

# CHANGE to mark special month

By EMILY R. EBERLIN  
Staff writer

Employees and volunteers of CHANGE — Christians Helping Arrange New Growth Enterprises — will live out their organization's title specifically in May, "National Community Action Month."

Lisa June, CHANGE's director of marketing and development, said CHANGE, a Community Action agency, will celebrate the occasion by promoting its programs and services that help residents of the Northern Panhandle.

CHANGE, Inc. was established in 1983 by the Weirton Ministerial Association. June said the group's purpose was to address the concerns of the former Weirton steel plant's laid-off workers. Since that time, CHANGE has grown and now provides a variety of assistance avenues for the residents of Brooke, Hancock, Ohio and Marshall counties.

June said the promise of the Community Action agency is, "To change people's lives, embody the spirit of hope, improve communities and make America a better place to live."

"We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and others," she said.

The organization's mission statement is, "CHANGE, Inc. Community Action Agency encourages the integration of services, the building of partnerships, and the pulling of resources to empower families toward self-sufficiency."

June said the people CHANGE help know



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**SPECIAL MONTH FOR CHANGE** — Pictured is CHANGE Inc.'s main office on West Street in Weirton. The organization will be celebrating "National Community Action Month" in May by promoting its programs and services that help the residents of the Northern Panhandle.

they exist; however, others may not.

"Sometimes it takes a little more publicity to get the word out and that is what we are going to do this month," she said.

CHANGE offers youth programs, housing programs, emergency services, health services, and self-sufficiency programs. These include Weirton's Lighthouse Domestic Violence Shelter and the Mario T. Pipinos Neighborhood Center and Follansbee's Carol Ann Julio Neighborhood Center and the Little Friends Preschool. In addition, CHANGE's programs provide family medical and dental care services, housing counseling, family mentoring and rural transportation.

June said more than 4,200 residents, 15,000

duplicated, used one or more of the services offered at CHANGE to improve their circumstances in 2004.

CHANGE Inc. has three main locations: 3058 West St., Weirton; 906 Main St., Follansbee; and 700 First St., Moundsville.

CHANGE accepts financial contributions and donations of food and clothing, as well as welcomes volunteers.

For more information on CHANGE's programs and services, stop into one of the offices for literature or call the Weirton branch at 797-7733.

Emily Eberlin can be contacted at [eeberlin@weirtondailytimes.com](mailto:eeberlin@weirtondailytimes.com)