

SMILES

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 Headline: SMILES
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To Sally Love of Charleston and other volunteers who have worked more than two years to create the Snowshoe Institute, a Chautauqua-style learning-and-culture retreat in the mountains that begins Aug. 1.

To Marge Bragg, Bob Henry Baber, Challenge West Virginia, the Christian Appalachian Project and all others involved in shipping truckloads of free books for children, schools, libraries and shelters in Clay and other rural counties.

To Director Craig Slaughter and other leaders of the state Investment Management Board, who sued WorldCom for \$4 million in state losses caused by WorldCom's dishonest accounting.

To Charleston-born actress Jennifer Garner, nominated for an Emmy for her high-voltage performance as a spy in the ABC "Alias" show.

To more than 600 teen volunteers in the World Changers program who are spending summer vacation time in Charleston repairing homes of 25 low-income families.

To seven teen volunteers in the Student Conservation Association who worked a month at the Ncklash, Callew River Gorge National River improving trails.

To Matthew Chambers of Tucker County, who won the detective fiction prize in this year's Bulwer-Lytton contest for bad writing, and also won a "dishonorable mention."

To ConAgra Foods, which donated a refrigerated truck to Mountaineer Food Bank, to help deliver perishables to shelters, soup kitchens and other facilities in 48 West Virginia counties.

To singers of Charleston's WomanSong, plus the Shenanigans Celtic band, harpist Harriet Peters and stepdancer Hanna Thurman, who raised \$3,500 for breast cancer treatment at a May concert at Baptist Temple.

To Dr. Sheila Price from Boone County, an assistant dean at the WVU dental school, who won a prestigious national fellowship for female medical professors.

To Glenwood Elementary School Principal Deborah Shelton, who said pupils could bombard her with cream pies if they scored high on the SAT-9 test - and kept her bargain after they did.

To master mechanic Bill Fortune, who provides cars to the Ncklash, needy families through the Good News Garage - and also invited 3,000 Pontiac buffs to Charleston's Pontiac convention.

To Charleston Town Center officials Tom Byrd and Lisa McCracken for the successful "Mission to Malls" space camp that drew 1,400 students and about 40,000 other visitors.

To about 20 volunteer West Virginia musicians and the Tudor's Biscuit shops owned by Sen. Oshel Craigo, which teamed up to create "Our Wish," a CD being sold to raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

To senior Charleston architect Henry Elden, whose exotic studio-home atop a South Ruffner rock formation was featured in a national television show.

To Hobert Mike Morris, listed by the regional Red Cross as an 18-gallon blood donor.

To Robyn Strickland, a Kanawha Valley river-lover who became one of the state's first female lock-and-dam operators, then one of its first female riverboat captains.

To members of a tiny international group, the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers, who donated a mini-radio telescope for the visitor center of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Pocahontas County.