



2528 Palumbo Drive
Lexington, KY 40509

RECEIVED

2017 FEB 21 P 3:07

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 14, 2017

Postal Regulatory Commission
RE: Docket Number: RM2017-43
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Dear Sirs/Madams,

Every day, Christian Appalachian Project is building hope, transforming lives, and sharing Christ's love through service in Appalachia. In 2016, over 11,000 participants received direct services through 16 Human Services Programs in Eastern KY:

- *2,854 Individuals received critical, emergency, and family-oriented Community service through our Family Advocacy Program.
- *15,132 families were served at our Grateful Threadz Thrift store for clothing and other essential items.
- *2,267 families were served at our Grateful Bread Food Pantry.
- *315 Homes were repaired/rebuilt, and one new home for a family of six.
- *1,039 low-income or at-risk family members received professional counseling services.
- *1,061 children from low-income families attended week-long summer camps, and 2,586 students received in-school curriculum, tutoring, mentoring, and leadership training.
- *347 at-risk children received educational support through preschool, infant toddler, parents are teachers, and after-school programs.
- *More than 2021 hours were logged in Disaster Relief Response.
- *1,261 people volunteered their time and talents to the mission of Christian Appalachian Project.
- *Corporate Gifts-in-Kind donations valued at more than \$73 million were distributed by CAP's Operation Sharing Program, to 1,300 partners in 13 Appalachian States, impacting more than 1.5 million individuals directly.

Direct Mail is literally the fiscal lifeblood of this organization, and has been for over 50 years. A postage increase will mean we are unable to provide the current level of services, desperately needed in this region. We are "Large Volume Mailers", mailing around 22,000,000 pieces of mail annually. You will understand how even a cent or two at this volume makes a huge difference in the services we are able to offer people living in desperate need.

The recession forced us to decrease our donor acquisition mailings, which has a domino effect over the years, in decreasing our donor base. Other charities also were forced to reduce mailings, and the universe of donors for causes like ours is much reduced over a decade ago.

Also, the downturn in economic conditions means that our expenses continue to rise, while the support our donors are able to provide remains the same. Our only hope is to be able to mail more individuals, acquire more donors, gain their loyalty, and sustain the relationship with them over time.

We are doing everything we possibly can to keep costs at a minimum so that we can serve people in desperate need here in the Appalachian region. We need your help and the help of the Postal Regulatory Commission. We simply cannot afford postage increases over the Consumer Price Index. I hope and pray we can count on you to understand and act on the importance of the CPI inflation cap on postage increases. Help us help people in need in Appalachia.

Thank you for your consideration.

God Bless You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phyllis Caudill".

Phyllis Caudill

AVP, Philanthropy