

**Pennies Of Promise** is a grass roots effort comprised of local citizens of the Coal River Valley, WV, and other concerned fellow Appalachians. In the absence of help from our elected officials, we have looked to each other for support.

**We believe** no child should be forced to attend a school that is surrounded by a massive coal mining operation that includes a coal silo train load-out 200 feet away, a preparation plant that uses chemical scrubbers within 250 yards, and a mammoth seeping toxic sludge dam containing over two billion gallons of coal waste pointed directly at the school from 400 yards up hill.

**Our mission** is to ensure the safety of the children who attend Marsh Fork Elementary School near Sundial, WV. We will accomplish this by raising the awareness and funds necessary to result in the construction of a new school in a safe area of our community.



**“My bottom line is you shouldn’t have a huge impoundment above a school, even if it’s the best impoundment in the world.”**

--Davitt McAteer

Please send a donation to Pennies of Promise and a letter to West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin letting him know you contributed. It may also be helpful if you sent the Governor a few pennies with your letter and ask him to join our efforts to get these kids a safe school in their own community.

Please direct letters to the Governor at:  
Governor's Cabinet on Children and Families  
State Capitol Complex  
Building 3, Room 206  
Charleston, WV 25305  
Phone: 1-888-438-2731

Tax-exempt contributions can be sent to:  
Pennies Of Promise  
Pioneer Community Bank  
822 Robert C. Byrd Dr.  
Sophia, WV 25921-9538

To help or get involved, please contact  
Pennies Of Promise  
304-854-1830  
PO Box 18  
Rock Creek, WV 25174-0018  
Email: penniesofpromise@myway.com

**Pennies of Promise**

To Build A New Safe School In Our  
Community  
[www.PenniesOfPromise.org](http://www.PenniesOfPromise.org)

**"Every child should have a safe place...in more cases than not it's their school."**

--WV Gov. Joe Manchin



**Marsh Fork Elementary School students play in the shadow of a Coal Silo.**

**Pennies of Promise**

**Something’s amiss in Sundial, WV and it’s the children who are at risk. The Government won’t acknowledge it and the coal company refuses to take responsibility, so it’s left up to the community to protect the students of Marsh Fork Elementary.**

## We Need A Safe New School in the Community.

*On the rainy morning of February 26<sup>th</sup> 1972, a toxic coal sludge dam in Buffalo Creek, WV burst and collapsed killing 125 people, mostly women and children. Over 1000 homes were destroyed and thousands left homeless.*

## We Cannot Let This Happen Again.

Children need a quiet safe place to learn and grow, and as people who care we can make sure they have one.



This is Marsh Fork Elementary. The school building sits just 225 feet from the coal silo and 400 yards downstream from a 385 foot tall sludge dam holding back over 2 billion gallons of toxic sludge which the Mine Safety and Health Administration says is leaking.

In an independent study, samples of dust were taken from various classrooms in the school. Analysis confirmed that all seven samples taken showed coal dust contamination, which has been proven to cause respiratory problems, especially in children.

## Even With State and Federal Regulations Accidents Do Happen.

- *We cannot wait until another disaster strikes.*
- *We cannot let the School Board bus our kids out of our community.*
- *We cannot continue to allow our children to be sick from the coal dust and chemicals they are breathing every day.*

## Community Involvement Is Vital

*As an empowered community we strengthen the chain that will result in a safe educational environment for our children.*

*If you could spend \$10 to ensure the safety of the children at Marsh Fork Elementary, would you? Would your family? Co-workers? Friends? How about your church?*

*Working together, using resources here and around the country we will build a safe and healthy place for our children to learn and grow.*

With the lack government support, it is time we take responsibility for the health and safety of our children.

***The School Board is not listening.***

***The Governor is not listening.***

***We will make them hear us!***

# Pathway to a Brighter Future



Not satisfied with the response he got from Gov. Manchin after sitting down on the Capitol Steps in Charleston, WV a year ago, Grandfather Ed Wiley decided to take his message to Washington DC. By foot.

Ed Wiley will leave Charleston, WV on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and arrive 455 miles away in Washington DC on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Contact Ed on the road:  
(828) 243-3959

Find out more and sponsor the walk at  
**[www.PenniesOfPromise.org](http://www.PenniesOfPromise.org)**

Make checks payable to:

**Pennies of Promise**

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