and they distributed it in their communities to over 19,000 households and more than 30,000 people. We are extremely pleased to have received a Point of Light Award #763 November 6, 2000."

For several years, some state agencies have collected, too. Kathy Gallagher serves as the Coordinator for State Employees. An Ethics Commission advisory opinion has determined that collecting food or money would be appropriate for State Government. Anyone who would like to make a financial contribution to UFO can mail it directly to United Food Operation, Inc, P.O. Box 20441, Charleston, WV 25362. Money received is used to supplement the donated food so balanced meals can be provided. If you would like to have a collection box in your work area, call Kathy at 558-2658. If you live or work outside Kanawha and Putnam counties, and would like to contribute to a food pantry in your area, we can help you find one. UFO is a 501-3c non-profit entity.



*The United States Marine Corps' annual Toys for Tots Campaign is underway. Anyone wishing to contribute should bring NEW, UNWRAPPED toys and deposit them in any of the many collection barrels located at the Capitol Complex. Toys will be collected from the barrels periodically, but the last pickup date is December 18. All toys will be given to needy children.*

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"The card will contain a birthday greeting, age-appropriate reading tips for parents, as well as instructions for parents on how to pick up their child's free story book."

The WIC Program received special funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to purchase books for children that are age-appropriate and related to food and nutrition. All books were selected by a reading committee established by WIC. Parents will also receive a bookmark from USDA called *7 Super Things Parents & Caregivers Can Do*.

For more about participation, eligibility for WIC benefits, or to reach a reading committee member, call 304-558-0030. A list of the selected books is available in WIC clinics and online at [www.wvdhhr.org/ons](http://www.wvdhhr.org/ons).

## Pencil In ...



The phone and electric companies remind us to **keep signs off utility poles**. When you have a garage sale or open house, staple your announcement to a piece of wood with a post to stick in the ground. Staples and nails on utility poles are hazards to workers. They tear clothes, cause injury, and increase the risk of electric shock.



*did you get my email?*

Beware of the "Grinches" who send **viruses disguised as e-mail Christmas cards**. In particular, don't open anything with a subject line that reads "Happy Funny Christmas" or "Funny Christmas." And there are others - you just need to use care. As another precaution, be sure to update your anti-virus software and virus definitions.



Take a few moments to **remember Pearl Harbor** - December 7, 1941 - "a day that will live in infamy."