

LITTLE KANAWHA RC&D

Resource Conservation & Development Council

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Title: Little Kanawha's Project Sharing program

Categories: Job Creation, Community Development through Social Equity and Project Sharing, Recycling through Repurposing, Outreach to Underserved Populations

- Little Kanawha RC&D's Project Sharing program in West Virginia was created to assist regional charities that serve the underserved in our 9-county region. This is a tremendous showcase of the dedication and vision of our organization by "Leading communities through partnerships to make things happen".
- Total value of Project Sharing is over \$900,000.
- Return on federal investment for all RC&D programs: Previously estimated by NRCS at \$7.00 for every \$1.00.
- Since the beginning of Project Sharing in 2006, our program has grown from just a few recipient groups to over 400 registered groups. We secured a warehouse for distribution with space donated to receive the items that were secured to redistribute to eligible organizations, churches, schools, non-profits, Title I schools. Since that time we have filled three job positions and have provided training opportunities for the volunteers who assist us in the operation. We secured a worker through the NCOA (senior program) who works with inventory control and accountability of incoming and outgoing products. Funding was secured through a local foundation and we partnered with local Home Depot stores through Gifts-In-Kind International, now known as Good360. A website was created for Project Sharing where recipients may monitor inventory – members come from a nine-county region and the website allows those in more remote areas to see what is on hand before driving several hours for pickup. We have also distributed outside our area to organizations in Washington County, OH, and to the Northern Panhandle region of West Virginia.
- The most measurable outcomes of Little Kanawha RC&D's Project Sharing is that we are able to secure items and redistribute those items to other organizations

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who in turn provide them to those in need. It is very rewarding to know that through our program we have helped supply sometimes everyday basic items for senior citizens, child care centers, schools, churches, and organizations that serve others in need. From food items, to clothing, personal hygiene products, building materials and items such as holiday plates and flower pots, cabinets, windows, doors, sinks, planners and calendars, to books, hand sanitizer, paints, lights, electrical supplies, pantyhose and clothing, we are helping fill a need.

- Young people of volunteers who assist at the warehouse have also worked to stack, sort and prepare goods received for distribution. With a lack of young people now, we were pleased to help host the Mid-Ohio Valley Work Camp last spring, and for the past several years. Work Camp volunteers come from several states and converge on the area in June each year. The youth and adult supervisors perform maintenance and repairs on households in the area. Last year, the youth group (and adults) assisted in painting our huge Project Sharing warehouse! RC&D provided funding to help their program, and also paint rollers to be used in their work around the community. This experience was beneficial for not only RC&D and their group, but also for the Department of Agriculture, who owns the warehouse.

- Partners of Project Sharing include or have included:
 - Our many volunteers
 - Christian Appalachian Project
 - Home Depot
 - Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund
 - Good360 (Gifts-In-Kind International)
 - NAEIR

 - Support from the County Commissions in our 9-county region
 - Little Kanawha Conservation District
 - Upper Ohio Conservation District
 - Citizens Conservation Corps
 - US Department of Agriculture
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - National Council on Aging

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- And by those who partner with us to provide goods to others: schools, churches, non-profits, etc.

- For more information, please contact:
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