

Reconnecting McDOWELL

www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org

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.

Demolition Clears the Way for Renaissance Village

Following asbestos removal in May, a demolition ceremony for the Best Furniture building took place on June 9. Welch Mayor Reba Honaker, West Virginia House of Delegates member Clif Moore, and Reconnecting McDowell Chair Gayle Manchin attended the ceremony. Kelsie Potter, a student in the Broader Horizons mentorship program, was a featured speaker at the event and participated in the ceremonial demolition. Potter said that Renaissance Village gives her hope for the future because it symbolizes the revitalization of downtown Welch and the County.

Renaissance Village, a Reconnecting McDowell project, will provide much-needed housing for teachers and County residents.

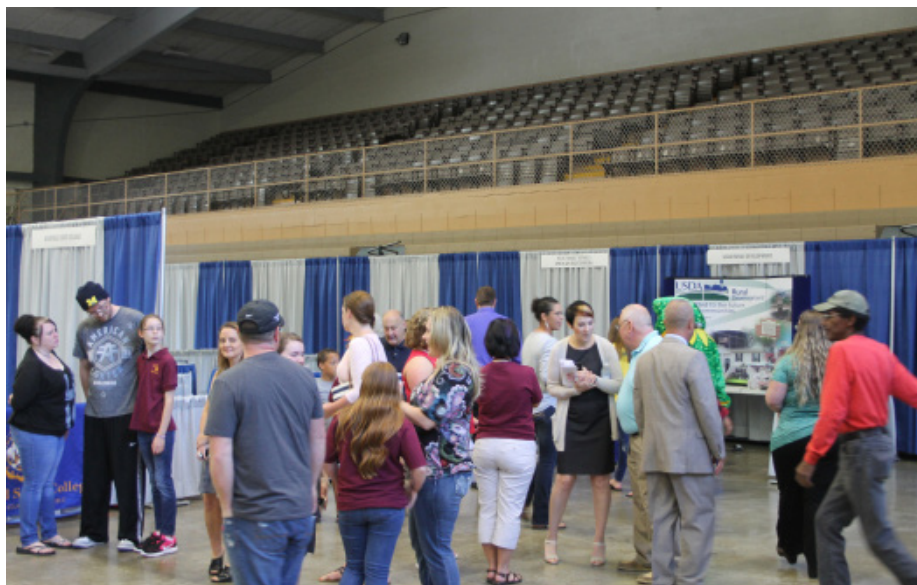


▲ Broader Horizons mentee Kelsie Potter knocks a brick out of the Best Furniture building.

2016 Expo: Expanding Opportunities for Success

Reconnecting McDowell partners organized this year's McDowell County Expo, which was held June 9-10. The event showcased a variety of businesses, resources and services—all centered on the expo theme "Expanding Opportunities for Success." Two WorkForce West Virginia booths offered regional and local job opportunities, as well as help in reviewing résumés and assisting expo attendees with the job application process.

Representatives from health providers, such as Tug River Health Association and Marden Rehabilitation attended the expo, which also featured a community schools booth. Attendees took advantage of the school district's on-site registration for pre-K and kindergarten and information on MountainHeart Community Services' "WV Birth to Three" program's early intervention services. UMWA Health and Retirement Funds and Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center also had booths at the expo.



▲ McDowell County Expo attendees interact with booth vendors and McDowell County School staff.



◀ The McDowell County Expo showcased a variety of community organizations.

American Educator Covers McDowell County

The summer issue of *American Educator*—the quarterly journal of the American Federation of Teachers—features an article on McDowell County that chronicles the factors that have led to the County’s current challenges. It also discusses how the tenacity of resi-

dents and the power of Reconnecting McDowell partnerships have brought about positive changes, especially in the lives of participants in the Broader Horizons program. Read the full article at <http://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/ae-summer2016.pdf>.



▲ During their visit to the Greenbrier, former participants in the Broader Horizons mentorship program discuss the accomplishments they are most proud of achieving. Their visit is covered in the summer issue of the *American Educator*.

Social Media

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For a list of Reconnecting McDowell partners, visit <http://www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org/partners>

School and Community Social

Southside K-8 School is organizing its sixth annual School and Community Social, to be held on Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students will be able to network, socialize with their peers and become acquainted with their new teachers and class schedules. The event, which is open to the community, will be held on Southside K-8’s football field and is expected to attract hundreds of students and community residents. Various community vendors and organizations will be on site, and free school supplies will be available.

Want to get involved or learn more?

For more information about Reconnecting McDowell or to find out how you can get involved, contact Kris Mallory, kmallory@aftwv.org, or Debra Elmore at delmore@aftwv.org or 304-552-5766.