THE House OF THE Carpenter

*Meeting the needs of today. Building hope for tomorrow.*

# SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

**HOC Family,**

In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul reminds us that "God loves a cheerful giver." The original Greek word for cheerful is *hilaros* - the root of our English word *hilarious*. Think about the pure, infectious joy of laughing at a hilarious joke. That is the exact energy God invites us to bring to His mission!

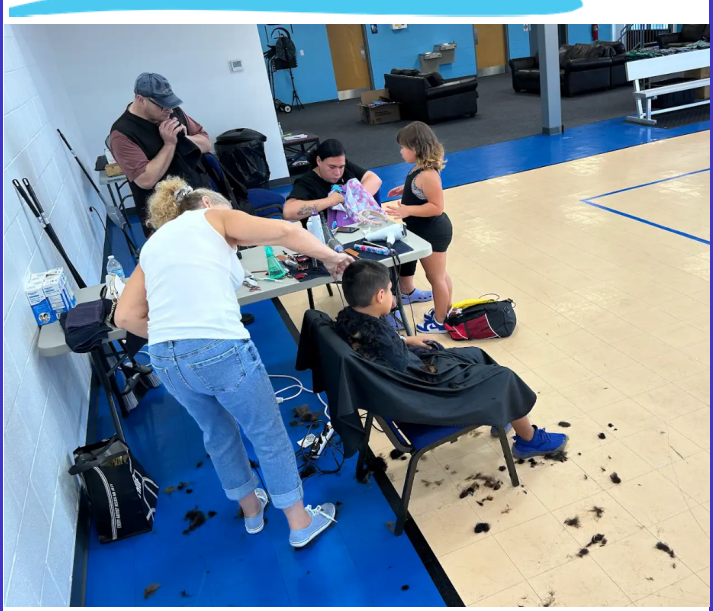
At House of the Carpenter, we see that joy every single day by:

- Meeting Needs Today: Through our food pantry, thrift store, and basic needs ministries.
- Building Hope Tomorrow: Through our youth programs, recovery support, and community outreach.

God calls us to give as He gives: generously, joyfully, and by the world's standards, hilariously. Stand with us today and give hilariously to support our neighbors in need!

In Christ,
Bill Wendell

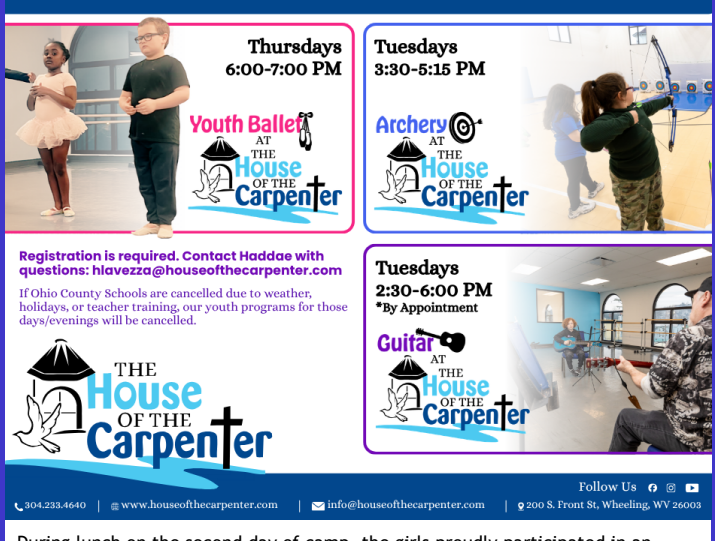
## MORE THAN A FRESH LOOK



When funding cuts left many local families without school clothing assistance, The House of the Carpenter responded through A Fresh Look for School. Students received two new outfits and a pair of shoes, including one young boy who proudly chose his very first pair of tennis shoes. With the support of our donors and community partners, families left with more than clothing; they left feeling supported, connected, and hopeful for the school year ahead.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS ARE UNDERWAY

During our Spring Break Sports Camp this past March, several students excitedly recognized the House of the Carpenter as the place that packs their weekend backpack meals. Two girls were especially eager to share with Haddae Lavezza which snacks they enjoyed most. Inspired by their enthusiasm, Haddae jokingly named them the "official backpack testing committee" and invited them to help sample new snack ideas for future meal bags.




During lunch on the second day of camp, the girls proudly participated in an official taste test, sharing their feedback and favorites. It was a simple moment, but a meaningful reminder of how important it is for children to feel **seen, heard, and included** in the programs and services designed to support them.

That same spirit carries into the House of the Carpenter's youth programs, where children and teens are given opportunities to learn, grow, build confidence, make friends, and discover new interests in a safe and supportive environment.

**Our free 2026-2027 youth programs are officially underway at the Toni & Nancy Bedway Center for Youth!**

This fall, students are participating in:

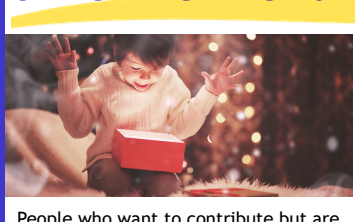
- **Ballet:** Grades 1-5 | Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 PM
- **Guitar:** Grades 3-12 | Tuesdays, 2:30-6:00 PM (by appointment)
- **Archery:** Grades 3-12 | Tuesdays
  - Grades 6-12: 3:30-4:15 PM
  - Grades 3-5: 4:30-5:15 PM

Programs run through Thanksgiving and resume in January through April.

**LEARN MORE OR REGISTER HERE**

**Have questions?** Contact Children & Youth Development Coordinator Haddae Lavezza at hlavezza@houseofthecarpenter.com.

## CHRISTMAS KIDS 2026



People who want to contribute but are not able to handle a full sponsorship may support this initiative by donating brand new items to the HOC which will be provided to children in need. We can never have enough board games, sports balls for all ages, stuffed animals, art supplies, and journals. Donors are also encouraged to purchase items using our Amazon Wish List and have their items shipped directly to us using the shipping information provided on the site.

**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR CHRISTMAS KIDS WISH LIST**

Our staff is hard at work preparing for the Christmas season! We are excited to help many families enjoy this blessed time of year.

**To register as a sponsor,** please click here to complete our online form:

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER AS A CHRISTMAS KIDS' SPONSOR**

**What Participants Need to Know:**

- Space is limited. Applications will be accepted until capacity is reached.
- Applications can only be made in person, not online.
- Application dates are scheduled for October 13th, 15th, 20th, and 22nd from 9 AM to 2 PM only in the HOC Gym.
- Stay tuned to our social media channels for specific requirements to apply.

For more information, please call the House of the Carpenter's information desk at 304-233-4640 or email ChristmasKids@houseofthecarpenter.com.

## DON'T MISS A THING SEPTEMBER 2026

House OF THE Carpenter **Public Weekly Calendar of Events**

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| **Monday** | • FOOD PANTRY: 9:00am-3:00pm<br>• THRIFT STORE: 9:00am-3:00pm<br>• AA: 12:00-1:00pm |
| **Tuesday** | • THRIFT STORE: 9:00am-6:30pm<br>• GUITAR, 3rd-12th Grade: 2:30-6:00pm<br>• ARCHERY, 6th-12th Grade: 3:30-4:15pm<br>• ARCHERY, 3rd-5th Grade: 4:30-5:15pm<br>• FOOD PANTRY: 4:30-6:30pm<br>• CARDIO DRUMMING: 5:30-6:30pm |
| **Wednesday** | • FOOD PANTRY: 9:00am-3:00pm<br>• THRIFT STORE: 9:00am-3:00pm<br>• AA: 12:00-1:00pm<br>• SMART RECOVERY: 6:00-7:00pm<br>1st & 3rd for family & friends<br>2nd & 4th for those overcoming substance use |
| **Thursday** | • THRIFT STORE: 9:00am-3:00pm<br>• BALLET, 1st-5th Grade: 6:00-7:00pm |
| **Friday** | • FOOD PANTRY: 9:00am-3:00pm<br>• THRIFT STORE: 9:00am-3:00pm |
| **Saturday** | • AA: 10:00-11:00am |

## YOUR GIFT TODAY BUILDS HOPE FOR TOMORROW

As a new season begins and children settle into a new school year, the needs of our neighbors continue year-round. At the House of the Carpenter, **your generosity helps provide food, education, emergency assistance, support, and hope** to individuals and families throughout our community.

Whether you give once or make a monthly commitment, your support allows the House of the Carpenter to continue being there when our neighbors need us most.

You can also make a lasting impact by including the House of the Carpenter in your estate planning or designating us as a beneficiary for mandatory IRA disbursements. **To learn more about leaving a legacy with the HOC**, please contact Rev. Dr. Bill Wendell, Executive Director, at (304) 233-4640 or bwendell@houseofthecarpenter.com.

**Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors, strengthen our community, and build hope for the future.**

WEST VIRGINIA NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PROGRAM (NIP) TAX CREDITS ARE LIMITED AND AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.

This program is for donors who give $500 or more in a single gift and pay West Virginia personal or corporate income tax. Please contact Bill Wendell with any questions.

# DONATE TODAY

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THE House OF THE Carpenter

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