



Through Our Eyes

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Martha Rhodes

[TMC](#)

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Overview

“Through Our Eyes” is a cooperative photographic media project between TMC and the Eastern Panhandle Boys and Girls Club for the promotion of Morgan County through the eyes of our youth.

Goals

- A. Educate children about photography, promotion and sales.
- B. To raise funds for the development of promotional products, equipment and educational resources.
- C. Increase membership within the local community for both organizations.
- D. Promote responsible social development within families and the community.

Specifications

TMC is a 501c3 nonprofit whose mission it is to support and encourage businesses in our area through education and networking. Since part of that is attracting visitors, we also want to “promote the excitement of the area in the here and now - the fishing, the views, the romance, the water and the many adventures here in West Virginia. With that in mind, we are seeking fresh perspectives”.

The mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America is “To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens”.

Therefore, TMC teamed up with the [Eastern Panhandle Boys and Girls](#) Photography Club in Morgan County on this project with the above goals. The photos of Morgan County will be taken by the kids at the club throughout Morgan County and then they will be developed and used for promoting our area in various forms to include printed materials and internet promotions.

Milestones

I. TMC

TMC formed in 2016 and received its 501c3 determination later that year. In 2017, as Program Director for Kid's Talk, a locally produced digital media project between 12 Habits For Wonderful People and the Morgan County Arts Council, TMC's Executive Director, Martha Rhodes became involved with the Eastern Panhandle Boys and Girls Club. In June of 2017 we obtained and organized a Facebook Morgan County Adventures Group with over 500 members.

II. The "A Ha" Moment!

One day on Facebook, Martha Rhodes happened to mention that Morgan County was so under represented on the internet and that rather than seeing all the pictures of our area from professional artists, it would be great to see something "from the kids through their eyes". She was immediately contacted by the organizer of the photography club, [Angel Kelley Demarinis](#) at the local Boys and Girls Club who said that they "struggle to find things for the older kids to do".

III. Plans Begin

Based on our "A Ha" moment Angel and I met in to figure out what kind of equipment was needed and a Letter of Agreement for the two organizations was drafted. In addition to the Eastern Panhandle Boys and Girls Club, Martha Rhodes began consulting with another newly-formed youth nonprofit in the area, the [Black Cat Music Cooperative](#). Their mission is to "provide educational and cultural experiences for young people of all ages" through music. They had began performing at the Boys and Girls Club. TMC believes working with these and other youth groups will not only educate and inspire our children to avoid unhealthy lifestyles but also form positive initiatives by using the arts to bring, support and promote industry to our area so that these kids can develop talents that will give them the opportunity to stay and work here.