

# 2003 ANNUAL REPORT



HOMELESS  
CHILDREN'S  
EDUCATION  
FUND



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF) serves as a voice for the homeless children of Allegheny County and ensures that they are afforded equal access to the same educational opportunities and experiences as their peers.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Linda A. Dickerson*

Linda A. Dickerson  
Board President



*Imagine you're a child and find yourself moving into a homeless shelter with your family. In the upheaval, you may not be able to go to school for several weeks. Once back in school, you are likely to have difficulty adjusting, and no quiet space for homework — especially if it has to be done on a computer.*

*Joseph F. Lagana*

Joseph F. Lagana  
Founder & CEO



*This is life for the 3,000 children who endure homelessness in Allegheny County each year.*

*The Homeless Children's Education Fund comprehensively addresses this problem like no one else in Allegheny County, and like few others in the country. This report is a summary and celebration of that work this year — a year of growth, of change, and of hope for some of this region's most vulnerable citizens.*

*D. Renee Hairston*

D. Renee Hairston  
Executive Director



*Our success would not be possible without the generous support of the individuals, groups, companies and foundations who donate time, goods and funds. Your investment in homeless children's education is an investment in our future — and in the future of our region.*

## 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

### Learning Centers

Our core program has expanded to seven sites providing a rich, comprehensive learning environment right inside homeless shelters serving children and their families. Though our work makes a difference in the lives of all homeless children in Allegheny County, it is through the Learning Centers that our impact has the most depth. Please see the special insert, the Learning Center 2003 Year-End Report, for more information on this truly exciting initiative touching the lives of hundreds of homeless children.



### Mini-Grants for Educational Innovation

This year marked several milestones in HCEF's Mini-Grants Program. The first round of Mini-Grant recipients concluded their work, and reported on their programs to enhance homeless children's educational opportunities. One shelter purchased video materials on drug and alcohol prevention, anger management and conflict resolution — effective for both the children and their parents. Another shelter purchased a digital camera and software to engage youth in digital storytelling — capturing photos, projects, online career research, educational accomplishments and more in a CD-ROM to take with them when they leave the shelter.



Encouraged by the success of this first round, HCEF offered a second round of Mini-Grants, with an increased emphasis on innovative programs that offer long-term impact on the children in the shelters. We were pleased to award grants to the following ten organizations: Allegheny Valley Association of Churches Hospitality Network, Crisis Center North, Healthy Start House, Primary Care Health Services, Sisters Place, Three Rivers Youth — The Hub, Womanspace East, Womanspace, Inc., Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, and YWCA Bridge Housing.

With nearly \$10,000 in Mini-Grants awarded in 2003, almost \$20,000 has been awarded since the program's inception.

Finally, HCEF reached a landmark \$225,000 in the Endowment Fund, which is comprised of gifts from individuals and is used for direct program expenses through Mini-Grants. Every dollar donated by individuals goes to the shelters to help educate homeless children. Based on this success and the growing quality of Mini-Grant proposals, the Endowment Distribution Committee is eager to increase the distribution of Mini-Grants. The Committee is also exploring appropriate investment strategies that would protect the Endowment Fund while leveraging a higher rate of return, in order to ensure a sustained resource pool for children's educational programming in shelters.



### Advocacy

HCEF has been building on our success in advocating for state and federal legislation to protect and promote homeless children's educational rights. Most homeless children are now able to attend public school, though in some cases there remain difficulties in the smooth implementation of the legislation.

We therefore continue to forge partnerships to build community awareness of the plight of homeless children, and to remove the barriers to their education. We have established the framework to work with Reed Smith LLP, to review with school districts the implementation of federal legislation on homeless children's education. We have also built a relationship with KidsVoice, whose advocates are available to homeless children and families being denied rights.

On an even broader level, radio spots courtesy of Renda Broadcasting have alerted thousands of listeners to the scope of the problem, and to the opportunities afforded by HCEF to bring learning and hope to thousands of homeless children.

## 2003 HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

### Pack-to-School 2003

This crucial program annually raises funds and collects donated items to provide homeless children with the supplies they need to begin the school year.

The third year of our Pack-to-School program was our most successful yet, with more than 550 new backpacks containing school supplies, so that virtually every homeless child in Allegheny County started the 2003-2004 school year with a backpack.

And our success was more than the numbers. First, we were able to distribute more school supplies with each backpack, in order to better prepare homeless children to learn. We were also able to emphasize the distribution of brand-new backpacks so that the children, already in turmoil, can feel as valued as their peers.

These multiple successes would not have been possible without the remarkable help of our partners in charity. This year's Pack-to-School partners included the Allegheny County Music Festival, the Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA), ChildWatch, Riverview Children's Center Summer Camp and HCEF Board members.

Myra Powell, HCEF Board member and Program Supervisor at Three Rivers Youth – The Hub, and HCEF's Administrative Assistant Kelly McCoy coordinated this year's Pack-to-School project.

### New Staff

This year also brought new leadership to the Homeless Children's Education Fund. With the return of Jeremy Morrow to graduate school, we hired Debbie Burkey Piecka as our new Program Manager. Debbie is uniquely suited to her intensive work with the Learning Centers, having extensive proficiency and training in Instructional Technology, great insight into child development, and experience in managing community service organizations.

In the spring, as James Weinberg finished his Master's degree and prepared to return to Boston, HCEF hired D. Renee Hairston as our first full-time Executive Director. Transitioned for several months by James, Renee brings to HCEF both graduate-level training in nonprofit management as well as four years' experience serving as Development Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh, and volunteer Secretary of the Board of Directors of Riverview Children's Center.

Both of the new staff members share a deep commitment to ensuring the well-being of our region's children, especially the most vulnerable and underserved. They join Administrative Assistant Kelly McCoy, whose year-plus of experience with HCEF as well as her initiative and strong work ethic, make her an invaluable resource. Building on the foundation of HCEF's first four years, the staff's teamwork will help shape the growth and impact of our organization.

*"The Homeless Children's Education Fund fills a void in our region. Children experiencing homelessness suffer great loss and the tremendous stress of change and uncertainty. The Learning Centers Initiative reintroduces high expectations, support, warmth and academic challenge, enabling children to feel connected and safe."*

Sherry Cleary, Director, University of Pittsburgh Child Development Center

## 2003 CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN BENEFIT



Judge Max Baer



Dr. William Pope



Sister Liguori Rossner



Dr. Walter Howard Smith, Jr.

Our 4th Annual Champions for Children event was our biggest and best yet, with nearly 300 in attendance at The Rivers Club to celebrate the work and inspiration of the following local champions:

**Judge Max Baer** – Presented with the Governmental Leadership Award for his exemplary leadership and caring spirit in judicial innovation and many years of dedication to the well-being of homeless children and youth.

**Dr. William Pope** – Presented with the Educational Leadership Award in recognition for his many years of service in education, culminating with his service as Superintendent of Schools for the Upper St. Clair School District.

**Sister Liguori Rossner** – Presented with the Community Leadership Award for her lifetime leadership in and commitment to service for the homeless and hungry of our community, most notably through the impressive array of services at Jubilee Kitchen.

**Dr. Walter Howard Smith, Jr.** – Presented with the Champion for Children Award for his lifetime commitment to community service and caring spirit to enhance the quality of life for all children, particularly the abused and underserved.

## GOALS FOR 2004

- Promote innovative and effective children's educational programming in homeless shelters.
- Expand the depth and breadth of the Learning Centers Initiative to continue to meet the need for high-impact programming that will level the educational playing field for homeless children.
- Increase the distribution of Mini-Grants for Educational Innovation in order to advance children's learning programs with long-term impact in homeless shelters.
- Foster an environment in which shelter staff share their experiences and successes, becoming a community of learners.
- Cultivate a broad variety of sustainable community networks and Host Partnerships that are capable of supporting the educational needs of homeless children in local shelters.
- Provide new backpacks filled with school supplies to each child beginning the 2004-2005 school year living in a homeless shelter.
- Engage local partners to raise community awareness of the plight of homeless children and to work with homeless families and school districts to protect and promote homeless children's educational rights.





## THANK YOU

During 2003, generous support from the following individuals, groups, foundations and companies allowed HCEF to pursue its mission of ensuring that homeless children were afforded equal access to the same educational opportunities and experiences as their peers. The following are true champions for children and an inspiration to us all.

### 2003 Foundation and Grant Support

Buncher Family Foundation	Lilah Hilliard Fisher Foundation
Dominion Foundation	Living Trust of WJ. Baumgarten
Eden Hall Foundation	McKee Crawford Foundation
Equitable Resources Foundation	Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club
Forst Foundation	Murrin Foundation
Giant Eagle Foundation	Nina Baldwin Fisher Foundation
Helen Clay Frick Foundation	Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development
Howard Heinz Endowments	PNC Bank Foundation
James Mathews Educational & Charitable Trust	Russell Charitable Foundation
Jewish Healthcare Foundation	Women's Board of Pittsburgh

### 2003 Corporate and Group Support

AAA East Central	Cassell Interactive
Advanced Foot Care Specialists	CB Richard Ellis/Pittsburgh
Alco Parking Corp.	Cederna International
Allegheny Intermediate Unit	ClubCorp Service Center
Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority	County of Allegheny
Armand's Art Gallery	Creative Asset Services
Bank Pittsburgh	Deloitte & Touche Services
Beckwith Machinery	Dickerson & Mangus Ink.
Bender Consulting Services	Diocese of Pittsburgh
Benefit Fund Service Company	Direct Mail Service, Inc.
Billot Chiropractic & Rehabilitation	Doyle for Congress Committee
Bishop John B. McDowell School	Duquesne Light
Bombardier Transportation	Duquesne University
Bonnie Walker	Duquesne University School of Education
Bowne	Eat 'N Park Hospitality Group
Burson-Marsteller	Ellis Real Estate
Calgon Carbon Corp.	First Commonwealth
Cards By Anne/Anne Kernion	Fragasso Group
Carnegie Learning	Grossman Yanak & Ford LLP
Carnegie Mellon University	Harold Betters Trio

### 2003 Corporate and Group Support (cont.)

Have A Heart	Pleasant Hills Chrysler-Jeep
Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield	PNC Advisors
Hilton Pittsburgh	Point Park University
Hooper Holmes, Inc.	Price Securities
Howard Gasoline & Oil Co.	PRWriting
Hosack, Specht, Meutzel & Wood	PT Marketing
ICM School of Business & Medical Careers	Radison Hotel Pittsburgh
IKON Office Solutions, Inc.	Ramada Plaza Suites & Conference Center
Informing Design	Reed Smith LLP
Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence	RR Donnelley
Institute for Regional and Rural Studies	Ritz-Carlton Cleveland
Izazu International Salon	Saint Mary Church
Jenkins-Empire Associates	Sam Levin Inc.
L.D. Astorino & Associates	Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center
Lawrenceville Corporation	Sewickley Spine & Joint Center
Lloyd Corder	Sheraton Station Square Hotel
Marsetta Lane Temp Service	Solutions 21, Inc.
Martin Murphy Photography	Spraying Systems Co.
Massaro Company	St. Paul's Claudia Women's Circle
McKamish	Stephanie Bozic Interior Designs
Mellon Bank	Strategic Energy LLC
Merck Employee Giving Campaign	The Annuity Store
Mohr & More Media Sales	The Buncher Corporation
National Aviary	The Eric Ryan Corporation
National City	The Hillman Company
Neighbors in the Strip	The Jubilee Association
Northwest Deanery Youth Council	The Mole Hole
Our Lady of Grace School	The Rivers Club
Oxford Development Company	The Sewickley Spa
Paper Products Company	The Techs
Pitt Ohio Express	United States Steel Corp.
Pittsburgh Brewing Company	University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera	Urban League of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Cultural Trust	Verizon
Pittsburgh Musical Theater	Vicky's Personalized Specialties
Pittsburgh Pirates Alumni Assoc.	Vista Resources Inc.
Pittsburgh Playhouse	Westerly Group Inc.
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra	Westin Convention Center
Pittsburgh Technical Institute	WQED Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Trophy	YMCA of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium	Zion Lutheran Church



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*“They were so interested in doing what they could to help out another child. I’m so honored and humbled to work with these kids. They’ve taught me so much about giving and giving back. They provided us with everything. We had the space, and they came in and made the drapes and decorated the walls. It was a pretty boring-looking room before they started.”*

**Kathy Petruska, Executive Director, YWCA of McKeesport**—Kathy is talking about the Bethel Park STARS students and their efforts involved with the development of the Learning Center at YWCA of McKeesport



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**D. Renee Hairston**

*“If I didn’t have a computer, I wouldn’t be able to learn how to use the computer.”*

**Amanda, age 8, child served by the Learning Centers Initiative**

## HCEF WORKS WITH...

This graph depicts the many collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships that HCEF cultivates to benefit local homeless children and our region.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Discuss the information in this report with colleagues and family to raise awareness.
- Ask your local school district about its policies and practices regarding homeless children.
- Make a contribution at [www.homelessfund.org](http://www.homelessfund.org) and encourage friends to match your gift.
- Have your business donate in-kind services such as printing, mailing or technical support.
- Volunteer to tutor children at a Learning Center.
- Organize a small fundraiser at your home, office or school and donate the proceeds.
- Donate new backpacks and/or school supplies.
- Contribute children's books or magazine subscriptions to a local shelter.
- Volunteer to help with special events and organizational operations.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2003

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$439,340
Accounts Receivable	25,695
Property and Equipment	14,177
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(9,808)</u>
Net Property and Equipment	<u>4,369</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$469,404</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	<u>\$1,373</u>
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	
Undesignated	
Operating	140,070
Fixed Assets	4,369
Designated	235,388
Temporarily Restricted	<u>88,204</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>468,031</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$469,404</u>

### Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2003

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	
Public Support, Revenue and Gains	
Contributions	\$101,500
Grants from Corporations and Foundations	135,661
Special Events – Tickets and Sponsorships	76,070
Interest Income	2,698
Other	<u>1,077</u>
Total Unrestricted Public Support, Revenues and Gains	317,006
Expenses	
Programs	81,372
Fundraising	5,341
Administration	99,614
Rent	8,000
Utilities	2,000
Depreciation	2,844
Other	<u>1,293</u>
Total Expenses	<u>200,464</u>
Change in Net Assets	116,542
Net Assets – January 1, 2003	<u>351,489</u>
Net Assets – December 31, 2003	<u>\$468,031</u>

The certified public accounting firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP performs an independent audit of the Homeless Children's Education Fund annually. Contact 412-562-0154 to obtain a free copy of the 2003 auditor's report. HCEF is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Donations can be made online at [www.homelessfund.org](http://www.homelessfund.org) 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.



## HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

1212 Smallman Street  
Mezzanine Offices  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222  
Office: 412.562.0154  
Fax: 412.562.1109  
[www.homelessfund.org](http://www.homelessfund.org)