

# FAITH

Religious issues, events, features, briefs — Plus, your guide to religious services throughout the Ohio Valley

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## VOLUNTEERS SERVE MEALS

**MOUNDSVILLE** — Several parents of Head Start students in the Creative Learning Centers in Moundsville gave back to the community this past week by volunteering to serve at the Ash Avenue Church of God Community Kitchen.

Each year, the group chooses a community service project to complete, and this year decided to tackle the issue of hunger in the community. The group recognized that many families are spending more of their family incomes on rising gasoline and home energy costs, which leaves less and less for such necessities as stocking their pantry shelves.

"We are grateful to support the Community Kitchen at the Ash Avenue Church of God," said Autumn James, Family Resource Advocate. "It seemed like a natural link to this project because mealtime at head start is a time for children to try new foods, learn healthy eating habits and receive two-third of their daily nutritional intake."

James added that meals are served family-style to encour-

age positive eating experiences, increase fine-motor skills and encourage communication skill building.

The Creative Learning Center parent group's helped serve meals this past Monday to more than 30 individuals from the community. They received free food preparation training from the Ohio County Health Department, James said, adding the experience allowed them to learn from the experience in addition to giving back to the community. They will also assist with preparing and serving food on March 5. Additionally, the group will be collecting items to give to the food pantry at the church.

The soup kitchen typically sees around 70 people per day during the Monday, Wednesday and Friday soup kitchens. In addition to the hot lunch served from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., a continental breakfast is also available prior to lunch.

Head Start parents or members of the community wishing to support the operations of the feeding program can call the Ash Avenue



Volunteers work to serve a hot lunch for more than 30 individuals this past week at the Ash Avenue Church of God in Moundsville.

Photo by J.W. Johnson Jr.

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