



Project HOPE New River Valley

McKinney-Vento Supports during a Pandemic: A Community Pulling Together

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The 2020-2021 school year continues to present unprecedented challenges when it comes to meeting the needs of students and families experiencing homelessness. However, our NRV community came together to support the ongoing needs of our

students experiencing homelessness in Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski and Radford. Project HOPE NRV has shoes, winter coats and cleaning supplies ready to go to families in shelters, moving to permanent housing and as needed.

In addition to these donation, WoodmenLife continued to support our unaccompanied homeless youth during extended school breaks. To adapt to the needs of students and considerations of COVID-19 restricted food gift cards replaced the traditional food bags. This change allows for personal choices as well as protection of privacy for our older youth.

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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Finally, Christiansburg High School senior class officers Ashlinn Blevins, Kolby Brown, Silas Hatcher, and Jack Slaughter along with staff mentor, Tammy Heft, organized the purchase of food boxes for all MCPS McKinney-Vento families staying in hotels. This team also adopted a McKinney-Vento family for the Christmas holiday and provided gifts for the entire family.

The giving spirit of our community and schools is a blessing to all families in the New River Valley.



New Reports on COVID-19, Education, and Homelessness

NRV Public School Homeless Liaisons:

Floyd County

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Many new reports on children and youth homelessness, education, and other related issues found below.

- [Higher Education](#)
- [Youth Homelessness](#)
- [U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Revised Federal Strategic Plan](#)
- [State-Specific Reports on Child and Student Homelessness](#)
- [COVID-19 Related](#)
- [Early Childhood](#)
- [K-12 Education](#)

Eviction Moratorium: Information and Resources

The Virginia Relief Program (RRP) is designed to support and ensure housing stability across the commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic. Depending on availability of funds and household need, the RRP may provide financial assistance for rent payments for eligible households. This includes financial assistance for rent payments past due beginning April 1, 2020 and onward with opportunity for

renewal based on availability of funding and the household's need for additional assistance and continued eligibility. [Apply for assistance](#)

Remember, if you are facing eviction, if your landlord attempts to lock you out without taking you to court, or if you have questions about your rights, contact your local legal aid by calling **1-866-LEGL-AID** or get legal advice from the Eviction

Legal Helpline by **calling 1-833-NoEvict.**

Professional Development Opportunity

Every Thursday in February | 2:00 – 2:30PM ET

Engaging and Re-engaging Students Experiencing Homelessness during the Pandemic

<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/webinars/upcoming-webinars/>