



Christmas 2020



Greetings to All.

Stars remind us of many things. The first is the light of Christ that came among us on that first Christmas. Stars also remind me of the many donors, supporters, volunteers, and staff that have made our work possible in past years and will in the years to come.

This year unexpected clouds darkened the star of AOI. We had to relocate to another facility, try to reestablish our inventory, and had to close for four months due to Covid - 19.

As I write this, our star is beginning to shine a little brighter as we settle into our new facility. But, there are still clouds blocking the stars for us and others. AOI needs to build up inventory to serve those in need locally and state-wide. We also need to recoup lost income so we can continue our mission and even expand it as needs continue to increase.

The darkest storm cloud is the fact that poverty in West Virginia is increasing. I am enclosing a map to help illustrate this trend. The poverty data is taken from the Appalachian Regional Commission. In 2015 there were 8 counties in WV that were distressed and 16 at risk of becoming distressed. That means that a combination of county and local entities combined could not meet their local needs and maintain their infrastructure. Now in 2020, there are 16 distressed counties and 14 at risk out of the 55 that make up WV. No county in WV has attained full ability to respond to their needs.

This is where we need all of you to shine brightly and continue to support the work of AOI as we strive to respond to local and State-wide needs. I am also including a list of "What a Dollar Will Buy" to give some suggestions.

For those who suffer from poverty, disaster, disability, unemployment, and underemployment the stars seem to be very faint if they shine at all. **I invite you** to join me in putting more gleam into others stars as well as that of AOI so that they may see the Light more clearly and know that someone cares.

Together we can make a difference for those who need us the most.

Peace and Joy to you and yours!

Rose Hart, Executive Director
Appalachian Outreach, Inc.

A copy of the latest financial statement, registration, and license is on file and may be obtained by contacting Appalachian Outreach, Inc., P.O. Box 233, Glen Dale WV 26038 OR by contacting the WV Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305; registration does not imply endorsement. FEIN 02-0542826.