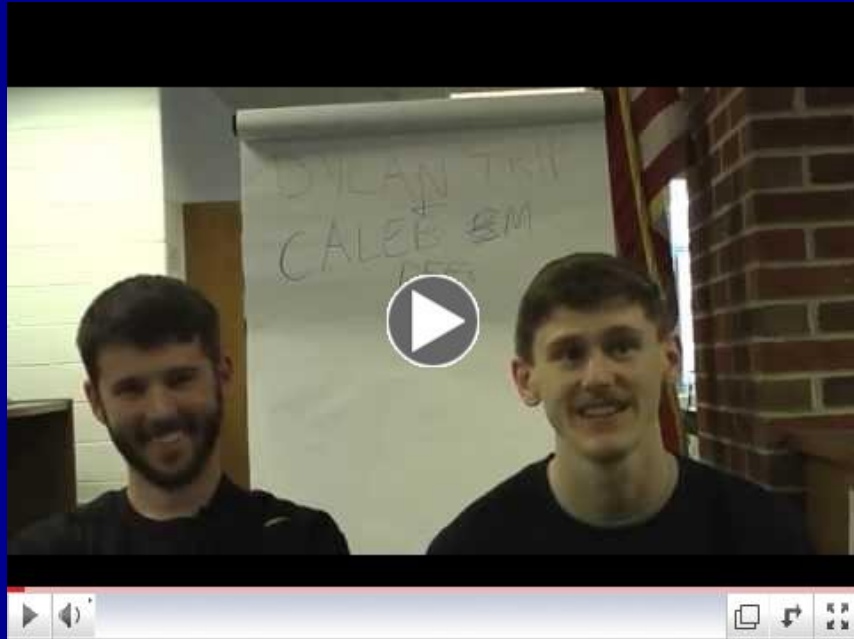


Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Morgan County Partnership. Don't forget to add megan@morganpartnership.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



**MORGAN COUNTY
PARTNERSHIP**



BSHS Alumni Share College Wisdom
Check it out!

Dear Partners,

Spring is finally here! It has been a long winter but the staff has been busy writing grants and working with its partners to plan different events, programs and activities in the schools and the community! One such program is the Youth Leadership Academy, which we are thrilled to see it continue year after year! This is also the first year that we are implementing a new evidence-base curriculum, Positive Action. This curriculum is being used to strengthen the school-based asset program that was implemented in the schools for the past three years. We are excited about adding more youth asset-building opportunities! For more information about Positive Action, go to www.positiveaction.net.

As many of you may know, the Partnership is in its last year of funding from the Drug Free Community Support Grant. This is the largest funding source for

Partnership activities and after spending lots of time this winter writing a new grant application, we hope to get re-awarded in the 2015-2016 funding year. So please keep you fingers crossed for us!

Thank you for your continued support of the Partnership!

Sincerely,

Kristin Willard
Executive Director



Morgan County Teen Court has 100th Hearing

The first Teen Court hearing was in October 2009 and its 100th on March 31, 2015. The idea for the Morgan County Teen Court developed after a group of concerned citizens met in June 2008 to discuss the growing problem of juveniles in the Morgan County criminal justice system and the lack of alternatives for juvenile cases. Concern increased after learning from the local Probation Officers that they noticed an increase in the number of youth placed in correctional facilities. For example, one probation officer noted at one point, only two out of the 18 youth in his caseload could report to him. The remaining 16 (89%) were in some sort of criminal justice correctional placement.

The Teen Court Coordinator, Charlie Willard, has worked hard over the years to develop the program in the schools in the community.

In 2010, he received the Principals' Outstanding Mentor Award for his work with youth and in 2012 the Teen Court Program was awarded the Partners In Prevention's Community Service Award for its ongoing support and dedication to the community.



Morgan County Partnership
26 Chapman Street
Berkeley Springs, WV
25411
304-258-7807
www.morganpartnership.org

Upcoming Events:

4/23/15: Adolescent Health Task Force from 9am-10am @ Starting Points

4/24/15: MCP Breakfast Meeting from 8am-9am at First Church

5/4/15: Governor's Regional Taskforce on Substance Abuse from

Teen Court is a legally binding alternative system of justice that offers young criminal offenders the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions through community service, essays, apologies and jury duties. It is listed as an Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Model Program for evidence-based Immediate Sanction programs. Morgan County Teen Court works with Morgan County youth ages 11-17. Before Teen Court, no such system existed in Morgan County. Either teens were entered into the Morgan County criminal justice system, or their parents paid a fine and the teens often escaped personal accountability. Today, parents and their teens have an option to go through the Teen Court system where parents don't have to pay a fine and teens no longer escape the consequences of their risk-taking behaviors. Upon successful completion of the program, the charges against the offending minor are dropped and the teen's record is clean.

In the last 5 years, there have been 810 students served, 107 volunteers, 135 groups (including jury and attorney training, club meetings and meetings with youth offenders), and 100 hearings. Currently there are seven more hearings waiting to go to trial.

Teen Court is partially funded through a \$5.00 fee that is assessed to any person issued a citation in the Town of Bath, Town of Paw Paw or in the county. This pays a portion of the operation costs. The other expenses have been funded by the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant through the West Virginia WV Division of Justice and Community Services. The program is in its last year of funding through this grant program but the MCP staff will continue to work to allocate additional funding to continue Teen Court.

12:30pm -2pm at South Branch Inn in Romney

5/13/15: Rx Drug Prevention Task Force Meeting from 12pm-1pm at MCP Office

5/29/15: MCP Breakfast Meeting from 8am-9am at First Church

7/24/15: Youth Art Market & Entertainment in the Park at 6pm at Berkeley Springs State Park

7/25-7/26/15: Morgan County Fair

MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S TIP LINE:

304-258-2450

This line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Help them keep our community safe!

Volunteers Needed!

The Morgan County Partnership is always in need of volunteers to work on community task forces, help plan and organize

ZERO BUYS IN MORGAN COUNTY!

After many years of providing TIPS trainings to local retailers, the county saw its first ever "zero buys" reported during the most recent compliance check on January 28, 2015. It was conducted by West Virginia Alcohol and Beverage Commission Association (WV ABCA) and the Morgan County Sheriff's Department; targeting 14 different local alcohol retailers, including stores, restaurants and bars, and none of the retailers sold alcohol to the underage buyer (0% buy rate). Previous compliance checks yielded buy rates of 46% (Nov. 2014), 15% (June 2014), 20% (Nov. 2013), 9% (August 2013), 22% (June 2013).

New Employees at the Partnership!



Angie Hott, The Paws-itive Patriot, and WSIS Principal, Dudley Cable

Angie Hott started working at the Partnership in the beginning of the school year. She is a Program Facilitator for the Positive Action Program, which is an evidence-based character education curriculum and it is based on the philosophy that we feel good about ourselves when we do positive actions. Angie brings a fun, and enthusiastic personality to the position...that is contagious! With her background in theater, she has created the "Paws-itive Patriot" to get kids excited about the program! Currently, she teaches Positive Action with 4th and 5th graders at Warm Springs Intermediate School. The Partnership is very fortunate to have her as a member of our team!



Mary Schultz teaching a workshop at the Working with Youth Training in March

Mary Schultz will be with the Partnership as a Program Facilitator until June. During her time with us, she is working on career exploration classes at Paw Paw High School, coordinating Parent Child Academy classes at the middle and high school and filling in as needed on a variety of different projects. She is a recent graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Rehabilitation and Human Services. After June, she will be working for Teach for America and moving to North Carolina. Mary is one of the nicest people you will ever know and her passion for helping people comes through in how she teaches and works with others.

events, and general office assistance, including data entry.

If you are interested in giving your time to support a local non-profit organization, please contact us at 304-258-7807 or return the volunteer form below.

Contact Information:

Morgan County Partnership

26 Chapman Street
Berkeley Springs, WV
25411

Phone: 304-258-7807

Fax: 304-258-7710

Check out our webpage at www.morganpartnership.org!

**Engage.
Educate.
Empower.**





**Youth Leadership Academy's Cohort 3- Completed Year 1 Track on
February 24, 2015**

Youth Leadership Academy Starts its 3rd Cohort of Student Leaders

The Youth Leadership Academy finished its third successful year! The goal of the Youth Leadership Academy is to engage high school students from Berkeley Springs High School and Paw Paw High School to participate in interactive leadership development workshops. The trainers and keynote speakers are local leaders working in the community. Each of the students are selected by their teachers. Selection is based on the student's leadership roles or exhibited leadership qualities.

The young leaders complete two leadership tracks. The workshop classes in the Year 1 track focus on developing the students' peer leadership skills that can be utilized at their school, extra-curricular activities and in the community. Workshop topics are Time-Management & Decision-Making, Professional Comportment, Planning & Running a Meeting, and Public Speaking 101.

After completing the Year 1 track, these same students are invited to return next year to complete a Year 2 Leadership track. The focus of these workshops is to help students provide students with tools to help them accomplish their future goals. Workshop topics are Creating Your Professional Pitch, Coping & Managing Life Stresses, Leadership Skills Inventory and Embracing Difference because Everyone Matters.

The Academy has been honored to have incredible keynote speakers to share their knowledge to our future leaders. The 2015 keynote speaker for the Year 1 Track was Wayne Keefer,

Assistant Vice President Branch Manager, CNB Bank , Hancock, MD. The Year 2 Track keynote speaker was Gat Caperton, President and CEO of Gat Creek Furniture. Judge Gina Groh has graciously provided the keynote address in the past.

Representing their commitment to the goal of the Youth Leadership Academy, the majority of the trainers have remained the same for the past three years. They are Hannah Stewart, Morgan County Starting Points, Sean Bryner, Morgan County Probation, Cindy Smalley WVU Extension, Leslie Hotaling, Panorama at the Peak, and Kristin Willard, MC Partnership. This year, additional trainers were added, including Cindy Largent-Hill, Juvenile Justice Commission, Doug Hovater, WVU Extension (Berkeley Co.) , Nikki Cowles and Wendy Baracka of the MC Partnership.

Thus far in the program's history, 115 students have participated in the program. By the end of March, a new group of young leaders finished the Year 1 Track and the second group of youth leaders completed the Year 2 Track and graduated from the program.

The program is funded in part by a grant from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation. The community planning team provided the remaining support for the programs activities. The planning team partners include: Morgan County Schools, WVU Extension, Shenandoah Women's Center, RESA 8, the Morgan County Partnership and Panorama at the Peak Restaurant. Tari's Restaurant also donated food items for the event and in past events Panorama at the Peak.

To view photos from the Youth Leadership Academy, go to [the MCP Facebook page.](#)



Asset Building Tips:

Creating a Supportive Team for Your

Child

Your child is more likely to succeed if he or she has many supportive adults in his or her life. How many caring adults do kids need? According to Search Institute research, the more they have, the better. Two adults are better than one. Three are better than two. Four are better than three.

- Talk with your children about the adult family members who are already important to them (such as aunts, uncles, and grandparents) as well as adults in the community and other places they spend time (school, youth organizations, faith community, and so on). If they do not know many adults, develop a plan together to expand their scope of contacts.
- Encourage the adults you know and trust to spend more time with your children. Offer specific invitations for connections based on mutual interests.
- Thank the adults who spend time with your kids. Notice those who make special efforts to be there for your children. These may include teachers, youth leaders, extended family members, neighbors, music instructors, tutors, bus drivers, and many other people in your children's lives.
- Encourage your children to seek insights from other caring adults when they are facing important questions or decisions such as a getting a job, exploring higher education, working through relationships, or making financial choices.
- If your children do not have a strong network of caring adults, consider finding new activities and places they would enjoy where they could build new relationships. These may include after-school activities or community organizations.

Every child needs a supportive network in their lives that includes relatives and adults from outside the family. By making an effort to connect your kids with other caring adults, you help create a network that your kids can rely on in times of need.

For a Search Institute Resource for Families, go to:

www.parentfurther.com .



Search Institute has identified 40 positive experiences and qualities that can help to ensure that young people succeed. They're called Developmental Assets, and surveys of thousands of students show that the more assets young people report experiencing, the fewer risky behaviors they'll engage in and the more good things they'll incorporate into their lives.



MORGAN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

Mark all that apply:

- I am requesting membership information
- I would like to become a volunteer for the Coalition
- I would like to make a donation to the Morgan County Partnership

Amount: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Special Interests/Skills: _____

Mail to: Morgan County Partnership, 26 Chapman Street, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Make checks payable to the Morgan County Partnership. THANK YOU!!

The Morgan County Partnership is a 501 (C) 3 Non-Profit.