



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - WV BIRTH TO THREE MAKING CONNECTIONS

Hello Summer, Region 5 & 6!

As the sun shines brighter, we're here to remind you—you're not alone on this journey. Our mission is to support families through the WV Birth to Three program with care, guidance, and shared experience.

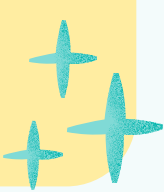

Whether you need resources, encouragement, or just someone who understands, we're here every step of the way. Enjoy the season—and reach out anytime!

Region 5 – April Waybright
Region 6 – Samantha Modley



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Did you know that anyone can make a referral to our program?

- No income guidelines
- Services provided at no cost to our families.
- Services provided in the child's natural environment.

Scan the QR code to submit a referral electronically!



REGIONS 5 & 6

SUMMER 2025

REGIONAL UPDATES

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT REGION 6 - 2025



Region 5 and Region 6 joined forces this quarter to host memorable family engagement events for the families they serve. Both offices embraced a “Touch a Truck” theme, inviting local firefighters and EMS workers to give children an up-close look at emergency vehicles—and a chance to meet real-life community heroes.

While the theme was consistent, each region added its own creative flair:

- Region 5 brought the magic with special appearances from the Ice Princesses and Blippi, who mingled with families and made the day extra special.
- Region 6 created an interactive Box City and provided Cozy Coupes for little ones to explore and play.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT REGION 6 - 2025

To keep everyone fueled for fun, local pizza from restaurants in each RAU was served—another way these events highlighted and supported the communities they serve.

Both events were a tremendous success, filled with fun, laughter, and community spirit. Families enjoyed meaningful interactions, hands-on experiences, and plenty of activities for all ages.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all of the community partners who shared resources, and to the organizations that donated items for the always-popular hourly raffles. Your support helped make these events such a hit!

INTERIM

SERVICE COORDINATOR

CRYSTAL KNIGHT



ABOUT ME :



Originally from Webster Springs, Crystal is married, has one adult child, a beautiful granddaughter, and a Weimaraner named Nitro.

She's been involved with WV Birth to Three in various roles for about eight years, inspired by her love for children and families.

COUNTIES

Tucker
Randolph
Lewis
Upshur

She's a big football fan — from little league to the pros — and her favorite children's book is The Story of Rock, because it's never too early to introduce kids to great music!

FUN FACT

CONTACT



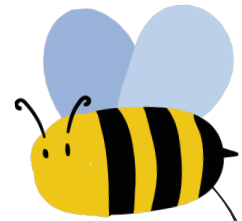
Mountain Heart Community Services
1200 Harrison Ave, Suite 220
ELKINS, WV 26241

Phone: 304-997-3911
Fax: 304-637-2845
E-mail: cknight@mthtwv.org



INTERIM SERVICE COORDINATOR

TIFFANY "TJ" SHORT



About me

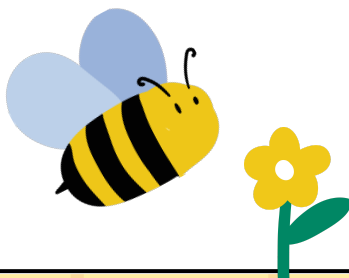
T.J. lives in Clarksburg, WV with two cats and enjoys spending time with her 8-year-old nephew, who's also one of her best friends. With a strong passion for working with children, T.J. earned an associate degree in Early Childhood from Pierpont Community and Technical College and a bachelor's in Family and Consumer Sciences from Fairmont State University.

After years of teaching in Pre-K and Head Start classrooms across West Virginia, T.J. became curious about WV Birth to Three after connecting with practitioners in the field. Three years ago, she made the leap into early intervention and hasn't looked back — She is grateful for the opportunity to support families, build relationships, and continue learning about child development.



Fun Fact

T.J. has been singing since she could talk and even had the opportunity to record a song in Knoxville, Tennessee at just 9 years old. While she doesn't sing as often these days, music is still a big part of her life — and she believes it plays an important role in how children learn and grow.



Counties Served :

Preston, Barbour
Taylor

Contact :

Mountain Heart Community Services

1200 Harrison Ave, Suite 220

ELKINS, WV 26241

Phone: 304-290-8964

Fax: 304.637.2845

E-mail: tshort@thtwv.org

With summer in full swing, T.J.'s favorite way to spend the season is simply getting outside and enjoying the sunshine. Whether she's swimming, reading a good book outdoors, or hiking through one of West Virginia's beautiful state parks, she makes the most of the warm weather. Summer is her favorite season, and she encourages everyone to get out and soak it in!



INTERIM SERVICE COORDINATOR



AMY MYERS

**AMY WAS BORN AND
RAISED IN
GREENBRIER COUNTY.
SHE LOVES
SUMMERTIME, AND
ENJOYS MUSIC AND
COOKING.**



COUNTIES SERVED

Greenbrier
Monroe
Pocahontas
Summers

A FAVORITE FROM AMY'S BOOKSHELF:

"I always recommend reading Dr. Seuss books with little ones – the rhymes are fun, silly, and great for language development!"



CONTACT INFO:

Mountain Heart Community Services
248 Red Oak Shopping Center Dr.
Ronceverte, WV 24970

304.647.3810
amyers@mhthtwv.org



INTERIM SERVICE COORDINATOR ROSE MARY CLEVINGER



ROSE MARY'S REMINDER

"Enjoy every moment with your child and allow them to teach you what they know. Let them feel important—because they are!"



ABOUT ME

Rose Mary serves as the Interim Service Coordinator for Nicholas, Webster, and Braxton counties. She's a proud mother, grandmother, and aunt to many nieces and nephews.

With over 20 years of experience in early, primary, and secondary education, Rose Mary has a deep passion for supporting children and families—especially those with special needs.

Her heart for helping others is what brought her to WV Birth to Three.



FUN FACT

Rose Mary enjoys arts and crafts, especially when shared with children, and loves to sing and play guitar.

One of her favorite summer traditions is gathering around the campfire with family and friends—playing music, roasting marshmallows, and enjoying time together.

CONTACT ME :



304.647.3810



rclevenger@mhthtwv.org

Mountain Heart Community Services
248 Red Oak Shopping Center Dr.
Ronceverte, WV 24970

ADVICE

from the field

Narrate Summer Walks to Build Language

"Even a simple walk in the neighborhood can be packed with language! I had a family start a 'walk and talk' tradition. They'd point out animals, sounds, and vehicles—turning a routine stroll into a rich conversation."

—Speech and Language Pathologist, WV BTT

Try this:

Narrate what you see and hear: "Look at that big dog! The bird is flying. I hear a lawn mower—vroom!"



EXPLORE



CREATE

Support Sensory Development with Water Play

"Water play is more than just cooling off—it's a chance to explore textures, temperature, and movement. One toddler loved pouring water between cups. We added a few measuring spoons, and it became a sensory math lesson!"

—Occupational Therapist, WV BTT

Try this:

Set up a water bin with safe kitchen tools, sponges, and toys. Talk about what sinks, floats, or splashes.

Let summer's slower pace be your reminder to pause, play, and connect—because everyday moments are where lifelong learning begins.



Practitioner Recruitment

"The daily challenges are very difficult to do alone, but with WV Birth to Three services it makes life easier..."

Marci Osburn - WVBTT Parent

When a family experiences the birth of a child with a disability or becomes concerned about their child's development, they may look for support from important people in their lives. Sometimes families want more information from professionals who understand child development and have knowledge about their child's disability. West Virginia Birth to Three can provide that support.

West Virginia Birth to Three seeks service coordinators and service practitioners whose primary role is to partner with and coach family members and caregivers in meeting children's needs.

SERVICE COORDINATOR

- Link families to needed financial resources
- Help the family coordinate and evaluate their service needs
- Help the family and child's support team to communicate and stay in touch

REQUIRED SKILLS:

- Bachelors degree in a human service field or in another closely related field with early childhood training
- Parents of children who received early intervention services
- Must meet entry level standards
- Must enroll under a service coordination agency

SERVICE PRACTITIONER

- Background in early childhood education, preschool special education, social work, nutrition, physical therapy, counseling, nursing, occupational therapy, speech pathology, psychology, orientation and mobility, vision, deaf education, health care, or audiology
- May enroll in the system independently or through a practitioner agency

REQUIRED SKILLS:

- Must meet licensing and education requirements for your discipline
- Must meet entry level standards

To review the **WV Birth to Three Personnel Guide for qualifications** scan the QR Code

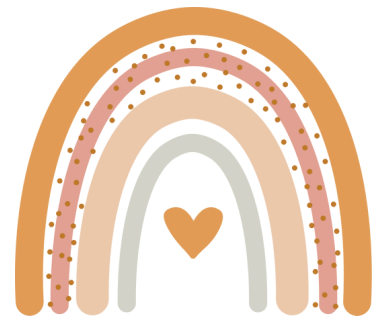


For more information about enrolling with WV Birth to Three as a service coordinator or a direct service provider call **1-800-642-8522** or email: [West Virginia Birth to Three](#)

WV Birth to Three services and supports are provided under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and administered through the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, WV Department of Health and Human Resources



QUARTERLY RESOURCE TRANSPORTATION



GOOD NEWS MOUNTAINEER GARAGE

Good News Mountaineer Garage (GNMG) is a nonprofit organization in West Virginia dedicated to providing safe, reliable transportation to individuals and families with low incomes. By accepting donated vehicles, performing necessary repairs, and distributing them to qualified recipients, GNMG helps individuals overcome transportation barriers to employment and education.

By providing transportation solutions, Good News Mountaineer Garage plays a vital role in helping West Virginians achieve independence and improve their quality of life.
Referral required by WVWORKS or Jobs for Hope.



JOBS FOR HOPE

- In partnership with Good News Mountaineer Garage, Jobs & Hope WV provides eligible participants with donated vehicles.
- Jobs & Hope WV collaborates with Modivcare to offer transportation to essential services for eligible participants.
- Jobs & Hope WV provides vehicles for eligible participants to take their driver's license exams.
- "Get Paid to Pay It Forward" Driver Incentive Program - compensates drivers for transporting individuals to substance use treatment, addressing transportation challenges, especially in rural areas. Drivers are paid per mile and can choose the assignments they accept. The program encourages individuals in recovery to apply as contract workers through Modivcare.

**The statewide contact number for
Jobs & Hope West Virginia is 1-833-784-1385.**
**You can also reach them at 304-583-4008 or via email at
JobsAndHope@wv.gov.**



GOODWILL - WHEELS TO WORK

Program Overview:

- Objective: Provide reliable vehicles to employed individuals lacking transportation.
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Must be employed for at least 90 days.
 - No existing car loans.
 - No history of bankruptcy.
 - Ability to make a \$500 down payment.
- Financial Terms:
 - The loan is managed through Goodwill, with interest applied during the repayment period.
 - Upon full repayment, all interest paid over the life of the loan is reimbursed to the participant.

This program is designed to eliminate transportation barriers, enabling participants to sustain employment and work towards financial independence.

Contact Information:
Phone: 1-800-545-9231
Website: giveit2goodwill.org

MODIVCARE


ModivCare is a non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) provider that serves Medicaid members in West Virginia. The company offers both ride services and mileage reimbursement programs to ensure eligible individuals can access necessary medical appointments.

Ride Service - Medicaid members in West Virginia are eligible for transportation to covered medical services. Call ModivCare at 1-844-549-8353 to schedule a ride. It's recommended to schedule rides at least 5 business days in advance.

Types of Transportation: Sedans, Wheelchair-accessible vehicles, & other specialized vehicles as needed

Mileage Reimbursement - Medicaid members who have access to a personal vehicle or someone who can drive them to appointments may qualify for mileage reimbursement. Contact ModivCare at 1-844-549-8353 to obtain pre-approval for mileage reimbursement. Keep a detailed log of each trip, including dates, destinations, and mileage. Submit the completed trip log to ModivCare for reimbursement. Rates are determined by the West Virginia Medicaid program and may vary.

Phone: 1-844-549-8353
Website: modivcare.com



MOUNTAIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY



MTA serves Greenbrier, Nicholas, Webster, Monroe, and Pocahontas Counties, WV. Covering about 250,000 miles annually, MTA operates seven regular routes with a team of 15 staff, including drivers, admin, and a mechanic.

Services include deviated fixed-route schedules, a Call-a-Ride option in Summersville, non-emergency medical transport, and contracted rides for social service agencies. All buses are ADA compliant, and services are open to everyone.

RIDER INFO

- The bus only stops if passengers are visible roadside—please wave to signal the driver.
- Arrive early, as clocks may vary.
- Anyone can ride! MTA does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, or other protected status.
- For Title VI or ADA info or complaints, contact MTA.
- All buses are wheelchair accessible; mobility devices must be secured.
- Deviation service (up to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile off route) is available with 24-hour notice; extra charges may apply.
- Alternative schedule formats (Braille, large print, audio, digital) available—call (304) 872-5872, Mon–Fri, 8am–4pm.
- Stay seated while the bus is moving.
- Smoking, drinking, loud music, and disorderly conduct are prohibited.
- Only service animals are allowed on board.



NON EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Whether you require transportation to medical appointments, treatments, or hospital discharges, our compassionate team is here to provide comfortable and professional assistance every step of the way.



To make a reservation for eligible **Medicaid** members during normal business hours, call: 1-844-889-1941
After 5:00 p.m., call: 1-844-549-8353

To schedule transportation for eligible **Medicare** members with Access2Care, you can:
Call the toll-free number
1-844-572-8194



Call us at
304-872-5872

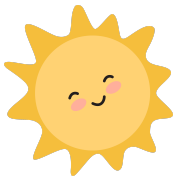


Visit Our Website:
www.mtawv.com

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS



1. STAY SUN SAFE



APPLY A BROAD-SPECTRUM SUNSCREEN (SPF 30 OR HIGHER) EVERY TWO HOURS—AND MORE OFTEN IF SWIMMING OR SWEATING. DON'T FORGET HATS AND SUNGLASSES FOR EXTRA PROTECTION.



2. KEEP HYDRATED

ENCOURAGE KIDS TO DRINK WATER FREQUENTLY, ESPECIALLY DURING OUTDOOR PLAY. DEHYDRATION CAN SNEAK UP QUICKLY IN THE HEAT.



3. NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN IN CARS

EVEN WITH THE WINDOWS CRACKED, CAR INTERIORS HEAT UP FAST. ALWAYS CHECK THE BACK SEAT, AND LOCK YOUR CAR WHEN PARKED TO PREVENT CURIOUS KIDS FROM CLIMBING IN.



4. SUPERVISE WATER PLAY

WHETHER AT THE POOL, LAKE, OR EVEN A SPLASH PAD, ALWAYS WATCH CHILDREN CLOSELY. DROWNING CAN HAPPEN QUICKLY AND SILENTLY—EVEN IN SHALLOW WATER.



5. PROTECT FROM BUGS

USE CHILD-SAFE INSECT REPELLENT AND DRESS KIDS IN LIGHT-COLORED CLOTHING TO PREVENT BITES FROM MOSQUITOES, TICKS, AND OTHER SUMMER PESTS.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES



Sensory Nature Walk & Texture Hunt

What to do: Take a slow stroll through a park or backyard and collect natural items like leaves, pinecones, smooth rocks, or flower petals. Let your child touch, smell, and explore the textures.

Supports:

- Sensory development (touch, smell, sight)
- Language skills (labeling items: "smooth rock," "bumpy leaf")
- Fine motor skills (picking up, holding, and placing items in a basket)

Adaptations: Use a stroller or carrier if mobility is limited, and describe everything out loud to encourage language exposure.



WATER PLAY SORTING STATION

What to do: Fill a shallow bin or tub with water and provide toys or objects in different sizes, shapes, or colors. Have your child scoop, pour, and "sort" by dropping similar items into matching bowls or containers.

Supports:

- Cognitive skills (early sorting and categorizing)
- Motor planning and coordination
- Receptive language (following simple directions: "put all the red ones here")

Adaptations: Sit on the ground together or use a high chair tray to make access easier and more stable.

Cool Summer Treats

- Frozen yogurt melts
- Homemade fruit popsicles
- Frozen banana bites
- Smoothie bowls or cups
- Chilled watermelon sticks
- Breast milk or formula pops
- Applesauce or fruit pouch ice pops
- Chilled oatmeal bites



INTERACT

**Want to provide
feedback from
your experience?**

Region 5:

**Barbour, Lewis, Preston,
Randolph, Taylor, Tucker,
Upshur**

✉ awaybright@mthtwv.org

Region 6:

**Braxton, Greenbrier, Monroe,
Nicholas, Pocahontas,
Summers, Webster**

✉ smodley@mthtwv.org



**RACHEL HAMNER
PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

REGION 5

MOUNTAINHEART

COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

1200 HARRISON AVENUE, SUITE 220

ELKINS, WV 26241

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FAX (304) 637-2845

TOLL-FREE: 1-800-449-7790

**REGION 6
MOUNTAINHEART
COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.**

P.O. BOX 1610

LEWISBURG, WV 24901

PHONE: (304) 647-3810

FAX (304) 647-5521

TOLL-FREE: 1-866-229-0461

