

# HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Winter 2008 E-Newsletter — Vol. 3 #1



## WINNIE SAYS, "IT'S ALL ABOUT KIDS!"

### Kids write about homelessness

I'm just a kid myself. Still

I can speak up  
I can tell others what I've learned —  
That the homeless are people like me

BUT

Some can't find housing they can afford  
Some have lost jobs  
Some have jobs that pay little  
Some are victims of abuse  
Some of fire or natural disasters

I think of the children who are homeless —  
Having no permanent home, they can lose  
Their sense of safety  
Their sense of belonging anywhere  
Their sense of who they are now

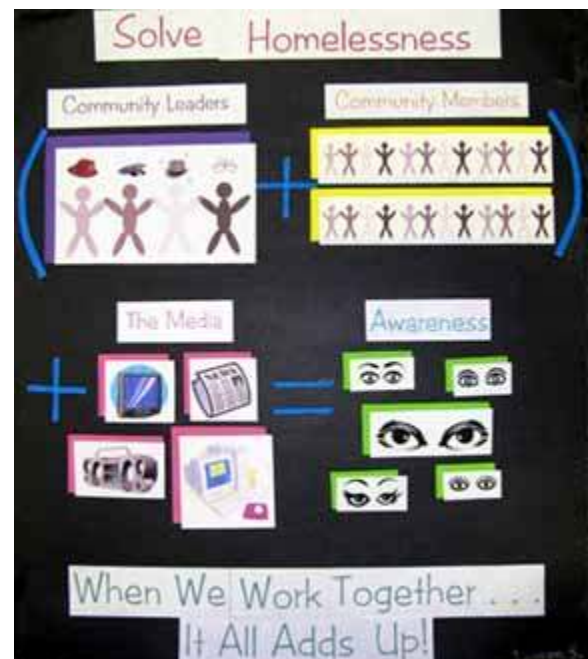
Homelessness should be unacceptable  
We must all work together to end it

The equation is simple —  
Community leaders and members  
Plus the media  
Equals awareness.

And when we work together  
It WILL all add up!

These words are taken from essays and the poster below by 5th through 8th graders attending the schools of the **Diocese of Pittsburgh**. The essays and posters were part of their observance of National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week in November. You'll find some of their essays and posters at

[www.homelessfund.org/awareness/essays.html](http://www.homelessfund.org/awareness/essays.html)



## Kids need champions

### And you can be one by

- participating in our on-line auction
- purchasing a ticket to the 9th Annual Champions for Children Benefit either on-line or in response to the invitation to be mailed shortly

### An HCEF home page link will take you to our on-line auction and ticket sales.

[www.homelessfund.org](http://www.homelessfund.org)



General admission tickets are \$125 each, VIP tickets \$250 each, and the auction is open through January 30. Please read the auction instructions carefully and bid on a sterling silver necklace with Steelers charm by

Tiffany, a tour of the Steelers Southside Complex followed by dinner with HCEF Board of Advisors member Brett Keisel at the Capital Grill, a guided tour for 10 of the National Aviary by Linda Dickerson, and other unique items.

**March 3, 2008, is the date of the Benefit;** the Rivers Club in Oxford Centre the place. The VIP Reception is from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. and general admission from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Join in the posthumous celebration of Gwen Elliott, founder of Gwen's Girls, as our 2008 Champion for Children and the bestowing of the Linda A. Dickerson Award upon Rev. Regis Ryan, executive director of Focus for Renewal (F.O.R.)** for inspired service to the community. Learn about their accomplishments at [www.homelessfund.org/events/champs08awards.html](http://www.homelessfund.org/events/champs08awards.html)

Event Chairs **Ralph J. and Ruth Anne Papa, James Roddey and Karen Feinstein**, our Hosts and Patrons will welcome over 300 leaders in business, government, and education for a live and silent auction, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and spectacular confections provided by the area's best chocolatiers.

## Kids are the heart of it for Joe

Joe Lagana, HCEF's founder, was named the recipient of the 2007 **National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth's (NAEHCY) prestigious Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award.**

Read the story of how Joe came to found and grow HCEF since its beginning in 1999. [www.homelessfund.org/aboutus/hcefstory.pdf](http://www.homelessfund.org/aboutus/hcefstory.pdf)



## Kids benefit because

**Hundred Acres Manor Haunted House** raised \$45,000 for HCEF on their behalf. **Nine area corporations** have become Pennsylvania EITC partners with HCEF. **Individuals, families, and businesses** contributed in record numbers and dollars to our just completed Annual Fund Campaign, a great many of them for the first time.

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[www.homelessfund.org](http://www.homelessfund.org)

"Providing hope  
through learning"