

HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Summer 2007 E-Newsletter — Vol. 2 #3

WINNIE SAYS "IT'S ALL ABOUT KIDS!"



All kids are CAPable

Including me
Give me the opportunity
And the guidance
And the encouragement
To risk trying something new

The fun of banging on a drum
BAM CRASH BAM CRASH BAM
Doesn't match the joy of
Learning age-old rhythms
BOOM chicka BOOM chicka
BOOM BOOM BOOM chicka



Art isn't just about staying inside the lines
Coloring someone else's design
A blank sheet of paper, markers, a brush
Splashes of color, figures and shapes
Sometimes bright, sometimes dark
Here's what I'm feeling inside



Not all stories are in books
It's not always once upon a time
Hear my story about being afraid
About wishing
About being somebody special



I have unknown talents
Help me discover them
I have unexplored gifts
Help me develop them
Don't define me by
The circumstances of my life
See ME

Customized Accelerated Programs for Education (CAPE)

This summer HCEF is bringing to children in participating shelters week-long "camp" experiences exploring language arts through African cultural expression (drumming, the spoken word, creative writing, and art projects) presented by the Pittsburgh Dance Ensemble and dramatic expression and storytelling with the Open Stage Theater. Funding for CAPE is through our **EITC partners**:

Bortek Industries, Inc.; David Vision Incorporated; Equitable Resources; First National Bank, Pittsburgh Region; and Mellon Bank, N.A.

Learn how your business can support similar HCEF programs and reduce your state and federal taxes through participation in the state's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program:
www.homelessfund.org/support/support.html#eitc



Kids need guidance and so do those serving kids

Through its **Menu of Educational Opportunities program**, HCEF is presenting shelter-based workshops both for children residing there and shelter staff members: for children, anti-bullying and computer literacy workshops; for staff, workshops on using art in the shelter, story telling for providers, and specific art projects for kids.

Drop by our **gallery of children's creative efforts**. Watch the gallery grow.
www.homelessfund.org/programs/expression.html



Wondering how you can become more involved in the vital work of HCEF?

Join us at the Rivers Club, One Oxford Center, **July 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m. for an "Elbow-to Elbow" reception**. Meet and

converse with Board and staff members and other committed supporters of HCEF, learn about exciting plans for the 9th Annual Champions for Children Benefit on March 3, 2008.

There is no charge for this event, but we do need to know you are coming. **The deadline for confirming your attendance is July 10** so act quickly. To RSVP call 412-562-0154 or e-mail jvickers@homelessfund.org

2007 Tools for School drive: July 9 through August 10

Citizens Bank and HCEF invite the general public to **donate the supplies** needed for the 3000 backpacks Citizens Bank employees are providing for children residing in 17 area shelters, specifically ballpoint and felt-tip pens, pencils, markers, crayons, pencil sharpeners, erasers, rulers, glue sticks, and notebooks.

These are to be **taken to any Citizens Bank office in Allegheny and neighboring counties**, including the **branch offices in Giant Eagle stores**.

Members of the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), a long-time partner of the backpack program, will be providing the backpacks and supplies older youths require.

While giving a backpack to a child may seem a modest gesture, for the child receiving it that backpack is a proud possession. With it, the child is just another boy or girl going to school, ready to learn. For a struggling mother there is relief in knowing her child will have the required school supplies she might not be able easily to provide.

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www.homelessfund.org

"Providing hope through learning"