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## Press Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## HEART AND HAND HOUSE GARNERS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM GOVERNOR

CHARLESTON –Heart and Hand House has been giving a hand up to Barbour County residents for 42 years. In 2006 alone, volunteers donated 32,942 hours of service – everything from home repair to after-school programs – to people in need.

Gov. Joe Manchin will recognize Heart and Hand House with a 2007 Governor's Service Award at a banquet July 11 in Charleston as part of Faces of Leadership, the state conference on volunteerism, national service and service-learning. Heart and Hand House is one of 13 recipients – and one of two in the organization category – of this year's premier award for volunteerism and community service in West Virginia. The awards have been presented annually since 1995 to youth, young adults, adults, seniors, families, organizations and businesses.

Affiliated with the United Methodist Church, Heart and Hand works with other denominations and nonprofits in the county to address unmet needs. Heart and Hand operates a food pantry and two thrift stores. Its home repair program helped 37 families last year with \$270,000 in donated and purchased materials and nearly 25,000 volunteer hours.

Through the Community Garden Market, low-income farmers and gardeners have been earning money by selling their surplus fruits and vegetables for 15 years. In 2006, 76 local growers earned more than \$10,000 to spend on winter utility bills and other family needs. Instead of rotting or going to waste, the produce was consumed locally. Senior citizens may purchase the produce with coupons from the West Virginia State Farmer's Market Nutrition Program; in fact, the market is the only venue in the county that accepts the coupons. WIC is also honored. As a result, seniors and young families not only eat more nutritious foods, but they socialize while

shopping. Open 49 days last summer, the market ran on 567 hours of Heart and Hand volunteer service.

The annual Christmas Toy Store is another example of Heart and Hand's "hand-up" rather than "handout" philosophy. Low-income families can purchase new toys and clothing for children, donated by local businesses and churches. The selection is comparable to that in department stores. "Children who might not otherwise have anything for Christmas can enjoy gifts," said Martha Rose Roy, Heart and Hand's board president, who nominated the organization for the award. "Parents are encouraged and empowered to provide for their families, instead of relying on free handouts."

The Governor's Service Awards are administered by the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service to honor outstanding individuals, organizations and businesses solving community problems through volunteer service. A panel of volunteer judges, including past awardees, choose the recipients on the basis of achievement, community needs, continuing involvement, innovation and impact of service.

Other recipients of the 2007 Governor's Service Awards include, by category:

- ***Lifetime Achievement:*** Joan Browning of Lewisburg; Lary D. Garrett of Mathias, Hardy County, and Michael L. V. Grunau of Parkersburg.
- ***Youth:*** Spencer William Hughes of Charleston; Hannah Leigh Little of Ivydale, Clay County, and Michelle Lusk of Rock, Mercer County.
- ***Young Adult:*** Dea Simpson of Morgantown.
- ***Adult:*** Omar J. Aboulhoshn of Princeton, Mercer County, and Teresa McCune of Williamson, Mingo County.
- ***Senior:*** Loretta Faye "Tag" Stiles of Parsons, Tucker County.
- ***Organization:*** Appalachian Outreach, Inc., Glen Dale, Marshall County.
- ***Business:*** Dominion, Harrison County.

For tickets to the awards banquet, or information about the conference, contact Moya Doneghy at (304) 558-0111 or 1-800-WV-HELPS, or by e-mail at [mdoneghy@mail.state.wv.us](mailto:mdoneghy@mail.state.wv.us).

*The West Virginia Commission for National & Community Service is a state agency dedicated to promoting the spirit of volunteerism throughout West Virginia by enabling West Virginians of all ages to strengthen their communities through service and volunteerism.*

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