

## Stay connected with McDowell

McDowell County is an American story that deserves a new chapter—one filled with promise, with goodwill, with the type of shared commitment that offers solid reasons to believe in a brighter future. Be a part of this historic partnership and show your support for McDowell's children and the greater community by joining the effort at [www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org](http://www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org).

## Broader Horizons Students Visit Charleston

Mentees in the Broader Horizons program, funded by the AT&T Foundation and now in its fifth year, visited Charleston Jan. 13-17. The 22 McDowell County junior high school students traveled to the state capital for a week of learning opportunities and fun activities. They took a tour of West Virginia State University; had a personalized tour of the Clay Center, which houses performing arts and visual arts and sciences under one roof; received communications training; and met with their state representatives. The students also took time to volunteer at Manna Meal, a nonprofit organization that operates a soup kitchen in Charleston, where they folded clothes and organized shoes that would be sold in its thrift store.

The mentees' next trip will be to Washington, D.C. in June.

**Students have some fun scaling Ashton's Climbing Sculpture at the Clay Center in Charleston.**



**Students help organize donations at Manna Meal.**



**N'Diya Harris tries an oyster for the first time.**



**▲ From left, Adrianne Montgomery, Destiny Robertson and Nadia Johnson**

## Empowering Young Women

Now, as Broader Horizons alumni, former mentees have continued opportunities for professional and personal development, networking and community engagement. Nadia Johnson, Adrianne Montgomery and Destiny Robertson had such an opportunity when they attended Power Rising Feb. 21-24 in New Orleans. The event provided a space for black women and girls to create an actionable agenda to be implemented in their communities for the betterment of themselves and their communities. This was the second Power Rising, and it was co-convened by Reconnecting McDowell's Project Manager Leah Daughtry.

More than 40 workshops and trainings were offered on topics ranging from gaining funding for business ven-

tures, effective branding tips, addressing mental health issues, the portrayal of black women in media and television to how to run for office and support systems for black girls in higher education. On the third day of the conference, there were solution-focused regional breakouts where Adrianne, Nadia and Destiny could meet with other black women from their region to discuss and strategize about the issues affecting black women in their region.

The conference was organized around five key pillars of activism and engagement: Business and Economic Empowerment; Culture, Community and Society; Education, Technology and Innovation; Health and Wellness; and Political Empowerment.

# Wraparound Services Subcommittee Meeting

Reconnecting McDowell's Health, Social and Emotional Wraparound Services Subcommittee met on Feb. 22. The meeting included representatives from the Sheriff's Office, McDowell County Schools, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Tug River Health Clinic and River View High School.

Subcommittee members discussed ways to increase the number of therapists in the County; the job fair at the Department of Health and Human Resources; the need for foster parents in the area; and the mental hygiene

petition process, which allows a family member to commit someone to a mental hospital if it is proven that the individual may potentially harm themselves or someone else. The goals from that meeting are to visit Concord University to recruit therapists who will be graduating soon; to hold a reception at the DHHR to recruit foster parents; and to meet with the Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center to streamline the mental hygiene petition process.

The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 3, at 11 a.m. at Southern Highlands in Welch.

## Thank You, United Steelworkers and UniCare!

Reconnecting McDowell would like to thank the United Steelworkers Women of Steel and UniCare for their contribution to the eldercare kits provided to the Department of Health and Human Resources. Items in the kits included

fleece throws, toiletries, socks, coloring books, crayons, pens, hand sanitizers, emery boards, and a cloth shopping bag to hold the items. USW and UniCare's contribution filled up 20 bags that were delivered to DHHR in December.

## Maier Foundation Supports More Reconnecting McDowell Scholarships

The Maier Foundation has awarded Reconnecting McDowell a \$40,000 grant that will be used to award scholarships to McDowell County students seeking

tertiary education in West Virginia. The grant is a renewal of a 2018 grant that provided four high school students in the County with \$5,000 scholarships.

## Let's Connect

Follow Reconnecting McDowell on social media to receive the latest updates and news. We share information on webinars, job-training opportunities and upcoming community events. We also highlight our partners and their work in McDowell County and the state.

### Social Media

-  Follow us on Twitter: [@ReconnectMcD](https://twitter.com/ReconnectMcD)
-  Follow us on Instagram: [@ReconnectMcD](https://www.instagram.com/ReconnectMcD)
-  Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/ReconnectMcD](https://www.facebook.com/ReconnectMcD)

# WELCOME FRANCES McNULTY to the Team!



My name is Frances McNulty, and I recently joined the Reconnecting McDowell team as a community liaison. I was raised in Wyoming County, graduated from Baileysville High School, and currently live in Pineville. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in organizational leadership from the University of Charleston. My professional background is in the legal, human resources and mental health fields. I previously worked at the Department of Health and Human Resources in Welch, and am excited to be working in McDowell County again. I'm always impressed by the kindness and strength of the residents I know—and look forward to meeting and working with many more. I believe that together we can achieve great things in McDowell County.

For a list of Reconnecting McDowell partners, visit [www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org/partners](http://www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org/partners).

## Want to get involved or learn more?

For more information about Reconnecting McDowell or to find out how you can get involved, contact Chad Webb ([cwebb@aftwv.org](mailto:cwebb@aftwv.org)) or Debra Elmore ([delmore@aftwv.org](mailto:delmore@aftwv.org) or 304-552-5766).

