



WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE
THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

Children's Home Society
of West Virginia
Caring for Children Since 1896

The Education
alliance
Business and Community for Public Schools



APPALACHIAN
CHILDREN'S
C H O R U S
FOR A SONG. FOR A CHILD. FOR A LIFETIME...

Media Release

March 2, 2010

Contact: Kacie Harless
Executive Director
Appalachian Children's Chorus
kacie@wvacc.org
304.343.1111 office
304.767.5752 mobile

Local Nonprofits Collaborate to Raise Awareness About West Virginia Youth Issues

Charleston, W.Va.— Appalachian Children's Chorus, Children's Home Society of West Virginia, The Education Alliance and West Virginia's Promise today hosted "Believing in the Five Promises – Opportunities for Every Child" at the Governor's Mansion.

The purpose of the joint event was to raise awareness of the Five Promises, which says that every child needs: 1.) Caring Adults; 2.) Safe Places; 3.) A Healthy Start; 4.) An Effective Education; and 5.) Opportunities to Help Others. The event was also a call to action for policymakers, organization leaders and business executives to provide opportunities for more West Virginia children to experience the five promises through policy, programs and practice.

More than 100 were in attendance for the event, including government officials, such as representatives from Sen. Rockefeller's office and First Lady Gayle Manchin; state legislators; education leaders, such as Cabinet Secretary Kay Goodwin and State Board President Priscilla Haden; and nonprofit and business leaders.

First Lady Gayle Manchin welcomed guests to the event and introduced the Appalachian Children's Chorus, which performed two pieces. Mr. Dennis Sutton, executive director of the Children's Home Society; Dr. Patricia Kusimo, President/CEO of The Education Alliance; and Mrs. Selina Midkiff, founding and artistic director of the Appalachian Children's Chorus also spoke about how each organization fulfills the five promises.

Mrs. Pamela Dugan, Statewide Director for West Virginia's Promise and Dr. Marjorie Darrah, WVU professor also addressed the audience.

The hosting organizations included [Appalachian Children's Chorus](#), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to teaching music education and life skills to West Virginia's youth; [Children's Home Society of West Virginia](#), a statewide child welfare organization that has been caring for West Virginia children and families for more than 113 years; [The Education Alliance](#), a statewide public education fund that brings business and community support to public education to ensure students graduate from high school prepared to succeed; and [West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth](#), a statewide agency that mobilizes state and local partners to ensure every young person in West Virginia receives the Five Promises.

For more information about the event or the organizations involved, please contact Kacie Harless, executive director of Appalachian Children's Chorus. For more information about the Five Promises, go to www.fivepromises.wv.gov.

-end-