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DONATIONS FOR FAMILIES OF MINE DISASTER VICTIMS BEING ACCEPTED

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Council of Churches has established the Montcoal Mining Disaster Fund, and is now accepting donations to be distributed among the families of miners who were killed in Monday's explosion at Performance Coal Company's Upper Big Branch mine.

Individuals from across West Virginia and the nation have offered support for these families through prayer, condolences and donations.

Governor Manchin said, "The outpouring of support from fellow West Virginians, as well as citizens across the country, has been truly gratifying. The mining families continue to endure in this very tough time and will need as much support in the future as possible."

"I appreciate the West Virginia Council of Churches and their efforts to assist these grieving families," said Manchin.

Anyone who wishes to make a monetary contribution should contact the West Virginia Council of Churches at 304-344-3141 or visit <http://www.wvcc.org/> for details.

In addition, gifts and other items are being accepted for the families of the deceased miners at Appalachian Bible College. For details about non-monetary donations please visit <http://www.abc.edu/>.