

HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Fall 2009 E-Newsletter — Vol. 4 No. 4

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 joy of learning age-old rhythms
bass-bass tone-tone-tone-tone
bass-bass tone-tone-tone-tone

Of discovering that with
Paper, markers, a brush
Splashes of color, figures and shapes
Sometimes bright, sometimes dark
I can show 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

National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week is November 15-21

And Friday, November 20, HCEF and The Pittsburgh Foundation present *Summit to Ensure Quality Education of Our Homeless Children and Youth*.

<http://homelessfund.org/advocacysummit09.html>



Featured speakers are **Barbara Duffield**, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and author of *Educating Children without Housing* and **Dr. James Schreiber**, Associate Professor, Duquesne University; co-author with Dr. Peter Miller of *Educating Homeless Children in Allegheny County: An Evaluation of Families, Agencies, and Services*.

Summit partners in addition to HCEF and The Pittsburgh Foundation are Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Diocese of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Education Law Center, Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Operation Safety Net, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Space is still available for this event at the Rivers Club, Oxford Center; Friday, November 20, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. To pre-register, call Laura Bailey, HCEF Office Manager, 412-562-0154

From the Executive Summary of “Educating Homeless Children in Allegheny County: An Evaluation of Families, Agencies, and Services

Dr. Peter Miller, Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (formerly at Duquesne University) and Dr. James B. Schreiber, Associate Professor at Duquesne.

Major findings include:

- ❖ There is great diversity among homeless families with school-age children in Allegheny County.
- ❖ Homeless students and parents experience widespread problems with school.
- ❖ Most parents want to be active advocates in their children’s educational pursuits.



- ❖ Agency-based after-school learning centers appear to be highly effective at providing academic and social support for homeless students.
- ❖ The nature and frequency of communication between schools, community programs, residential agency staffs, and parents is crucial.
- ❖ Relationships (and the lack thereof) play important roles in parents’ and children’s development. Agencies’ capacities to provide caring, bridging, relationships to families appeared especially helpful in families’ educational pursuits.



Agency-based Summer 2009 Offerings Through Customized Accelerated Programs for Education (CAPE)



128 workshops took place at HCEF’s housing agency-based Learning Centers during the summer of 2009. These were provided by Society for Contemporary Craft (art), LabRatz (science), Laura Greenawalt (theatre arts), and IIAL (Spanish through dance, French through African drum and dance, and French through visual art, crafts, and music).

Agency staff were enthusiastic in their reports: “We had the drumming and the children really liked it. It was a good experience for all.” “The children absolutely loved Laura (Creative Play). She is a must to come back.” “We hosted one LabRatz workshop this summer. It was the favorite of all the workshops.” “We had a woodworker (SCC) come and make tambourines with our children and a second workshop making wooden pencils. AWESOME!”



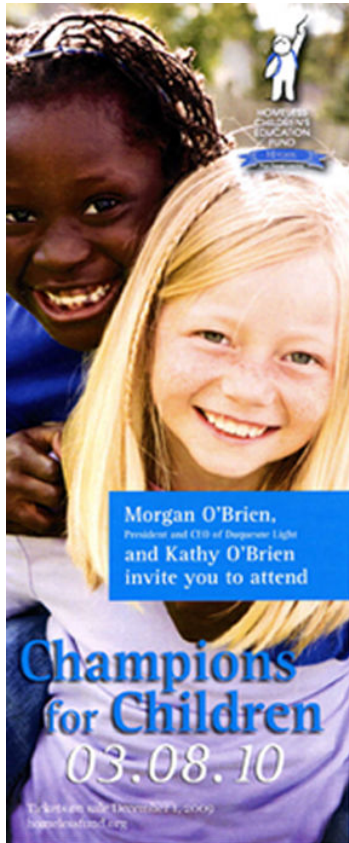
HCEF’s Fall CAPE offerings include silk screening and screen printing (Warhol Museum); new science workshops (LabRatz); clay, fiber, wood, and paper projects (SCC).

These accelerated summer and after-school programs are funded by corporate contributions received through Pennsylvania's Education Improvements Tax Credit (EITC) program. <http://homelessfund.org/pennaetc.html>

SAVE THE DATE! March 8, 2010 The 11th Annual Champions for Children Benefit

Come and celebrate Ralph and Ruth Anne Papa as they receive the 2010 Champions for Children Award.

Come and celebrate the dedicated staffs of the 17 homeless housing agencies HCEF partners with and the children they serve.



Come and be welcomed by our Benefit Chairs: Duquesne Light President and CEO Morgan and Kathy O'Brien.

Come and participate in our silent auction. You might be the high bidder on dinner, a show, and an overnight stay; prized Steelers tickets; or sailing on Lake Erie.

Interested in becoming an event sponsor?
providing an event program advertisement?
becoming an event patron?

Call Laura at 412-562-0154 to learn more or see the Champions Benefit page of our website:
<http://homelessfund.org/championsbenefit.html>

Thanks to our most recent community champions for kids:

Haunted House at **Hundred Acres Manor**, which contributes half of its Halloween season's proceeds to HCEF

Concerts for Causes, a community group that between October and June presents 3 in-home chamber music concerts featuring members of the PSO and benefiting HCEF

the Barnes & Noble stores at the Waterfront and Waterworks, which for the fourth year are encouraging customers to purchase children's books to be donated to the HCEF Learning Centers and Resource Libraries between November 1 and January 1. This year the Waterworks store is also honoring HCEF with a December 13th Bookfair. There will be special events for children and gift wrapping by HCEF volunteers. HCEF will receive a percentage of sales on that day.

<http://homelessfund.org/files/admin/B&Nsavedate.pdf>

the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's Community Partners Concert**, for which HCEF was one of 50 area nonprofits privileged to be named a partner. We are especially grateful for the HCEF friends who were unable to attend the concert but purchased and donated tickets so that 30 staff members from our partner housing agencies could attend.

Heartfelt thanks to all who have sponsored and participated in fund-raising efforts in 2009. You have helped make a difference in the lives of children caught up in the uncertainties of homelessness.



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"Providing hope through learning"