



Danny Snyder/Staff
Helen Post-Brown, owner and director of Sunbeam Childcare Center in Fairmont, displays one of the T-shirts children at the center made for Gov. Cecil Underwood for "Stand for Children Day." The nationwide event raises awareness of children's issues.

'Stand for Children' program to raise awareness of issues

By Debra Minor Wilson

STAFF WRITER

FAIRMONT — Children: They may be tiny but their needs are large.

And today, you can stand for them.

Taking place today across the nation, the fifth annual "Stand for Children" strives to raise public awareness of children's issues.

The theme is "Building Safer and Healthier Communities for All Children." It is sponsored by national, state and county Child Care Center associations.

More than 400 child-care centers across the state have sent tiny T-shirts decorated with tinier handprints to Gov. Cecil Underwood to raise awareness of these needs.

"Children are our futures," said Helen Post-Brown, owner and director of Sunbeam Childcare Center in Fairmont.

"If the community they grow up and live in isn't safe, we won't have a future.

"By focusing on the communities in which we live, the hope of 'Stand for Children' campaign is to create awareness of ways that issues of our communities affect children's health and safety."

— Helen Post-Brown

access for recreation, computer work. To have a safe haven to go to be with their friends, and not be out on the streets."

The children at Sunbeam Child Care Center made about 10 T-shirts, decorated with gaily colored hand-

prints.

"Our small part as child care providers is to help make officials and the public aware of the need to stand for children," she said.

"The shirts are to remind us that these little guys are the folks we're trying to support," she said.

The shirts have been sent to Fairmont Mayor Nick L. Fantasia, Tom Long, superintendent of Marion County Schools, area businesses and to Gov. Underwood to display today "to show support for the safety and health of the children in West Virginia," she said.

"Hillary Rodham Clinton said that it takes a village to raise a child. And it really does," Post-Brown said.

"A child is the product of the community. If you have a safe community, that child will feel safe."