



Project HOPE New River Valley

Local Group Provides Unaccompanied Youth Food for Holiday Breaks

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WoodmenLife VA Chapter 14 is a fraternal organization of Woodmen of the World Life Insurance. The purpose of the Chapters is to do good in the community and the National Community Focus is to "Fight Hunger."

The Woodmen Life Chapter 14 has been providing food bags for the unaccompanied youth of the New River Valley for the holidays to help unaccompanied students make it through the holiday when they do not

have access to free meals. The food bags include such things as macaroni and cheese, tuna salad, peanut butter crackers, and always include some treats as well.

The Chapter provided 20 bags at Christmas and Thanksgiving for distribution to Highschool through out the New River Valley. The will again provide bags for the spring break holiday in April.



Project HOPE NRV is a regional program for Homeless Education which includes the five school division in the New River Valley.

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Unaccompanied Homeless Youths Struggle During the Holidays

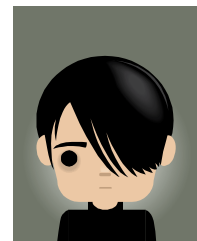
Unaccompanied youths experiencing homelessness have a particularly difficult time during the holidays. With schools closed, contact with school staff and friends may be cut off. Finding a couch on which to crash or food to eat may be challenging.

What can you do to help? First, identify students that may struggle over the holidays. Supply them with breakfast food, food in pop-top cans that can be eaten

from the can, and nourishing snack food. Be sure your student has a phone, or get them a "911 phone" from the sheriff's office, Women's Resource Center, or Project HOPE office. Talk to the student about his/her plan. Be sure he/she has emergency phone numbers to call including the numbers to police, social services and shelters. If you need assistance in creating an emergency plan for a student and want assistance, call your homeless liaison at the

number listed in this publication, or call Project HOPE NRV at 540-382-5100 x1026.

Be aware of these students who are working hard to remain invisible.





When Can We Go Home?

An Activity Book For Kids Who've Had To Leave Their Homes

Children have to leave their homes for many reasons. Natural disasters, like Hurricane Sandy, can uproot hundreds of thousands of children in just a few days. Many other children become homeless in less dramatic ways. For financial or other family reasons, children may find themselves living with relatives, in foster homes, or in shelters, instead of in the homes they know and love.

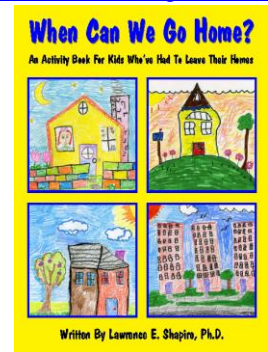
This book is designed to help children do two things: cope

with the reality of being away from their homes and develop the "emotional intelligence" skills they need to be resilient throughout life. Although children may not truly be satisfied until you can answer the question posed by the title of this book—

When can we go home?—you need to know that there are things you can do everyday to make life easier for children who have had to leave their homes.

The book can be downloaded from the following site:

<http://education.wm.edu/centers/hope/resources/shelter/documents/whencanwegohome.pdf>



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Professional Development Opportunity

School Counselors and Students Experiencing Homelessness: Tips and Strategies

>> *Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 2:00 – 3:15PM EDT*

School counselors provide important support to students experiencing homelessness, helping meet their basic needs and planning for graduation. The Every Student Succeeds Act recognized this role by adding requirements that counselors advise students experiencing homelessness and improve their readiness for college. In this webinar, we'll hear tips and strategies from a young person who experienced homelessness in high school, a current high school counselor, and a school social worker. We'll also unveil a new, 2-page tip sheet for counselors, developed specifically in response to requests from the field. Come with your questions and learn from the experts.

[Register Now](#)

