



HOMELESS  
CHILDREN'S  
EDUCATION  
FUND

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

*creating hope through learning*





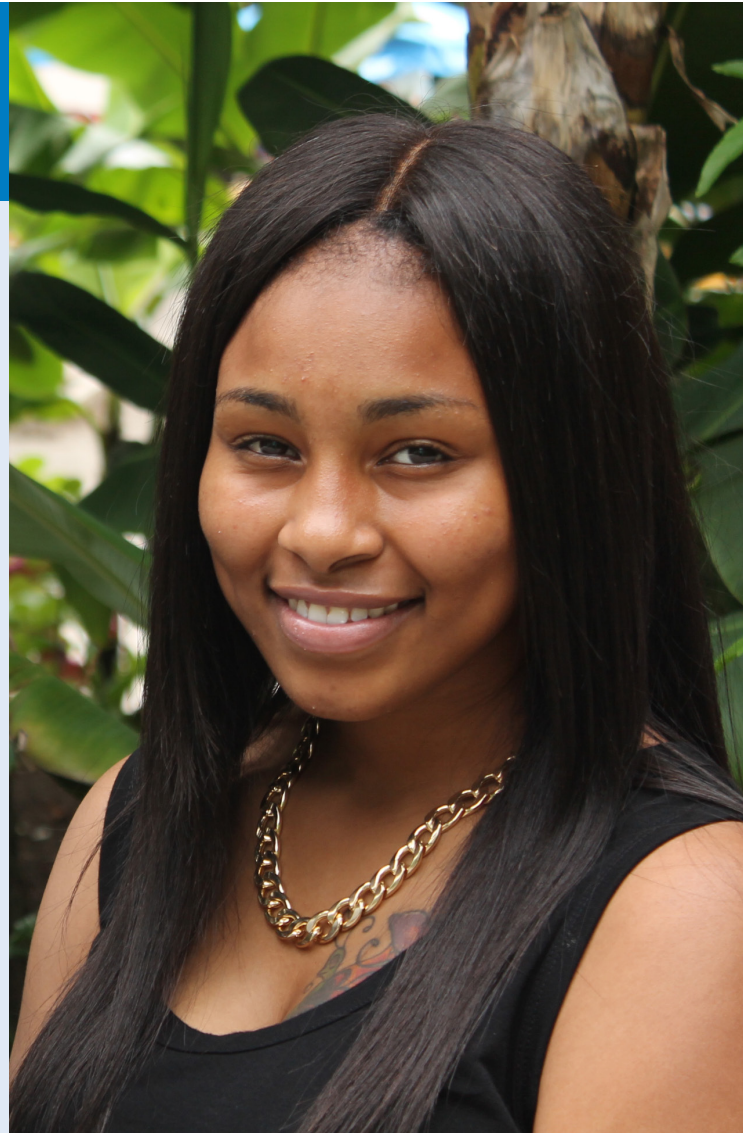
# Veronica

Early Education Major • Edinboro University  
2014 HCEF Hope Through Learning Award Winner

"When I won the Hope Through Learning Award, it was around the time I was about to be going away to college. I did not have a lot of money to get all my dorm room things such as bedding, refrigerator, microwave, groceries, décor, storage, laundry and cleaning, and a lot of other schooling supplies.

By having all the things I needed, it not only helped me be prepared, but I then had hope for everything. I knew there was nothing to really worry or stress about. All that was left was to be happy and thankful for everything that came my way.

College all around just gave me a bigger look on the world itself. Coming in as a freshman, I had no clue who I really was. It took some time, but college has made me find myself and come out of my shell. My favorite experiences so far at Edinboro are getting involved in ResLife and the Black Student Union Association. To find something you're really passionate about and people who share the same interest as you has got to be the best feeling. As a sophomore, I still have a lot of growing and learning to do, but overall college has made such an impact on my life and I'm very thankful!"



# Darrell

Parent • HCEF's Building Blocks Afterschool Program

HCEF is committed to empowering parents to get involved in their children's education, which is why we were thrilled to hear from Darrell, father of three boys in our afterschool program. Darrell told us about his family's story and the changes he's noticed in his kids since they started participating in HCEF's programming:

"The environment that I was around when I was under the influence of drugs and alcohol, the household was a lot different, and kinda lax on grades. But at this point, I just see a marked improvement with their overall wanting to go to school, wanting to come to the program. This program is a godsend. It allows me to make dinner, to complete some tasks I wouldn't be able to complete, and also helps them out with their education."

Beyond grade improvements, other parents and agency staff have noticed behavioral differences in afterschool students: becoming more productive, attentive, and confident; wanting to read more; and becoming better at communicating with their peers and instructors.

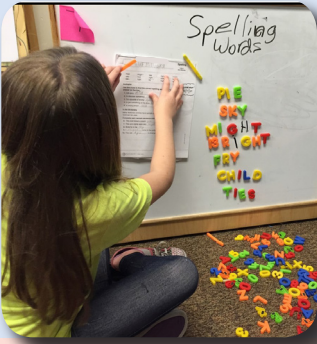


HOMELESS  
CHILDREN'S  
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"I have the passion to make a difference and guide children as they grow. I want them to know that they can do it and never give up."

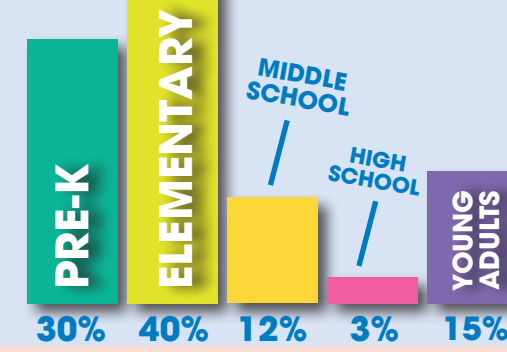
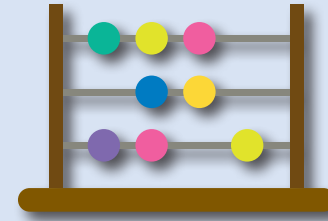
"I see grade improvements with all of them. They are really excelling in school. Even though my oldest son is having trouble turning in his homework, he's actually using the math you're teaching him. He's using it, and he's excited about it, and he's getting his homework done."





**Learning Centers** are special spaces within homeless agencies built just for kids, equipped with technology and resources to support educational success. HCEF's *Building Blocks for Success* afterschool and summer programming often takes place in these learning centers, as well as *Enrichment Programming* like experiments with Lab Ratz Science Club or creative workshops with Art Expression, Inc.

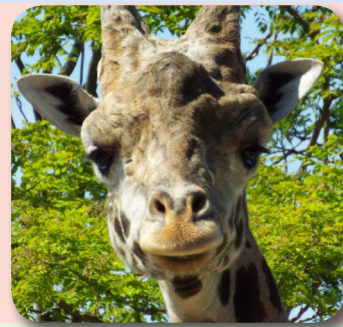
## 2015 IN REVIEW



### WE ENGAGED YOUNG PEOPLE

Our programs reach a wide range of young people, from pre-K through early adulthood. The left chart shows percentages of youth served in each age category, based on a sample of 450 program participants.

**Mini-Grants** are available to HCEF's partners to fund innovative educational projects. *Field Trips* give children and families learning opportunities such as a visit to the Pittsburgh Zoo or Children's Museum. The annual *Backpack Distribution* supplies thousands of backpacks filled with school supplies.

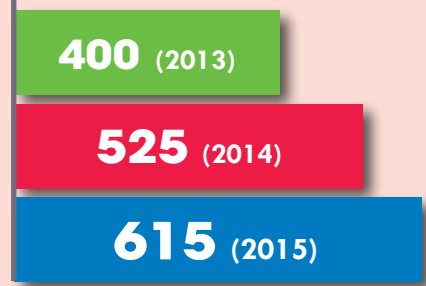


### WE OPENED DOORS

In partnership with Sojourner House MOMS, HCEF established its 13th Learning Center at Sankofa House in Homewood.

### WE NURTURED CREATIVITY

The right chart shows the number of youth participating in enrichment programs by year.

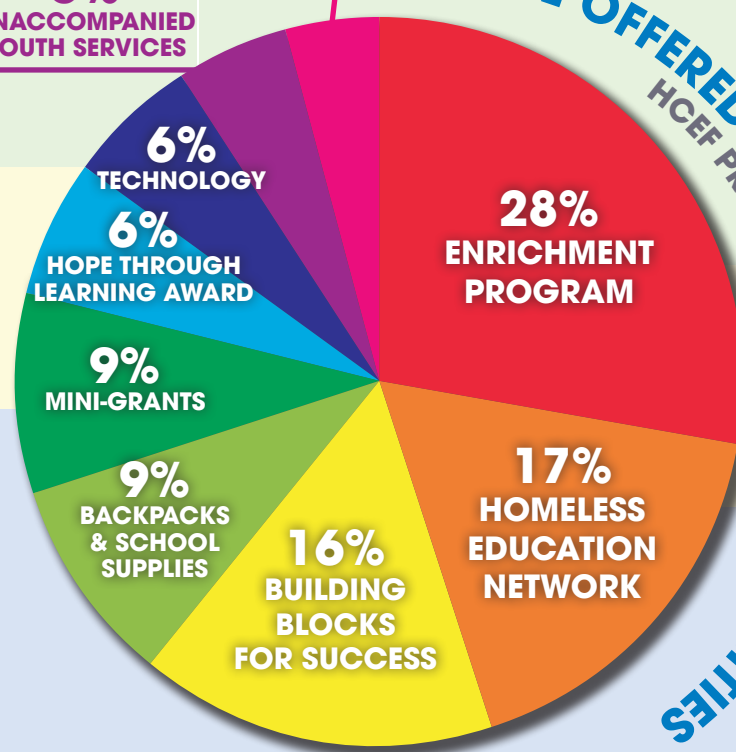


The *Hope Through Learning Award* is offered to youth 24 and younger who have persevered through homelessness, and want to pursue post-secondary education.

5%  
UNACCOMPANIED  
YOUTH SERVICES

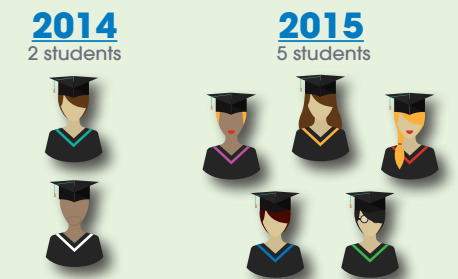
4%  
FIELD TRIPS

WE OFFERED A MENU OF OPPORTUNITIES  
HCEF PROGRAM EXPENDITURES



### WE SUPPORTED SCHOLARS

The number of Hope Through Learning Awardees by year:



**Homeless Children's Awareness Week** is an annual series of events aimed at generating awareness of the plight and promise of the children and youth we serve. The HCEF *Outreach Team* is dedicated to this cause year-round.



### WE EMPOWERED PROFESSIONALS

Over 400 community stakeholders participated in HEN events including the 6th Annual Summit:

- 96% reported being more knowledgeable about homeless education issues
- 95% noticed a positive impact on their work with youth
- 30% took action by adopting best practices, developing new partnerships, or writing to an elected official

The *Homeless Education Network* connects stakeholders in the fields of education, human services, and youth development to promote policies, resources and practices that improve educational outcomes for young people affected by homelessness.



### WE TRAINED VOLUNTEERS

HCEF volunteers logged 10,104 hours in direct service, outreach and events, and office assistance.

### WE PROMOTED SCHOOL READINESS

24 homeless housing providers and 11 schools and community organizations received over 2,400 backpacks through HCEF's annual backpack distribution program.



# OUR MISSION

To advance the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County by:

- Providing educational programs and services
- Serving as a trusted advocate
- Sharing expertise
- Facilitating collaborative relationships that maximize the collective impact among community partners

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness deserve equal access and full participation in the same educational and enrichment opportunities enjoyed by their stably-housed peers.
- Young people can overcome the barriers of homelessness with the support of individuals and organizations that are steadfastly committed to nurturing their resilience and realizing their gifts.
- Collaboration is essential to confront homelessness and ensure that myriad needs of children and youth without homes are respectfully and effectively met.



HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

creating hope through learning

# 2015 WAS A “BREAKTHROUGH YEAR” FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

Last year, HCEF reached more children and youth in Allegheny County through our direct services than in any of the previous 16 years. In addition, we have expanded our reach to identify and educate older youth experiencing homelessness, including those living on the street and unaccompanied. Five youth who experienced homelessness are now participating in post-secondary education programs with the support of our Hope Through Learning Award initiative. Our efforts were recognized by First Lady Michelle Obama through an invitation to visit the White House.

HCEF was a catalyst in forming a statewide advocacy effort to support the development of state and federal policy to address the myriad issues facing children and youth experiencing homelessness, including the December reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act and Title I.

As an active member of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Task Force on Unaccompanied Youth, HCEF has collaborated with foundations, law enforcement, and several other agencies to better connect homeless youth to the newly-created, county-supported drop-in center: the Auberle 412 Youth Zone. Acting as a convener and facilitator, HCEF has created a Homeless Education Network of community and government agencies to foster collaboration in addressing the unmet needs of children and youth from birth to age 24 experiencing homelessness in our region.

HCEF has accomplished all of the above without seeking or relying on the support of government funding. We are grateful for the continuous and generous financial support from our local foundations, corporations, businesses, and loyal individual donors.

*Bill Wolfe*

Bill Wolfe  
Executive Director

*Joe Lagana*

Joe Lagana  
Founder

# Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2015

## Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,239,379
Prepaid Expenses	\$5,407
Contributions & Other Receivables	\$65,183

Total Current Assets \$1,309,969

Investments	\$1,024,846
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Total Assets \$2,334,815

## Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$26,949
Deferred Revenue	\$6,200
Accrued Liabilities	\$20,379

Total Current Liabilities \$53,528

## Net Assets

Undesignated Operating	\$1,063,286
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Designated Temporarily Restricted	\$858,359 \$359,642
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Total Net Assets \$2,281,287

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$2,334,815

# Statement of Activities

As of December 31, 2015

## Change in Net Assets

## Revenues

Contributions	\$638,936
Grants from Corporations & Foundations	\$234,377
Special Events—Tickets & Sponsorships	\$190,190
Interest Income	\$32,016
Realized/Unrealized Gains/Losses	(\$58,165)

Total Revenues & Gains \$1,037,354

## Expenses

Programs	\$832,570
Fundraising	\$44,332
Administrative	\$52,405
Special Events	\$17,724

Total Expenses \$947,031

Change in Net Assets	\$90,323
Net Assets (December 31, 2014)	\$2,190,964

Net Assets (Dec. 31, 2015) \$2,281,287

This financial statement is based on an independent audit performed by the certified public accounting firm of Schneider Downs. Contact 412-562-0154 to obtain a free copy of the 2015 auditor's report. HCEF is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Donations can be made online at [www.homelessfund.org/donate](http://www.homelessfund.org/donate) and through United Way Contributor's Choice #963315. The official registration and financial information of the Homeless Children's Education Fund may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania at 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

To learn more about HCEF, visit [www.homelessfund.org](http://www.homelessfund.org) or call (412) 562-0154. To make an online donation, go to [www.homelessfund.org/donate](http://www.homelessfund.org/donate).



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## WHERE WE SERVE

ACTION-Housing  
Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center  
Allegheny Valley Association of Churches  
Auberle  
Bridge to Independence  
Center for Victims  
Community Human Services  
Crisis Center North  
East End Cooperative Ministry  
Familylinks  
Family Promise of Southwestern Pennsylvania  
Gay and Lesbian Community Center  
Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania  
HEARTH  
Light of Life Rescue Mission  
Naomi's Place  
Salvation Army  
Sisters Place  
Sojourner House  
Sojourner House MOMS  
Three Rivers Youth  
Veterans Leadership Program  
of Western Pennsylvania  
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Women's Center & Shelter  
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