



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PAR's WPER Brings Hope To Appalachia

Thousands of children in economically hard-pressed areas will receive the hope of the Gospel and encouragement thanks to WPER's partnership with the *Hope for Appalachia* project, according to Frankie Morea, General Manager.

"Our generous listeners have once again made it possible to bring joy and hope to kids who need it the most," Morea said.

Hope boxes filled with school supplies, hygiene items, toys, and more will be delivered this week to mountain towns in Eastern Kentucky. Each box shares the Gospel by explaining the Easter story of the empty tomb from scripture. The project also delivers prom dresses to high schools and Christian clothing ministries, explained Pastor Mike Dodson of Hope for Appalachia.

"Many young ladies and their families cannot afford a gown for their prom. Our donated dresses meet that need as we provide a beautiful gown to give them hope," Dodson said.

WPER listeners dropped off supplies and dresses at the station during March, filling a trailer provided by Hope for Appalachia. Dodson said teams are traveling through Eastern Kentucky, distributing the items through April 7th.

"We have partnered with WPER on this project for almost seven years," Dodson said. "Many of their listeners have been so faithful in supporting HFA that we have expanded into new counties and new schools to share the hope of Easter."

The primary mission of Hope for Appalachia is to bring the hope of Christ to thousands of students in public schools. The substance abuse rates are incredibly high in the areas where the organization ministers.

"Our message is clear and simple, hope does not come in a bottle or a needle, but true hope, eternal hope, only comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ. Many of the kids we minister to live with grandma or are in foster care because they have lost either one or both parents to drugs. We share with each student and teacher that with Christ, they can overcome all the world's monsters," Dodson said.

Morea said his team loves supporting Hope for Appalachia as much as WPER's listeners do.

"It's a joy to watch the trailer fill up and to know that God's love and the gospel are going to touch so many lives," he added.

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About Positive Alternative Radio (PAR)

PAR is a non-profit ministry founded in 1985 by Edward Baker's father, the late Dr. Vernon H. Baker and his mother, Virginia. Today, PAR owns and operates stations and networks in key markets in Virginia, eastern Tennessee, West Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina and South Carolina. They include WCQR, broadcasting from Johnson City, Tenn.; Walk FM, Ashland, Ky.; Spirit FM, Lynchburg, Va.; Joy FM, Winston-Salem, N.C. and WPER-FM, Fredericksburg, Va. The stations

provide adult contemporary Christian and Gospel music, as well as Christian content available across a variety of digital platforms.

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