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## United Way FRN

### *Mission Statement*

Encouraging and empowering our local community through parent leadership, community awareness, capacity building, and cooperative planning to create resilient and sustainable families in Monongalia County.

### *About Us*

The UWFRN is an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for Monongalia County's children and families. The UWFRN encourages and empowers the local community through parent leadership, community awareness, capacity building and cooperative planning to create resilient and sustainable families. The FRN represents an important partnership between state governments and local communities to identify needs and develop a plan to meet them.

### *Ways We Help*

The UWFRN serves as a primary coordinating and planning body for Monongalia County's community service system. Rather than providing direct services, the UWFRN performs several important roles impacting children and families:

- Identifies community needs and gaps in services.
- Builds community capacity to address identified needs.
- Promotes public awareness regarding policies and issues.

### *Areas of Work*

UWFRN is continually developing collaborative relationships to ensure that Monongalia County children and families meet the following goals: to achieve and maintain good physical and mental health, to be ready to succeed in school, to possess marketable skills and have access to good jobs, to have adequate resources to protect, nurture, educate and support themselves, to live in permanent and stable homes, and to be safe in their home and community.

**Family**  
Resource Network



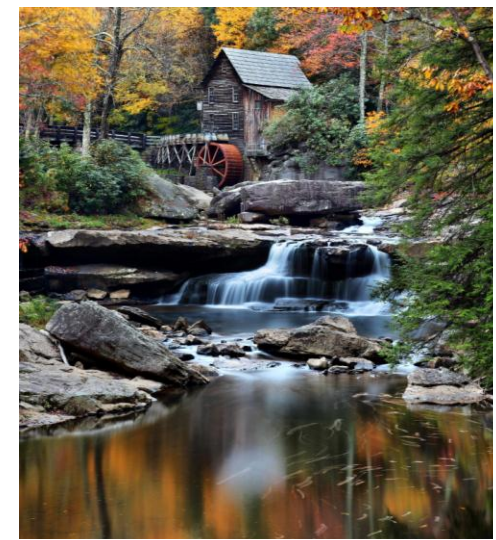
### *Highlights and Accomplishments*

- Mobilized the Food and Hunger Committee with numerous food drives, outreach activities, and sharing resources and information.
- Organized the Children and Family Leadership Council to coordinate and provide trainings and educational outreach for area professionals and members of the public.
- Implemented the Strengthening Families and Circle of Parents programs to help families become more resilient and sustainable.
- Developed and maintained partnerships with area organizations, businesses, groups and other funders to provide events, such as Holiday Food and Toy and the Outerwear Drive, which benefit our families.
- Collaborated with organizations and volunteers to create the Born Learning Trail to provide a healthy family-friendly activity in our community.
- Worked in partnership with FamilyWize to provide prescription benefits information to area pharmacies and families
- Assisted and mobilized agencies utilizing Emergency Food and Shelter Funding.
- Engaged programs, services, and systems already supporting and working with children and families in partners in preventing mistreatment, promoting development, offering support and resource information.

### **Responses from a survey about the FRN's Impact and Value**

"It has been encouraging to collaborate with the community. I feel we are a trusted partner that works well with bringing people and resources together. Our area has recently been distinguished as a "Safe Community" by the National Safety Council. It is the first Safe Community to be a collaboration between a county, city and university. The UWFRN was among the first groups to be involved in the process and continues to be an active partner."

"Provides monthly meetings where community partners gather to exchange information about ideas and offer support for community agencies who serve children & families as well as provides regular communication via email to promote awareness of activities, events, support & educational information that pertain to the health & well-being of children & families."





### *Overview of Monongalia County*

Monongalia County encompasses 360 square miles in northern West Virginia. There are 104,622 people residing in the county, an 8.8% increase in population since 2010. 37,035 households are found in the county with an average household size of 2.56 persons.

The Monongalia County population is 90.1% white, 3.9% black, and 6.0% other or mixed races. 16.6% of the population is under the age of 18 years and 11.4% are 65 yrs. of age or older. 5.3% of the population are children under 5 yrs. of age. About 16.4% of the population has migrated to the county since the previous year. This is about 1.4 times the rate in West Virginia and 10% higher than the United States. Persons with languages other than English spoken at home make up 6% of the population which is double the rate in West Virginia and about one-quarter the rate in the United States.



Among persons 25 yrs. of age or older, 91.6% are high school graduates and 39.7% are college graduates. Median household income (2015 dollars) is \$45,467, which is more than the state average of \$41,751. The poverty rate in Monongalia County is 19.6% which exceeds the state average of 17.9% of the population. 7.7% of the population

of the county under age 65 yrs. have a disability and 6.1% of the population under age 65 yrs. are without any type of health insurance. 58.9% of persons 16 yrs. of age and older are in the labor force.

57.2% of households are home owners and the median value of owner occupied housing is \$167,600. The median monthly owner cost for homeowners with a mortgage is \$1,184, and the median cost of home ownership without a mortgage is \$321. Median gross rent in Monongalia County is \$747.

Sources of Statistics: US Bureau of the Census - 2016 population estimates, ACS census of population & housing, small area health insurance estimates, small area income and poverty estimates, and the economic census.