

2001 Annual Report



Turning Tears Into Smiles



Homeless
Children &
Family
Emergency
Fund

A c c e s s • E d u c a t i o n • A d v o c a c y

The Mission of HCFEF is:

To serve as a voice for the homeless children of Allegheny County and to ensure that they are afforded equal access to the same educational opportunities and experiences as their peers.



"It is crucial to remember that our children are the future of our Commonwealth. When children become homeless, it creates a daunting educational and social challenge to our society. With that in mind, I applaud and commend HCFEF in their dedicated advocacy efforts of addressing the educational and developmental needs of these children."

Senator Jane Clare Orie
40th District, Pennsylvania State Senate



President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, 'We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.' Education is one of the most important ways to strengthen our youth not only for our future but, more importantly, for their future. HCFEF is providing the means for our region's homeless children and youth to become educated so that they can climb out of poverty, reach their potential and sustain a higher quality of living. Advocating and addressing the educational and developmental needs of these children is essential and commendable. As a member of this community, I extend my sincerest gratitude to HCFEF for their efforts to ensure educational opportunities are available to every homeless child and youth."

Representative Mike Doyle
18th District, Pennsylvania
United States House of Representatives

Challenges – 2002 and Beyond

A Message from the President and CEO



Dear Friends:

Since its inception, HCFEF has endeavored to achieve its mission so that we could declare that its efforts were no longer needed in this community. However, as long as any of the 3,000 young people who reside in the shelters of Allegheny County in any given year do not regularly attend school, HCFEF must remain vigilant in its efforts.

Foremost on the agenda is to remedy the appallingly insufficient levels of funding available to meet the educational needs of homeless children. Not tomorrow, not someday, but right now, these children desperately need money for such items as bus passes, backpacks, school supplies, shoes, uniforms and GED enrollment fees. Financial barriers must not be permitted to preclude homeless children from receiving a quality education.

This community cannot continue to allow over 3,000 homeless children to be denied access to computers, educational software and the Internet. Unless these children acquire the level of technological competence required for success in our modern society, they will fall farther and farther behind their classmates. To achieve this end, HCFEF intends to expand its efforts to help establish Computer Learning Centers in shelters throughout the county.

Despite notable progress, HCFEF must continue to advocate on the local, state and national levels for legislation that is more sensitive to the needs of homeless children. Government officials and community leaders must be encouraged to embrace this cause and become true champions for children. In order to bring about lasting change, groups such as HCFEF must continue to raise levels of awareness, both within government and in the community at large.

Although HCFEF's accomplishments thus far are praiseworthy, a prodigious amount of work remains to be done. We sincerely hope that you will join HCFEF on its journey to ensure that homeless children attend and remain in school and that these children receive the services and the respect that they both need and deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda A. Dickerson".

Linda A. Dickerson
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph F. Lagana".

Joseph F. Lagana, Ed.D.
Founder & CEO

2001 Accomplishments

Advocacy

- Completed pilot venture for the Computer Learning Centers project, establishing demonstration sites in shelters and convening public forums to publicize successes
- Solidified partnerships with United Way, Allegheny County Government, and Children's Cabinet, resulting in joint planning efforts to support local shelters
- Actively participated on Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy's Task Force on Homelessness
- Established a host-affiliate relationship between St. Patrick/St. Stanislaus Churches and Three Rivers Youth's HUB Teen Drop-In Center that resulted in more than \$2,000 being collected for the young people who depend on this important community resource
- Established a host-affiliate relationship between Independence Middle School, Bethel Park, and shelters in McKeesport
- Established a host-affiliate relationship between Fairview Elementary School, Fox Chapel, and Womenspace

"On behalf of the board of directors of Three Rivers Youth, I would like to thank you for your donation of four large tables, two coat racks and eight chairs. Your generous donation will help the children of our community affected by violence, poverty, abuse and neglect. Three Rivers Youth helped make a difference in the lives of over 4,000 youth and their families in the year 2000 thanks to the collective support of you and others in our community who believe in our future - our youth."

Again, thank you for giving these young men and women the chance to become the future leaders of tomorrow. Together we can make a difference in our hometown!"

Kathleen I. Rawlins

Director, Marketing & Development
Three Rivers Youth

Organization

- Completed independent audits for fiscal-years 2000 & 2001 (available for public inspection)
- Employed QuickBooks accounting software to fully automate business practices
- Purchased comprehensive organizational insurance policies
- Hired Executive Director and office support
- Developed HCFEF website (<http://www.hcfef.org>)
- Adopted organizational bylaws



"I was glad to learn of the Homeless Children and Family Emergency Fund and your extraordinary efforts to serve the needs of homeless children in our community. I hope that we can find more ways to build awareness and support for this important work."

Reverend Kris D. Stubna, S.T.D.

Secretary for Education, Diocese of Pittsburgh

2001 Accomplishments

Fundraising

- Raised the Endowment Fund to more than \$100,000
- Increased the number of United Way donations
- Increased public relations efforts (including radio and television coverage, newsletters and fundraisers), thus attracting increased attention to the needs of homeless children
- Orchestrated the Second Annual Champions for Children benefit at the Rivers Club on March 6, 2001. This gala evening of entertainment and auctions raised over \$50,000
- Sponsored a celebration rock concert at Rosebud with The Businessmen that raised \$4,000
- Developed a new Holiday fundraiser at the Rivers Club
- Conducted the 2001 Annual Campaign, yielding over \$30,000 and increasing the contributor database by 100%
- Secured a donation of several thousand dollars worth of furnishings from PNC and used them to furnish shelters at the Eastside Community Collaborative and Three Rivers Youth's HUB Teen Drop-In Center
- Received donations of computers and housewares from local corporations, including Calgon Carbon Corporation



"HCFEF has been the vital link for our program by not forgetting our easy-to-forget homeless population. Our group of 18 - 21 year olds is a hard to serve population due to the fact that most services for homeless people are geared towards either younger or older people.

Without the support of HCFEF, the Hub would not have been able to secure the necessary resources for our clients due to our small operating budget. Not only have we received financial support from HCFEF, but it has also provided us with important community linkages.

Our clients, because of the effort of HCFEF, received Thanksgiving Dinner prepared by a community based organization and Christmas gifts. For most of our clients, this was the only gift they received for the holiday. "

Myra Powell

Program Supervisor

Three Rivers Youth Hub Teen Drop-In Center

2002 Goals

Advocacy

- Continue to partner with corporate sponsors and Carnegie Mellon University to support the pilot venture of the Computer Learning Centers Project, as well as expanding the program to include additional shelters
- Serve as a catalyst for building a community network of hospitals, churches and schools in targeted areas to support local shelters
- Assist the local school districts, shelters and the Allegheny County Homeless Children's Initiative to implement the provisions of the State Basic Education Circular and reauthorized McKinney-Vento Act, so that no homeless child will be denied access to public education
- Continue partnerships with the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEH CY) and other national organizations to gain additional federal funding for the education of homeless children through the McKinney-Vento appropriations
- Partner with local government agencies, service providers and institutions of higher learning to generate accurate and authoritative information about the current number of homeless children in the region, their circumstances and needs, the services available to them and suggestions for closing gaps in service provision
- Continue to raise community awareness through the media regarding the plight and promise of the more than 3,000 children who experience homelessness during the course of a given year
- Continue to support and supplement the efforts of local shelters and the Allegheny County Homeless Children's Initiative

Funding and Fundraising

- Institute a mini-grant program with \$5,000-\$10,000 from the Endowment Fund to afford homeless kids access to the same educational opportunities as their peers
- Aggressively seek to expand direct funding from all sources, through fundraisers and giving campaigns, to raise an additional \$50,000 for the Endowment Fund and \$50,000 for operating costs
- Organize the Third Annual Champions for Children benefit at the Rivers Club on March 5, 2002 and increase this year's revenue by over 50%



"...we have a common concern about how we provide the most effective services to homeless children. We want to find better ways to address the health and educational needs of these children. Our goals are to create healthy communities and such cannot exist as long as there are homeless children. Even more disturbing is homeless children who do not receive health or educational services. I believe we can collectively address some of these issues through the partnerships."

Richard Benfer

Sr. VP, Community Initiatives
UPMC Health System



The Year In Review



Executive Director's Statement

2001 marked a period of tremendous expansion and development for the Homeless Children & Family Emergency Fund (HCFEF). HCFEF broadened its reputation for credibility and dependability within the community and clearly demonstrated its capacity to deliver on increasingly ambitious goals.

2001 also witnessed the final stages of HCFEF's three-year maturation from a start-up endeavor to an established organization. The Fund purchased computer equipment, automated its accounting systems, acquired comprehensive insurance, adopted board by-laws and constructed an outstanding website (www.hcfef.org).

The organization enhanced its fundraising efforts on all fronts - writing grants, soliciting corporations, organizing benefits and engaging in direct mail campaigns. Although efforts were hindered by adverse economic conditions and unparalleled demands on charitable giving, HCFEF still raised its Endowment Fund to over \$100,000 and generated enough funding to cover operating expenses.

Through dialogues with shelter staff, HCFEF endeavored to identify the educational challenges facing homeless children and began to address the serious detriments of the "digital divide." In partnership with Carnegie Mellon University, HCFEF embarked on an ambitious program to establish Computer Learning Centers in local shelters throughout Allegheny County. These centers will eventually serve as demonstration models for shelters across the region and state.

Success in the organization's advocacy endeavors was equally impressive. In both Harrisburg and Washington, HCFEF assisted in the enhancement of legislation and appropriations affecting the education of homeless children. By forging partnerships with schools, hospitals, corporations, foundations, government agencies, community organizations, religious institutions and service providers, HCFEF was able to cultivate its position as the hub around which a broad-based community network is developing.

In light of all this and more, 2001 will be regarded as a remarkable year. I would like to offer my most sincere appreciation to all those who helped to make HCFEF's significant achievements possible. Without such stalwart community support, HCFEF could not continue to ensure that homeless children are afforded equal access to the same educational opportunities and experiences as their peers. Again, thank you.



James Lawrence Weinberg
Executive Director

"There is simply no greater priority for our country's future than to raise our children to be engaged citizens. If our nation intends to live up to the goal of opportunity for all its people, we must give great care and attention to the needs of homeless kids. There are fewer populations who have such promise for the future and yet are so vulnerable to circumstances completely beyond their control."

Andrew Haupt

Former Associate Director, Coro Center for Civic Leadership

2001 Highlights

Computer Learning Centers Project

Often, it is a challenge to simply place homeless children in the public school system. Even when this can be accomplished, however, they lack access to computers, educational software and the Internet once they return “home” to their shelters. Every year, thousands of homeless children in our community will continue to fall behind their classmates and may fail to realize their full potential, unless they are empowered with the technological competence required for success in our modern society.

To respond to this deeply troubling “digital divide,” HCFEF partnered with Carnegie Mellon University and embarked on an ambitious pilot program to establish Computer Learning Centers in four local shelters. It is our vision that the Computer Learning Centers Project will:

- Provide children with quiet places to study, computers for educational and recreational purposes, Internet access for increased communication with family and schools and enriching after-school activities in a secure environment.
- Provide young adults with the ability to create resumes and look for jobs, the capability to create websites and the development of critical thinking skills, confidence and pride.
- Provide shelter staff with a renewed respect for the importance of education in the lives of homeless children, an understanding of how technology can be used to increase organizational capacity and the ability to increase inter-agency communication.
- Provide our region with an investment in economic development that will take thousands of at-risk children off the streets and place them in front of computers where they can learn and grow.

The program’s initial budget of \$30,000 was supported through the generosity and vision of the AT&T Foundation, Howard & Nell E. Miller Foundation, W.I. Patterson Charitable Fund and Highmark. HCFEF is now seeking additional funding to build a second series of these learning centers in additional shelters.

Backpacks for Homeless Kids

Responding to an emergency call for assistance from the community, HCFEF distributed 200 backpacks to local homeless shelters in time for the start of school.

“The Homeless Children and Family Emergency Fund provides access to education and other opportunities to help children grow and develop. They know that an investment in children at this critical time in their lives will bring rewards as they grow and enter the world.”

George L. Miles, Jr.
President and CEO, WQED Pittsburgh

Number of backpacks received per shelter:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 30 | Salvation Army Family Crisis Center, Downtown Pittsburgh |
| 10 | Whale’s Tale Family Treatment Center, Allentown |
| 10 | Womanspace East, Hill District |
| 15 | Woman’s Center and Shelter, Shadyside |
| 40 | East Side Community Collaborative, Homewood-Brushton |
| 20 | YWCA Bridge Housing, Wilkinsburg |
| 25 | Debra House Bridge Housing, Braddock |
| 20 | Alle-Kiski Hope Center, Tarentum |
| 30 | Crisis Center North, Pittsburgh |

2001 Highlights

2001 Champion for Children Award Recipients



HCFEF applauds Dr. Helen S. Faison and her distinguished career of service to the children of Pittsburgh and surrounding areas. As a former teacher, counselor and administrator, Dr. Faison knows firsthand the challenges faced by homeless children in our community. In appreciation of the lasting contributions of this vibrant force for education in Pittsburgh, HCFEF presented Dr. Faison with a Champion for Children Award.

"To grow up in our world, which is becoming increasingly more complex with the passing of time, is difficult for all children. Even those children who are born into families which can provide for their physical, social and emotional needs face challenging situations with which they do not always cope successfully. It is hard, therefore, almost impossible, to imagine how much more difficult life is for those children and their families for whom the barest of necessities, such as a place to call home, are not available. A value cannot be placed on the important role that the Homeless Children and Family Emergency Fund plays by providing tangible help and hope to the children and their families. You are to be commended for the good that the Fund is able to do."

Helen S. Faison

Director, The Pittsburgh Teachers Institute



HCFEF's Educational Leadership Award was presented to Christine Schipani for her untiring efforts to raise the awareness of the community to the plight of homeless children. Through her compassion and concern, mixed with education and passionate appeal, a faceless population was made personal to the students and teachers at Independence Middle School.

"Helping children is more than a good deed. It is a magical experience. A win-win situation. HCFEF allows us to touch the lives of many children, and through them, our future."

Christine Schipani

Teacher, Independence Middle School

HCFEF's Humanitarian Award was presented on February 19, 2001 to Nancy Rose, principal, and the faculty of Independence Middle School in the Bethel Park School District for their caring heart and spirit, demonstrated in their compassion and generosity on behalf of homeless children.

"Can one person make a difference? Absolutely! Because of one teacher with a mission, an entire school community began to care enough to make a big difference."

Nancy A. Rose

Principal, Independence Middle School

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2001

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$247,979
Unconditional Promises to Give	4,000
Accounts Receivable	10,040

Property and Equipment	13,579
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(4,012)</u>

Net Property and Equipment	<u>9,567</u>
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Total Assets	<u>\$271,586</u>
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$1,419
Payroll Payable	<u>224</u>

Total Liabilities	<u>1,643</u>
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Net Assets

Unrestricted

Undesignated

Operating	97,014
Fixed Assets	9,567

Designated	95,769
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Temporarily Restricted	<u>67,593</u>
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Total Net Assets	<u>269,943</u>
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$271,586</u></u>
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

As of December 31, 2001

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets

Public Support, Revenue and Gains

Contributions	\$ 82,445
Grants from Corporations and Foundations	105,625
Special Events – Tickets and Sponsorship	73,092
Interest Income	2,708
Miscellaneous Income	<u>320</u>

Total Unrestricted Public Support, Revenues and Gains	264,190
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Expenses

Programs	44,394
Fundraising	9,911
Administration	35,198
Rent	8,000
Utilities	2,000
Depreciation	2,651
Other	<u>968</u>

Total Expenses	<u>103,122</u>
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Change in Net Assets	<u>161,068</u>
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Net Assets – January 1, 2001	<u>108,875</u>
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Net Assets – December 31, 2001	<u><u>\$269,943</u></u>
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The certified public accounting firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP annually performs an independent audit of the finances of the Homeless Children & Family Emergency Fund. In accordance with the Trustee's open-book policy, financial records are available for public inspection upon request. A copy of the most recent audit report may be obtained by contacting HCCEF's Executive Director at (412) 562-0154.

Corporate and Group Sponsors

Adams Capital Management
Adelphia
Advanced Footcare Specialists
Allegheny County Government
Armand's Art Gallery
AT&T
Beckwith Machinery Company
Bombardier Transportation
Buchanan Ingersoll
The Buncher Company
Calgon Carbon Corporation
Central Presbyterian Women's Association
Central Presbyterian Church
Delta Kappa Gamma
Dominion Resources Services
Duquesne Light
Duquesne University
The Fragrasso Group
Gateway Financial
Guidant, Inc.
Heinz History Center
Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield
The Hillman Company
Keystone Metals Trading, Inc.
Koppers Industries
Lincoln Investment
Maiello, Brungo and Maiello, LLP
Mine Safety Appliances Co.
The Mole Hole
National City Bank
Oxford Development
Pitt Ohio Express
Pittsburgh Technical Institute
Port Authority
PRWriting
Rivers Club
Schneider's Dairy
Special Kids Network
St. Paula Claudia Women's Circle
Strategic Energy LLC
Suburban General Hospital
Sunrise School
UPMC Health System
USX Corporation
Verizon
Western PA Children's Charities
WTAE-TV Pittsburgh
Zion Lutheran Church



Foundation and Grant Support

AT&T Foundation
The Audrey Hillman Fisher Foundation, Inc.
The Bergstrom Foundation
Buncher Family Foundation
Charles Talbot Campbell Charitable Foundation
Giant Eagle Foundation
The Grable Foundation
Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield
John R. and Margaret S. McCartan Charitable Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation
The Heinz Endowments
The Lilah Hilliard Fisher Foundation, Inc.
The Hillman Foundation
The McFeely-Rogers Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation
Howard & Nell E. Miller Foundation
The Nina Baldwin Fisher Foundation, Inc.
PNC Charitable Trust
Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development
(Sponsored by Representative Dave Mayernik)
Russell Charitable Foundation
Schipani Foundation
W.I. Patterson Charitable Fund

"We at Calgon Carbon Corporation continue to be impressed with the work of the Homeless Children and Family Emergency Fund. Your latest efforts to provide Learning Centers at homeless shelters are particularly exciting and we want to help. Calgon Corporation will donate computer equipment. In addition, our information technology service providers, Perot Systems, will be in touch with you to talk about providing additional equipment and helping you to meet other needs. Best wishes for continued success in meeting the needs of homeless children!"

J.A. Cederna

Chairman & CEO, Calgon Carbon Corporation

Board of Trustees

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Dickerson & Mangus, Ink.

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Pittsburgh Public School District

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Principal
Advanced Foot Care Specialists

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Myra Powell
Program Supervisor
Three Rivers Youth - The Hub

Councilperson Jan Rea
Allegheny County Council

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Superintendent
Moon Area School District

Robert Valasek
Managing Director, Nonprofit Practice
Boyden of Pittsburgh

Catherine Whitely
Director
Abundant Beginnings Early Learning Center

William Wolfe
Vice President
The Callos Company

Donna Wren
Financial Representative
Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc.



"Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Independence Middle School for the new computer... a gift from heaven. The children will be able to learn how to operate a computer, as well as learn more about the world around them. They can also keep up with their school work like the other students in their schools. We try hard to make our shelter feel like home to the families...the kids can now tell their classmates that they too have a computer in their 'home'."

Karen E. Payne

Project Director, East Side Collaborative,
Initiative for Families

Board of Advisors

Patricia Andrews, Esq.
Andrews & Price

Ronald Cowell
President
Educational Policy & Leadership Center

Congressman William Coyne
United States House of Representatives

Becky Dieter
Elementary School Teacher
Fox Chapel School District

Barbara Duffield
Director of Education
National Coalition for the Homeless

Dr. Heide Feldman
Chief, General Academic Pediatrics
Director of UCLID, Children's Hospital

John Louis Ford
Manager of School Programs
Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

Susan Franke, RN, BSN, M.Ed.
Director, Information & Referral
The Special Kids Network

Sheldon Ingram
Newscaster
WTAE-TV

Ellen Kight
Director
PA Dept. of Comm. & Econ. Development

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The Caring Place

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Associate Executive
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Pennsylvania State Senate

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Faculty Member
Bethel Park School District

Dr. Helen Sobehart
Director
Leadership Institute, Duquesne University

Dr. Abraham Twerski
Counselor
Gateway Rehabilitation Center

Joseph Vallarian
Communications Manager
Pittsburgh Public Theater

Richard Venezia
Administrator
Allegheny Department of Human Services

Senator Jack Wagner
Pennsylvania State Senate

Ira Weiss, Esq.

Nancy Wells
Executive Director
Center for Victims



Our History and Purpose

The Homeless Children and Family Emergency Fund (HCFEF), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, was established in 1998 to serve as a voice for the homeless children of Allegheny County and to ensure that they are afforded equal access to the same educational opportunities and experiences as their peers.

The Fund's Board of Trustee and Advisors are comprised of prominent regional and national leaders and is dedicated to championing the educational rights of these children.

Without such dedicated efforts, homeless children would be adrift - unable to attend school, isolated from their peers and deprived of the experiences necessary for healthy growth and development.

As 17 shelters throughout Allegheny County struggle to serve the various needs of over 3,000 children annually, they face imposing challenges to ensure the access of these children to a free and appropriate public education.

HCFEF endeavors to serve as a community advocate, raising funds to support its young clients and building coalitions of support among schools, corporations, foundations, hospitals, religious organizations and government agencies. In short, HCFEF seeks to leverage community resources toward serving an urgent community need.

For more information about HCFEF, please call: (412) 562-0154 or visit us on the web at: www.hcfef.org

HCFEF is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with United Way Donor Option #963315. Donations are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS rules and regulations. The official registration and financial information of the Homeless Children & Family Emergency Fund may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Thank You

It is only through generous support from the individuals, foundations and businesses of this community that HCFEF is able to pursue its mission of serving as a voice for homeless children and ensuring that they are afforded equal access to the same educational opportunities and experiences as their peers.

Thanks to this support, HCFEF continues to restore dignity, confidence and educational opportunities to hundreds of homeless children throughout Allegheny County.

Special thanks for the design and printing of this report are in order for Cynthia Helffrich, Susan Franke, Gary Pete, Robert Neville of Krome Communications and the Hoechstetter Printing Company.

