



HOMELESS  
CHILDREN'S  
EDUCATION  
FUND

# 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

*Education in Allegheny County —  
Making the Picture Brighter*



*“Education is the leading of human souls to what is best...  
and making what is best out of them...”*

*—John Ruskin*

## OVERVIEW

As you read this document, more than 600 children in Allegheny County are homeless, living with their families in shelters. In the course of a year, that number can climb to as many as 3,000. Even when their basic needs are met – shelter, food, clothing – there remains a danger, the danger of falling behind in school. A child who misses a few weeks of school, attends multiple schools in a year, or doesn’t have the extra support needed to learn amidst the upheaval and uncertainty of homelessness, is at risk to fall behind academically. Once a homeless child falls behind in school, catching up is difficult, if not impossible. If homeless children fall behind their classmates, and are not prepared for further education or good jobs, they risk continuing the cycle of homelessness into adulthood. So, while the impact on their schools is immediate, the long-term effects of their failures academically may continue far into the future.

The Homeless Children’s Education Fund has been meeting the educational needs of these children and youth since 1999. This year has been one of great growth in the services, supplies and support we provide, as well as in the form of growth for the organization itself. The 2004 annual report is a summary and celebration of that work. We end the year again having provided positive experiences for some of this region’s most vulnerable young citizens. And we celebrate another year of providing all of them with hope through learning.

## 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 FOUNDER & CEO

*Joseph F. Lagana*

Joseph F. Lagana  
Founder & CEO



*The Homeless Children's Education Fund experienced healthy growth during 2004. We continued to be successful in our mission of helping homeless children stay in school and remain caught up academically with their more fortunate classmates. I also acknowledge that there is much work to be done. What we do is important, certainly for every one of the children we reach, but so too for our schools and, in the long term, for the economic benefit of our region.*

*2004 was a year of solid achievement. We opened our seventh learning center at the beginning of the year and initiated the development of an eighth near the end of the year. The Learning Center Initiative is the core of HCEF programs. Our centers have successfully served hundreds of children in Allegheny County. Every learning center we have sponsored remains open and thriving today.*

*In 2004, we strengthened our relationship with government at the local, state and national level. A representative of the U.S. Department of Education visited two of our learning centers and addressed the audience attending the 5th Annual Champions for Children benefit. In October, we joined forces with Allegheny County to call attention to the plight of the homeless during Homelessness Awareness Week.*

*Two other programs had outstanding outcomes in 2004. Our Pack-To-School program resulted in the collection of 1,200 backpacks, way beyond our projections, and enabled us to provide every homeless child in Allegheny County with a backpack filled with school supplies in time for the start of the school year. Also, our mini-grant program had a record number of applicants, with each providing strong evidence of innovative educational programs for homeless children.*

*Linda Dickerson, HCEF Board Chairwoman for the last five years, elected to step down at the end of 2004. HCEF is the strong organization it is due in no small measure to Linda's leadership, wisdom, guidance, compassion, commitment and support. I thank her for her cooperation and, on a personal level, for her friendship. Linda has pledged to remain an active participant in this organization and for that I am grateful.*

*I look at 2004 with deep appreciation and a sense of pride for all that was accomplished. I look forward with great anticipation to all that the Homeless Children's Education Fund will do in 2005. And I encourage you to join me in our efforts.*

Sincerely,  
Joseph F. Lagana, Ed.D.  
Founder and CEO

# WELCOME

HCEF is pleased to welcome William Wolfe as 2005 Board Chairman.



Bill is Vice President and Client Executive for Marsh USA in Pittsburgh. Although his career took him away from the area for a number of years, Bill was born and raised here and returned home because of his great optimism for the region. Since his return to Pittsburgh, he has become very active in not-for-profit organizations that support the economic and social development of the region.

Bill Wolfe is dedicated to the growth and vitality of the western Pennsylvania region. He believes that growth will be achieved only if regional leaders work together and understand how they can support each other while still growing their own enterprises. This knowledge will be gained through networking and the development of relationships that provide equal benefits for all parties involved.

The wealth of experience, enthusiasm and commitment Bill brings to HCEF are certain to propel the organization into a new era of achievement to benefit the homeless children in our region and beyond.

## 2004 HIGHLIGHTS

### Learning Centers

The Learning Center Project is the core program among several designed to help enrich the lives of homeless children. Children who find themselves without a permanent home, even for a relatively short period of time, may miss school and, even if they do remain in school, are often at risk for falling academically behind their classmates. Lack of a quiet place to study and complete homework assignments, lack of access to a computer, and a host of other problems associated with being homeless place their academic success in jeopardy. Once they drop behind academically, it is difficult for them to get caught up. Their achievement and test scores affect the overall performance of the class, the school and the district. And, in a society that is increasingly becoming more skill-oriented and technological, they may find themselves at a real disadvantage once they leave school and attempt to move into the job market.

### What is a Learning Center?

- Learning Centers are powerful educational environments in shelters that encourage developmental progress in homeless youth through the use of puzzles, games, toys, music, art, reading libraries, reference materials, computers loaded with educational software, printers, scanners and digital cameras.
- Most importantly, Learning Centers serve as physical sites for after-school tutoring programs designed to supplement and complement the public school education.
- The goal of the Learning Centers Project is to provide children who reside in homeless shelters with equal access to the same educational opportunities as their peers.
- All of our programs make a difference in the lives of all homeless children in Allegheny County, but it is through the Learning Centers that our impact has the greatest reach.

Our current role in the Learning Center Initiative is to help secure necessary funding to initiate and coordinate the development of learning centers that become self-sustaining, while serving homeless children effectively. Seven centers have been opened in homeless shelters for women and families throughout Allegheny County. Development of an eighth center is underway and a grand opening is planned for November, in conjunction with National Homelessness Awareness Week and as part of a growing partnership with Allegheny County.

*"The classroom and the teacher occupy the most important part, the most important position of human fabric. . . in the schoolhouse we have the heart of the whole society."*  
—Henry Golden

## 2004 HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

### Mini-Grants for Educational Innovation

An impressive number of applicants for HCEF mini-grants, all with high-quality innovative educational programs, applied for grants in 2004. More than \$13,000 in funds were awarded to the following area organizations: Allegheny Valley Association of Churches; Alle-Kiski Area Hope Center Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing; Bridge To Independence; Salvation Army Family Crisis Center; Sisters Place; Three River's Youth — The Hub; Womanspace East; YWCA Bridge Housing; and YWCA of McKeesport.

The mini-grants program is funded by HCEF's Program Endowment, through which 100 percent of personal donations go directly to the children, annually funding each recipient's own programs for educational activities specific to the children and youth they serve. In 2004, HCEF reached a landmark \$252,000 in its 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. The Endowment Distribution Committee has already committed \$15,000 to the 2005 mini-grants program. HCEF has awarded more than \$30,000 for educational innovation since the inception of this program.

### Pack-to-School 2004

This crucial program annually raises funds and collects donated items to provide homeless children with a backpack and the supplies they need to begin the school year. The 2004 Pack-to-School program was our most successful yet, with more than 1,200 new backpacks containing school supplies collected, so that virtually every homeless child in Allegheny County started the school year with a backpack.

Major partners in this year's Pack-To-School campaign included: the Allegheny County Music Festival; Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA); Citizens Bank; Cohen & Grigsby; Community Care Behavioral Health Organization; "Kids Helping Kids" from Franklin Regional High School; GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare; Jewish Federation of Women; McGuire Memorial; Monroeville United Methodist Church; Office Depot; Penguin Young Readers Group — Puffin Books Rivers Club; Scholastic Books; Three Rivers Youth — The Hub; and the USWA Local 3657 Women of Steel Committee and the nine field offices and the administrative personnel of the UWSA.





## 2004 HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

### 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 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.

At the local 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.

### Haunted House

In its first year, South Park's Hundred Acres Manor Haunted House, generated \$5,250 in revenue for HCEF. An estimated 14,000 people walked through the house between September 30 and October 31.

## 2004 CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN



Marc Cherna



Stacy de las Alas



Myra Powell



Jennifer  
Williams



Sister Linda  
Yankoski

Each year, The Homeless Children's Education Fund honors individuals whose caring spirit and dedicated community service, exemplary leadership in championing for the homeless, and outstanding contribution in education, have helped enhance the quality of life for homeless children and their families. In 2004, the following five local individuals, long known for their work with children and families in Allegheny County, were selected as Champions for Children.

**Marc Cherna** is Director of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. Since taking charge of the county's child protective services agency in 1996, he has implemented sweeping system-wide changes that have resulted in better permanency outcomes for children. He is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations for his work with children.

Art Therapist **Stacy de las Alas** is the Child Counselor and Prevention Education Specialist for Crisis Center North and provides violence education services to nearly 3,000 students in Northern Allegheny County Schools each year. She has been recognized with a Congressional Citation for her work on a domestic violence community awareness project involving a display of children's artwork at the Mattress Factory.

**Myra Powell** is Program Supervisor of The Hub, a homeless drop-in center in the Strip District. Under her leadership, The Hub has expanded from a two-room facility in 1999 to an active center providing a full range of services for homeless individuals 18 to 21 years of age. She has successfully coordinated a host of medical, educational, mental health and vocational services for her clients, and has developed and maintained resources to ensure that these services continue.

**Jennifer T. Williams** is Director of Health Care for the Homeless. During her tenure, HCH has provided health care to more than 6,000 patients at eighteen clinic sites throughout Pittsburgh, doubling the number of homeless individuals receiving care in the past eight years. She also created and procured funding for KIDSTART, a unique program that provides targeted, health-focused case management to homeless children and their families.

**Sister Linda Yankoski** is President of Holy Family Institute, an agency providing services to more than 6,000 children and 5,000 families. Children placed at Holy Family Institute have experienced some of life's most desperate situations. Under Sister Linda's guidance, they are given an opportunity "to be children" and, for once in their lives, to feel safe and receive treatment for their bodies, minds and souls.



## GOALS FOR 2005

- Expand and monitor the Learning Centers Initiative to ensure the program meets the educational needs of the largest possible number of homeless children in the most effective and progressive manner.
- Increase the distribution of Mini-Grants for Educational Innovation to enhance educational opportunities of enduring value for children in homeless shelters.
- Provide all children living in homeless shelters with new backpacks filled with school supplies.
- Cultivate Host Partnerships and construct sustainable networks throughout the community to support the educational needs of homeless children in local shelters.
- Build on relationships developed with U.S. Department of Education and Allegheny County during Homelessness Awareness Week to advocate for the permanent removal of all remaining barriers to an appropriate education for homeless children.
- 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.

*"Education is for improving the lives of others  
and for leaving your community and world better  
than you found it."*

*—Marian Wright Edelman*



# 2004 CORPORATE AND GROUP SUPPORT

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

Grossman Yanak & Ford LLP  
 Harold Betters Trio  
 Have A Heart  
 Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield  
 Hilton Pittsburgh  
 Hoechstetter Printing  
 Hooper Holmes, Inc.  
 Howard Gasoline & Oil Co.  
 Hosack, Specht, Meutzel & Wood  
 ICM School of Business &  
 Medical Careers  
 IKON Office Solutions, Inc.  
 Informing Design  
 Institute for Entrepreneurial  
 Excellence  
 Institute for Regional and Rural  
 Studies  
 Izazzu International Salon  
 Jenkins-Empire Associates  
 L.D. Astorina & Associates  
 Lawrenceville Corporation  
 Lloyd Corder  
 Marsetta Lane Temp Service  
 Martin Murphy Photography  
 Massaro Company  
 McKamish  
 Mellon Bank  
 Merck Employee Giving  
 Campaign  
 Mohr & More Media Sales  
 National Aviary  
 National City  
 Neighbors In The Strip  
 Northwest Deanery Youth  
 Council  
 Our Lady of Grace School  
 Oxford Development Company  
 Paper Products Company  
 Pitt Ohio Express  
 Pittsburgh Brewing Company  
 Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera  
 Pittsburgh Cultural Trust  
 Pittsburgh Irish &  
 Classical Theatre  
 Pittsburgh Musical Theater  
 Pittsburgh Pirates Alumni Assoc.  
 Pittsburgh Playhouse  
 Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra  
 Pittsburgh Technical Institute

Pittsburgh Trophy  
 Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium  
 Pleasant Hills Chrysler-Jeep  
 PNC Advisors  
 Point Park University  
 Price Securities  
 PRWriting  
 PT Marketing  
 Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh  
 Ramada Plaza Suites &  
 Conference Center  
 Reed Smith LLP  
 Riverview Children's Center  
 Summer Camp  
 Ritz-Carlton Cleveland  
 RR Donnelley  
 Saint Mary Church  
 Sam Levin Inc.  
 Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh  
 Regional History Ctr.  
 Sewickley Spine & Joint Center  
 Sheraton Station Square Hotel  
 Solutions 21, Inc.  
 Spraying Systems Co.  
 St. Paul's Claudia Women's Circle  
 Stephanie Bozic Interior Designs  
 Strategic Energy LLC  
 The Annuity Store  
 The Buncher Corporation  
 The Eric Ryan Corporation  
 The Hillman Company  
 The Jubilee Association  
 The Mole Hole  
 The Rivers Club  
 The Sewickley Spa  
 The Techs  
 United States Steel Corp.  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 Urban League of Pittsburgh  
 Verizon  
 Vicky's Personalized Specialties  
 Vista Resources Inc.  
 Westerly Group Inc.  
 Westin Convention Center  
 WQED Pittsburgh  
 YMCA of Pittsburgh  
 Zion Lutheran Church



# 2004 FOUNDATION AND GRANT SUPPORT

Buncher Family Foundation  
 Dominion Foundation  
 Eden Hall Foundation  
 Equitable Resources Foundation  
 Forst Foundation  
 Giant Eagle Foundation  
 Helen Clay Frick Foundation  
 Howard Heinz Endowments  
 James Mathews Educational & Charitable Trust

Jewish Healthcare Foundation  
 Lilah Hilliard Fisher Foundation  
 Living Trust of WJ. Baumgarten  
 McKee Crawford Foundation  
 Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club  
 Murrin Foundation  
 Nina Baldwin Fisher Foundation  
 Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

PNC Bank Foundation  
 Russell Charitable Foundation  
 Women's Board of Pittsburgh



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 Principal  
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**Dr. William Pope**

**Myra Powell**  
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 Member  
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Hunger and Housing

**Jack Wagner**  
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Commonwealth of  
Pennsylvania

**Ira Weiss, Esq.**

Executive Director:

**D. Renee Hairston**

## HCEF WORKS WITH...

HCEF has developed collaborative relationships with a broad spectrum of organizations and individuals to benefit homeless children in our region, as depicted in the following graph.



## 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, 2004

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$310,225
Investments	\$219,710
Accounts Receivable	52,898
Security Deposit	998
Property and Equipment	20,364
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(13,555)</u>
Net Property and Equipment	<u>6,809</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$590,640</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	1,077
Accrued Liabilities	6,734
Total Current Liabilities	7,811
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	
Undesignated	
Operating	127,120
Fixed Assets	6,809
Designated	285,636
Temporarily Restricted	<u>163,264</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>582,829</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>590,640</u>

### Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2004

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	
Public Support, Revenue and Gains	
Revenues	
Contributions	\$59,215
Grants from Corporations and Foundations	137,086
Special Events – Tickets and Sponsorships	85,655
Interest Income	6,990
Unrealized Gains	15,300
Other	<u>9,681</u>
Revenues and Gains	313,927
Expenses	
Programs	112,158
Fundraising	29,249
Administration	<u>57,722</u>
Total Expenses	<u>199,129</u>
Change in Net Assets	114,798
Net Assets – January 1, 2004	<u>468,031</u>
Net Assets – December 31, 2004	<u>\$582,829</u>

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 2004 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

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