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Meet West Virginia's Heroes of 2020 in Series of Video Blogs Created by Adventures on the Gorge

LANSING, W. Va., May 7, 2020 - When they were handing out hearts of gold, residents of Southern West Virginia were at the head of the line. As the global Covid-19 pandemic continues to ravage the security of Americans, particularly in rural areas, several altruistic Southern West Virginians have dedicated time and resources to making things a little better.

[Adventures on the Gorge](#) (AOTG), an adventure resort in the New River Gorge region, has profiled some of these individuals in a video blog series, "[West Virginia's Heroes of 2020](#)." The blogs are created by long-time AOTG staffer Jay Young, who along with Crystal Stone and Jordanne Light comprise the creative team at the resort.

"In times of crisis, one's true character is revealed, and I've been inspired and encouraged to see so many of our friends and neighbors volunteer to

When she is not guiding groups down the river, Jo-Beth Stamm is a flight nurse.



Cindy Chamberlain, far right, and friends deliver food to residents and healthcare workers.

make things a little better,” said Roger Wilson, CEO of the resort. “This series of videos celebrates the stories of these heroes and helpers.”

The series is narrated by Young from his kitchen. Citing inspiration from the children’s television show “Mr. Rogers,” who told his young audience to “look for the helpers” in times of crisis, Young interviews those heroes about their work.

For example, one [episode](#) is an interview with Lauren Floyd, director of the [Coda Mountain Academy](#), a non-profit organization with after-school programs and summer camps that trains students in life skills as well as a variety of disciplines like music, art, cooking and outdoor recreation. With schools no longer in session, Floyd and her team have built an army of volunteers to prep and deliver food to families in need.

In another recent [episode](#), [New River Humane Society](#) Board of Directors member Kathy Gerencer discusses how she and her team work on saving the lives of stray cats and dogs.

[Jenny Becksted-Smith](#), director of the [New River Gorge Learning Coop](#) (NRGLC) discusses in an episode how the Montessori School she directs is helping students to learn while from home.

Another [episode](#) profiles “uber volunteer” Cindy Chamberlain, an experienced volunteer who discusses shopping for and delivering food to residents as well as health workers in need.

Teacher [Cliff Sullivan](#) discusses how he and other innovators are printing various parts of face shields needed by health workers and others in contact with the public.

Another [episode](#) profiles part-time rafting guide and full-time flight nurse for aeromedical organization [HealthNet Aeromedical Services](#), Jo-Beth Stamm. Stamm demonstrates the same fearlessness flying into high-risk situations to rescue patients that she does guiding rafters through Class V rapids during Gauley Season. Yet rather than focus on the perils of her job during her interview with Young, she lauded the many people who are supporting the needs of healthcare workers. “I am inspired by so many people working tirelessly to make things better,” said Stamm.

“These are just a small number of heroes who are making life during a pandemic just a little better,” said Wilson. “Everyone knows a hero, and we hope that people throughout the community will take a moment to thank those heroes today and every day.”

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What to know about Adventures on the Gorge

Named one of the top six adventure resorts in the country by [U.S. News & World Report](#), Adventures on the Gorge is located on more than 250 acres along the rim of the majestic New River Gorge near Fayetteville, W.Va. The resort provides an array of outdoor experiences including whitewater rafting on the New and Gauley Rivers, aerial adventures, rock climbing, rappelling, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, fishing, mountain biking and hiking. There are also restaurants, bars and shops as well as a small-group conference center. Visitors can choose from a variety of [accommodations](#) and [vacation packages](#).

Travelers can find out more about Adventures on the Gorge [online](#), by calling 1-855-379-8738, or connecting on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [TripAdvisor](#), [YouTube](#), and [Vimeo](#) and signing up for AOTG [e-newsletter](#).

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