



McDowell County FACES Newsletter

The FACES of HOPE

August , 2012

facesfrn.com

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Honoring Tom Hatcher

Thomas C. Hatcher (Tom to all of us) was born in Jaeger on August 6, 1939 and we lost him on July 17, 2012 at the age of 72. Tom was a Big Creek High School graduate, WVU graduate, and Ohio State University graduate. He was a teacher in McDowell County during the last years of his life. Just before passing he was teaching 4th graders at Southside and the children loved him.

His community involvement begins and ends with his love for Christ. He was an active member of the Christ the King Catholic Church however he did not let denominational names deter him from working with fellow Christians throughout the area. His life bore out his religious convictions by his giving to the needy, helping those that were downtrodden, taking care of the widows and widowers, visiting those who were sick, and providing hospitality at his Church for any group needing it.

Tom was one of the founders and/or members of the Big Creek District Development Corporation, National Guard Junior Special Forces Program, Wastewater Treatment Coalition, McDowell County FACES, Big Creek Ministerial Association, Big Creek TEAM Center, McDowell County Economic Development Authority, Kiwanis Club, Commission on Aging, Historical Societies of Tazewell and McDowell, and many more. He served the City of War from 1997 to present as their Mayor. He brought in water and sewer projects and worked tirelessly to improve the community so families would be safe and enjoy living there. Currently Tom was working to bring in an ATV Trail, Hiking Trail, Playgrounds, Museum, and was strongly supportive of remodeling the high school until the BOE determined not to let it go. Tom lived for his community and on any given day you would see him supporting the local business. When asked to get involved in any project, program, opportunity, Tom was always willing to say "YES, count me in and we'll make time". I would be willing to bet that the majority of the miles put on his vehicle was related to everything above and little for himself.

Over the past few years Tom fought the demon of substance abuse in his community and family. He was grieved in his spirit by the number of people overdosing in our community and the inability to help them come off drugs before it was too late. I remember many conversations with him about his concern for the young people in our community and the drugs that were controlling their families. He fought to get the women's treatment facility in the county. supported education programs for substance abuse prevention, supported AA/NA groups and others.

Personally Tom was always willing to take his vehicle because he knew my eyes were a problem in larger communities and he was always first to attempt to pay for meals and expenses of the trip. I remember Paul and I paid for his meal one time and it shocked and thrilled him. With all he did for everyone, he was seldom the recipient of gifts, that I know of and he never expected any. For all he gave, how many can say I gave to him, I helped him, or I supported him. What a wonderful testament of a true Christian and dedicated servant to the people.

Gone from our lives but never from our hearts.



Next Generation: Ambassadors for Change

McDowell County FACES secured a grant through the Five Promises Foundation to offer youth an opportunity to develop leadership skills while preparing to become the next group of leaders for the County.

Purpose: McDowell youth will be ready to become the next generation leaders in prevention programs. Strategies include creating a Youth Prevention Coalition made up of peers from all sectors; providing training including strategic prevention framework and understanding nonprofits; linking mentors and job shadowing; and the opportunity to give back to the community. The target population for the initiative will be 10-12 youth ages 16-17 from River View High School catchment area.

Outcomes: Twelve youth will complete training and participate in mentoring and job shadowing sufficient to make choices for their career and to get involved in current prevention work. Youth have an understanding of service providing nonprofits. Youth are more connected to their communities and have a better understanding of prevention models. Youth participate and understand community connections, charity, and giving. Youth will begin to form bonds with others they typically they may not have relationships with. Youth are less likely to engage in risky behaviors. Measurement for the program will include pre/post surveys, attendance, mentor feedback, parent surveys, job shadowing rating, and closeout comments.

Implementation Plan:

July, 2012: Selection of youth, mentors, agencies for job shadowing. Parents and youth will be asked to sign pledges to support the initiative and commit to attendance. Inter-agency MOUs will be completed to commit to mentoring and job shadowing opportunities.

August - September, 2012: Training Sessions. Youth will be trained in the first three steps of the Strategic Prevention Framework model including assessment, capacity, and planning. Youth will assess substance abuse within their communities, schools, and county. They will complete "True Colors" training to understand their personality traits.

They will each take on the role of Prevention Coalition members based on the sectors which may be different from typical coalition sectors (i.e. cheerleader, club, faith, football, baseball, basketball, HSTA, 4-H, etc.). The purpose is to ensure a variety of sectors and demonstrate how they can work together, build new bonds, and understand their differences while building their capacity to plan for prevention.

October – December, 2012: Mentoring and Job Shadowing. After training is completed, youth will be assigned (or selected) to a mentor who will spend time teaching them about nonprofits and allow up to five days job shadowing. The job shadowing will take place during school breaks.

January – May, 2013: Give Back Project Implementation and Completion. Youth will work together to design a project for giving back to the community. This will be based on the principals of prevention learned through the program. Youth will design media pieces around their project as well.

June, 2013: Awards Ceremony, final evaluation and closeout. The HOPE Coalition and partners will host an awards ceremony to recognize the youth participating in the program. Parents will be invited to attend the ceremony and youth will receive cash stipends, certificates, and prizes.

If you are interested in participating in this program or you know someone that would be interested contact Ginger Day, Prevention Coordinator, McDowell County FACES at 304-436-5255.



FREE Basketball: All-Stars Take on Celebrities

On **August 16, 2012** the Drug Free All-Stars will take on an ALL-STAR group of celebrities at Wyoming East High School, New Richmond, WV beginning at **6:00 p.m.**

Admission is FREE

Guests will include Chris Herren of the Herren Project and Purple Initiative, Joe Mazzulla, Coach Bob Bolen, Vernell "Bimbo" Coles, WV Senator Mike Green, Mike Eades, US Congressman Nick J. Rahall, Bob Higgins, Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr. and others.

Beginning in October 2005, the ESPN Drug Free All-Stars combines fun and education into a new way of educating youth about the importance of making good choices and staying away from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Community Connections, through its Drug Free Outreach Program officially launched the ESPN Radio Drug Free All-Stars basketball team to deliver drug prevention messages in area schools and community. Made up of members from local businesses, community groups, media, law enforcement, and others, their mission to help keep kids making positive choices has stretched outside our original target area and games are now scheduled up to a 100 mile radius of Mercer County. These games are a commitment from local personalities and they truly allow the youth to see a direct connection between us and the community. We are passionate about our message and, as we like to say, everyone is a winner when the All-Stars are in town!

The Herren Project

Founded in 2011, The Herren Project

is a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation established by former NBA basketball player, Chris Herren, that assists individuals and families struggling with addiction. Chris Herren, a basketball legend from Fall River, Massachusetts, realized his dreams by playing for the Celtics in the NBA, only to lose it all to addiction. Drug-free and alcohol-free since August 1, 2008, Chris has refocused his life to put sobriety and family above all else. In 2009 Chris launched Hoop Dreams with Chris Herren, a basketball player development company which provides customized, superior basketball training through private training, clinics and camps.

Off the court Chris continues to share his story with audiences in the hopes of reaching just one person and making a difference in their life. With the release of his memoir, *Basketball Junkie*, in May of 2011, Chris was approached by hundreds of people and their families looking for assistance in their road to recovery. Inspired by their stories, Chris formed The Herren Project to educate at-risk populations on addiction and help others in taking the first steps toward recovery and a life of sobriety.

It is never too late to follow your dreams. It takes drive and follow thru to make your dreams become a reality.

Project Purple is an initiative of The Herren Project. Project Purple was launched to break the stigma of addiction, bring awareness to the dangers of substance abuse and shed light on effective treatment practices.

The Project Purple concept was developed when Chris spoke at a local high school in 2011 and the front row of students were wearing Purple shirts. After Chris shared his story, one of the purple shirts raised her hand and stood up to speak. As snickering and laughter could be heard throughout the auditorium, the student said "Thank you Mr. Herren for validating what we do. We are the sober students of this high school and each year we take a pledge to not use drugs or alcohol." Chris was captured by the courage it took to not only stand up and share the symbolism of the purple shirts, but was inspired to make a difference amongst adolescents across the United States.

In the US in 2008, almost one third of adolescents ages 12 to 17 drank alcohol in the past year. – SAMHSA, 2010. In an average day 4,365 used an illicit drug for the first time – SAMHSA, 2010
90% of addictions get their start in the teenage years. – The Partnership at Drugfree.org.

www.allstarshoops.net for more information.



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FACES Meeting: 2nd
Thursday of each month at
noon —open to the public.

HOPE Meeting: 4th Monday at
10:30 a.m.—open to the public.

Community Collaborative
Team: 4th Monday at 12:00
noon —open to the public.

Location: FACES Office

This newsletter
brought to you by funds
from the WV DHHR.

**Blueprint Update
meetings will be held
during August and
September. Emails
will be sent out soon—
please review the work
your organization,
community, municipi-
pality, etc. has done
since 2008 and let us
hear from you.**

**Send your progress to
McDowell County
FACES at
facesfrn@yahoo.com
or fax them to
304-436-5256.**

Blueprint Communities Plan Update

McDowell County Community Collaborative Team will soon begin the process necessary to produce an updated Blueprint. Below are the original goals and objectives within the plan. We are attempting to update our successes and determine where we make adjustments.

1. To promote the economic independence of families and individuals.

Reduce unemployment, barriers to economic opportunities, and self-sufficiency.
Diversify the economic base of McDowell County.

2. Strengthen communities and the county's capacity to build for their future.

Provide opportunity for individual, community, and agency involvement in strategic planning through capacity trainings.

3. To ensure a desirable quality of life and a safe and healthy living environment.

Achieve compliance in McDowell County with minimum state and federal requirements which ensure clean air, protection of water quality, and efficient disposal of solid waste to preserve and enhance the economic vitality of the region and the quality of life for all citizens and future generations.

Upgrade parks and recreational facilities in McDowell County to increase usage and marketability.

Increase the number of McDowell County families who live in standard, affordable housing including but not limited to disabled, domestic violence victims and elderly.

Establish an environmental blight abatement program that will improve the aesthetic appeal and make available land for re-development activities throughout McDowell County.

4. Create a pro-family system of integrated services to children and families that leads to economic independence.

Support integrated systems of service through the Family Resource Network
Foster a positive and productive environment which embraces the importance of children and families to McDowell County's future.

Adopt a comprehensive system to address and reduce the number of child abuse and neglect cases.

Decrease the number of teen pregnancies by 10% by 2017.

Reduce drug use and abuse in youth and over time in adults.

Create a system of assistance to provide "the other needed services" to victims of domestic violence and homelessness.

McDowell will provide support services for the elderly that ensure a higher quality of life and independent living.

5. McDowell County will have access to health insurance and programs for prevention of diseases and premature death.

Increase access to affordable health care for families and individuals in McDowell County.

Reduce preventable illness, disability, and premature death by increasing public awareness of lifestyle risk factors that impact on chronic diseases and unintentional injuries for McDowell County.

6. McDowell County will have safe communities.

Reduce overall crime rates in McDowell County.

7. McDowell County will have a strong education system that prepares youth and adults for life and work in the future.

Provide solid educational foundation that will result in career development for McDowell County Youth and Adults.