



## Volunteer Newsletter

### Debbie Boggs: Volunteer Highlight

Debbie and Dale Boggs live in Second Creek, WV in Monroe County. They have two children, six wonderful grandchildren and a special grandchild.

Until 2005, insurance for their family was provided through the business they own and operate. The deductibles were high and the premiums seemed to increase every year, but the Boggs felt they had to have insurance coverage for their family. Then, unexpectedly, the insurance company dropped their coverage and they found themselves without insurance.

In 2010, Debbie was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was a very difficult time for the family, especially Debbie. Not only was she dealing with a breast cancer diagnosis, but she was worried about the financial burden that breast cancer treatment would place on her family. Debbie tried finding organizations and programs that would help cover the cost of her treatment. Even though her husband reassured her that they would do anything to raise the money for her treatment, even sell the business, she was still devastated by the potential cost of treatment.



Debbie and Dale  
Boggs

Through a friend, Debbie's daughter Alisha learned about the WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP). She encouraged her mother to call to find out if she qualified for the program. Debbie qualified for WVBCCSP and was then referred to the WV Medicaid Treatment Act. She went through chemotherapy, a lumpectomy, radiation and hormonal treatment. Debbie says the WVBCCSP and the WV Medicaid Treatment Act were a miracle, a blessing and all costs of her treatment were covered. She and her family were grateful for both programs.

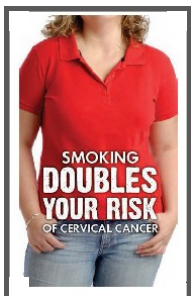
In 2011, Debbie wanted to give back to the WVBCCSP and began serving as a volunteer with the Monroe County Cancer Volunteers. Not only does this group of volunteers hold fundraisers in Monroe County all year round, they work closely with the Greenbrier County Volunteers. Since she joined the group the rest of her family has also become active volunteers. Some of the activities completed include: Walk for Women, PAWS for a Cure, Remembrance Walk and wreath hanging, 5K on Potts Valley Rail Trail, float in the Farmer's Day parade, Quilt of Hope and several pink events held at local schools.

Thank you Debbie and the Monroe and Greenbrier County Volunteers for all you do to help provide funds for breast and cervical cancer treatment for uninsured WV women.

## Cancer Prevention and Control Highlight

Last year, West Virginia's cancer and tobacco programs, working under the umbrella of Mountains of Hope, the state's Comprehensive Cancer Coalition, identified a campaign that would allow them to address two public health issues at the same time: cervical cancer and smoking. The WV Comprehensive Cancer Program, WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, WV Tobacco Quitline and the Office of Cancer Prevention and

Control at the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center replicated a project completed a few years ago in Idaho to spread the word that "Smoking Doubles Your Risk of Cervical Cancer." This public awareness campaign aimed to reach people in their local communities through the distribution of rack and business cards at fairs, festivals and healthcare provider sites. Starting in November 2014, all women calling the Quitline were asked, "Do you know that smoking doubles your risk of cervical cancer (Yes, no, refuse)? Baseline data was collected from November through December and starting in January, campaign materials were disseminated across the state. All Quitline callers, male and female, are sent the "Smoking Doubles Your Risk" cards in their initial packets. The idea is to spread this message across the state to both men and women. Smoking affects more than our lungs and it is an important population-based message. Help us spread the word that smoking doubles your risk of cervical cancer.



Wallet Card

## Steps to Organizing a Purse Auction

by Debbie Viands, Jefferson County CEOS

At the Volunteer Luncheon, there were several requests for guidelines on how to organize a fundraising event in October. Volunteers suggested that community groups involved with successful, annual fundraisers share their expertise in organizing their event. Debbie Viands, a member of the Jefferson County Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS), has been involved with the Purse Auction and Luncheon for several years and has shared the steps they go through to organize the event.

1. Schedule the first planning meeting in November or December to set a date for the event and secure the venue. Set dates for future planning meetings well in advance of the event.
2. Find an auctioneer. It is best to use a professional auctioneer for the event. (Our auctioneer donates his time.)
3. Establish ticket cost. To set the price, first determine the cost of the venue and food. We serve a deli luncheon buffet with a variety of meats and salads. This menu keeps the cost of tickets to a minimum.
4. Contact donors. Write letters to dignitaries, local politicians, etc. requesting donations of vintage, lightly used and new purses. Also write letters to local banks and businesses asking for donations of purses, gift certificates and products to use as purse stuffers or door prizes. Collect purses from individual donors. Face-to-face requests are the most successful. We recognize all donations in our program on the day of the event.
5. Advertise! Use posters, save-the-date cards, local media and social media as soon as possible.
6. Sell tickets. We start selling tickets in July for our October event.
7. Set up the auction. Prior to the auction, decide which purses are suitable for auction and which will go on donation tables. Set up tables with \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25 and \$30 purses. There is also a silent auction with donated items that generates interest throughout the event.
8. Remember to use your tax exempt status when doing a fundraiser.

If you have any specific questions contact Debbie at [deviands@aol.com](mailto:deviands@aol.com) with purse auction in subject line.

The key to our success has been to **start small and build!** Nine years ago our first purse auction had about 30 participants and raised less than \$1,000. In 2014, we had about 225 participants and raised \$8,626.24!



One of the purse tables



Debbie modeling a purse



The Auctioneer in action