

HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Summer 2009 - Vol. 4 No. 3

WINNIE SAYS "IT'S ALL ABOUT KIDS!"



Kids who are homeless

are more than numbers
numbers like **631**
the number of children served by
homelessness programs in Allegheny County
on a day in January 2009
numbers like **30,000**
the number of homeless children and youth
in Pennsylvania ages birth through 18
a number like **6**
the national ranking of Pennsylvania
in the number of children and youth
identified as homeless

Kids who are homeless also

are sons and daughters
granddaughters and grandsons
brothers, sisters, cousins, friends
children who are loved and cared for
children with dreams and hopes
children with talents and aspirations
but also children living with uncertainty
children who are at risk of falling behind
children whose academic rights are
too often inadequately served



**HCEF's mission is to ensure that these kids
"are afforded equal access to the same
educational opportunities as their peers"**

Mini-Grants for Innovative Education

Each August the HCEF Board of Trustees is privileged to award grants of up to \$2000 to partner residential housing agencies applying for support of innovative and creative ideas for their children's educational enrichment. The grants help make it possible for staff members to reach new levels of success in their Learning Centers and after-school programs.



2009-10 school year Round VIII Mini-Grants were awarded to the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, Alle-Kiski Hope Transitional Center and Hope Shelter, Crisis Center North, Healthy Start House, HEARTH, Primary Care, Salvation Army Family Caring Center, Sisters Place, Sojourner House, Three Rivers Youth – the Hub, Womanspace East, Women's Center and Shelter, and YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh Bridge Housing.

Altogether, since the first Mini-Grants in 2002, HCEF has awarded \$147,580, including a total of \$24,757 in grants for 2009. For details see www.homelessfund.org/minigrants.html. And be sure to read the boxed story near the end of the page.

Summer Accelerated Learning

This year's Customized Accelerated Programs for Education (CAPE) were again made possible through donations designated to HCEF by businesses participating in the state Educational Improvements Tax Credit (EITC) program.



Opportunities available to our partner agencies included new offerings in the theatre arts and in spoken Spanish and French taught through drumming, dance, visual arts, crafts, and music. The Society of Contemporary Craft again offered workshops and LabRatz Science Club remains a popular draw for children of all ages.

We count on you to help us make a difference for the children we serve

If you donated backpacks or school supplies to the Citizens Bank/HCEF-sponsored **Gear for Grades** drive or helped load the school buses and deliver the backpacks, you made a difference for the over 2300 children receiving them. See www.homelessfund.org/gearsforgrades.html

If you have signed up to be a reading mentor in one of the Learning Centers and are helping children to develop their reading skills, you are making a profound difference in their lives. See www.homelessfund.org/volunteers.html

If the company for which you work holds regular jeans days as does Direct Energy or sponsors a charity day like those at SXC Health Solutions Corp and Philips Respironics, your contributions are making a difference. See www.homelessfund.org/getinvolved.html

If like Haddad-Wylie Industries you'd like to join HCEF in providing an end-of-school party celebrating the accomplishments of children residing at one of our partner agencies, you will not only make a difference for the children but have fun doing it as you play musical chairs and toss water balloons!

See www.homelessfund.org/HWlparty.html



If you have been added to our roster of Winnie's All-Stars – Kids Helping Kids, you too know what it means to make a difference for kids like yourselves.

Juliana organized an "Are you smarter than a 7th grader" event at her middle school, collecting school supplies for the Learning Center at Open Arms.

When Max turned seven, he asked his birthday guests to make contributions to HCEF rather than give him gifts.

Sixth graders at another middle school competed in a Donald Trump-like apprentice challenge with the projects of the winning and second place teams resulting in freshly painted walls, new furnishings, books, and supplies at Womansplace and at Allegheny Valley Association of Churches.



Ten teen members of the Pittsburgh Young Leaders Academy from two high schools joined to provide important resources for children at one of HCEF's partner homeless housing facilities. The Langley students collected books and the Oliver students used money raised from hoagie sales to purchase school supplies. When the Langley students learned that the walls of a newly constructed and just opened residence had been vandalized, they volunteered to help remove the graffiti.



Members of the DESI Club at an area high school contributed to HCEF the proceeds of a performance showcasing the culture of India. They wrote: "The DESI club feels fortunate to be able to support your cause especially since we are also passionate about meeting the educational needs of homeless children."

Fifteen 13-14 year olds participating in this year's Samuel M. Goldston Teen Philanthropy Project honored HCEF with a grant of \$2000 in support of its work to ensure that the educational rights of children who are homeless are enforced.

See www.homelessfund.org/winniesallstars.html



Kids providing "hope through learning"

And here's a difference the entire family can help make



The annual Haunted House at Hundred Acres Manor will once again be offering thrills and chills in South Park. Proceeds of this celebration of Halloween are shared by HCEF and Animal Friends. Last year each organization received \$45,000 in support of its work.

The Haunted House will be open for sneak previews September 18-19 and 25-26 and then October 1 through November 1. Volunteers are needed to help with parking and to serve as actors. See www.homelessfund.org/events.html and www.hundredacresmanor.com



One function of this issue of the newsletter is to introduce you to the new look of the HCEF website. Its development is the reason the "summer" newsletter is only now coming to you. We encourage you to bookmark the website, visit often, and tell others about it.

The site is never static. The text is updated regularly, and new story pages are added with some frequency. Altogether, the HCEF website is the place to go when you want to learn more about the intertwining issues of homelessness, children, and educational rights.



Summer 2009 E-Newsletter (Vol. 4 No. 3) from the Homeless Children's Education Fund
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