



HOMELESS
CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION
FUND

2006 Annual Report

Hope Through Learning

Because of your help,
she will grow in a
positive environment.

4'3"

Learn More About HCEF

www.homelessfund.org

HCEF does its work with a full-time staff of two: Jennifer Banks-Vickers, Programs and Development Manager, and Camille Terry, Administrative Assistant. They are supported by several independent contractors, student interns, and many volunteers.

The founder of the Homeless Children's Education Fund is Dr. Joseph F. Lagana, a lifelong educator who has been a classroom teacher, school superintendent, and executive director of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, one of the largest regional educational agencies of its kind. William Wolfe, a vice president in the Pittsburgh office of Marsh USA, is Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

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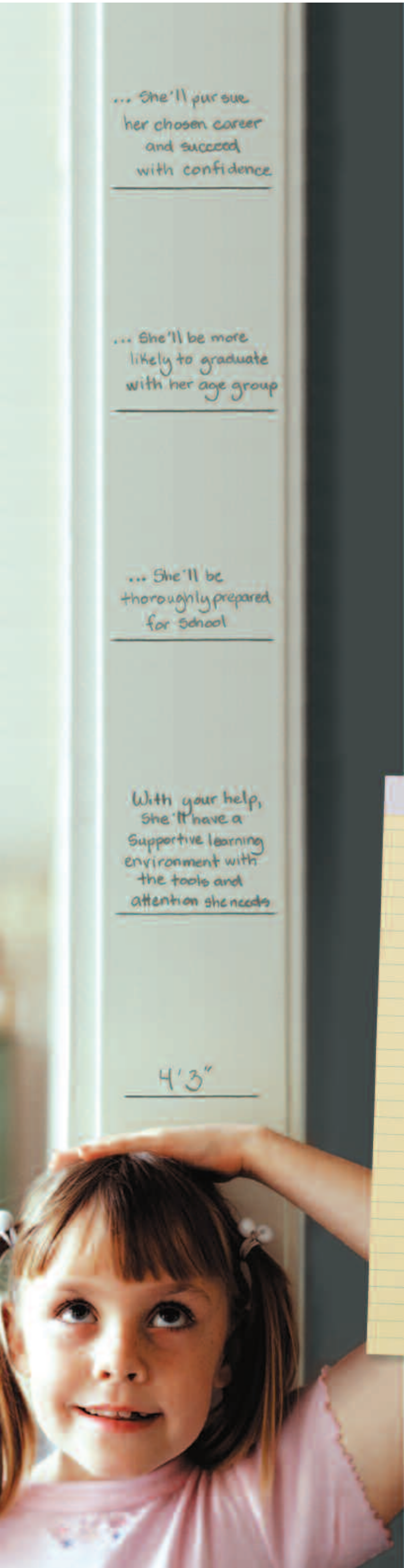
Learn more about the Homeless Children's Education Fund. Visit the website at www.homelessfund.org or call 412.562.0154.
To make an online donation, go to www.homelessfund.org/support/support.html

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Mission Statement

Serving as a voice for homeless children in Allegheny County and ensuring that they are afforded equal access to the same educational opportunities and experiences as their peers.



Just like so many kids, she gets excited every time another notch is added to the wall, showing the tiniest bit of growth, yet she is so different from other kids. She is one of the more than 3,000 children who find themselves homeless each year in Allegheny County.

The Homeless Children’s Education Fund (HCEF) is the premier agency solely dedicated to helping these children succeed in school during this most difficult time in their young lives. The programs and services we deliver are designed to address the critical educational needs of children living in shelters, providing them with quiet study areas, computers and related technology, after-school tutors, and learning materials. In so doing, we offer children what is perhaps the greatest gift of all: *hope through learning*.

Founded in 1999 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, HCEF actively partners with a wide variety of organizations to help homeless children succeed academically as they cope each day with a situation most people can’t even imagine. HCEF programs and services benefit these children when their need is the greatest.

An Immediate Solution — A Promise for a Better Future

Children’s homelessness is generally temporary, but attendance at school during such periods is too often interrupted or erratic.

Children out of school or moved from school to school can quickly fall behind their classmates, and catching up is a formidable task. Even when they attend with some regularity, they typically don’t have after-school access to the technologies that are standard tools in today’s classroom and that may be essential for completing homework. And parents struggling with the day-to-day realities of living often have neither the time nor the energy to help their children with homework assignments.

HCEF’s “Menu of Educational Opportunities” encompasses key ingredients in bridging the gap between homeless children and their peers and is available to all of the county’s shelters, those with and those without Learning Centers.

HCEF “Menu of Educational Opportunities” for 2007

- Art education seminars** on the use of art with children in shelters
- Assistance developing stronger relationships with local libraries—**connecting to a digital library for student research and supporting a site-based library card for each shelter
- Educational field trip allowances** of up to \$250
- Educational mentoring** providing training and support to adult role models serving youths in shelters
- Educational readiness seminars** on teaching children to deal with the stress and emotions associated with being homeless
- Health-related awareness issues seminars:**
 - Disability awareness
 - Stress and anger management
 - Conflict resolution
 - Bullying issues
- Outreach consultant** connecting shelters with community resources to help build educational capacity inside shelters
- Technical support** for the maintenance of computers donated by HCEF for Learning Centers
- Tutor partnerships** upon request, referring volunteers wishing to serve as tutors in Learning Centers

Our core program, the foundation for the menu of educational opportunities we provide, is the Learning Centers and Resource Library initiative, made possible through a partnership involving Pittsburgh’s largest universities, members of our corporate community, local foundations, state and county government agencies, shelters for homeless families with children, and many of the public school districts in Allegheny County. With the November 2006 opening of the Sisters Place center, HCEF has established Learning Centers in 9 of the county’s 17 shelters for families. All 17 shelters received Resource Libraries in 2006.

Homeless Shelters, Learning Centers, and Resource Libraries

The Learning Centers provide children who are homeless with access to new computers and printers, scanners, high-speed Internet connectivity, and up-to-date software. The Resource Libraries make available educational materials in various media: books for children and youth at all age and reading levels and for children not yet reading, as well as CDs, DVDs, books supporting school curricula and reference needs. Similar materials assist mothers and older teens looking for jobs or exploring possible careers. Art and craft supplies, music, educational games, maps and globes contribute to a well-rounded Learning Center curriculum.

Each Learning Center and Resource Library now has its own library card, allowing children, moms, and staff members complete access to the Carnegie Library system and its on-line subscription resources. Through HCEF's own subscription to Grolier Online, each shelter can log-on to Grolier's Multimedia Encyclopedia as well as five other popular encyclopedic resources. Families are able to establish individual subscriptions that permit continuing access to Grolier Online once they have established permanent homes. The shelter-based libraries were accomplished with a \$100,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the outstanding support of the Bethel Park Library staff.

Equally important for the children served, the centers are sites for tutoring and mentoring programs after school, on weekends, and throughout the summer. The learning center at The Hub – Three Rivers Youth caters to the needs of older students: readying them for entry into the workforce, assisting them in preparing for the GED exam, providing instruction in the writing of resumes, and more.

There is, of course, a cost. A Learning Center with three computers and appropriate peripheral equipment costs approximately \$25,000 to develop and staff. The Resource Libraries will need to be updated and replenished annually. The cost to HCEF of ongoing coordination and support for the HCEF Learning Centers is projected at \$115,000 a year.

Our goal for 2007 is to help each of the Learning Centers move toward a stronger position of self-sustainability. With that accomplished, HCEF can enhance existing programs for greater educational impact, initiate new ones, and expand into other shelters requesting our assistance. Ultimately, we aim to have sufficient funding to provide more educational programs and services to more children.

A student's artwork from the Salvation Army Family Crisis Center

Other HCEF Programs

PACK-TO-SCHOOL provides a backpack filled with school supplies to every homeless student in Allegheny County who wants one. More than 3,000 backpacks were collected and distributed in 2006. When schools reopen in the Fall of 2007, HCEF in partnership with Citizens Bank will again ensure a plentiful supply of new backpacks.

MINI-GRANTS FOR EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION are awarded to local organizations offering educational programs for homeless children. HCEF's bylaws dictate that 100% of all private donations be invested in an endowment fund (now totaling \$345,000), with the earnings designated to support the mini-grant project. In 2006, the trustees disbursed \$25,235 in mini-grants for educational innovations to be implemented over the course of the 2006-2007 school year. They have authorized \$30,000 for 2007-2008 mini-grants and educational field trips.

ADVOCACY for the educational rights of children who are homeless is the basis for the development and delivery of all HCEF programs and services. The agency was founded to help protect and promote these rights and was actively involved in the successful passage of state and federal legislation entitling homeless children to attend public schools. HCEF partners with KidsVoice, which provides full-service advocacy and legal assistance to children and their families, and with the Allegheny County Library Association. A Homelessness Awareness Committee, with members from several community organizations, has been established. Its aim is to foster an accurate image of families experiencing homelessness.

THE CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN BENEFIT is HCEF's premier fundraising event. A highlight of the occasion is the honoring of local individuals whose work with and for children evinces the dedication and the caring spirit of true champions.

Linda A. Dickerson, who served as Chair of the Board of Trustees for HCEF from its earliest days through 2004, was named the 2006 Champion for Children. Her wisdom and guidance has contributed to making HCEF a model for organizations dedicated to helping homeless children succeed academically. HCEF is pleased to honor Ms. Dickerson further through the newly established Linda A. Dickerson Award, to be presented for the first time in 2007.

Children Are the Future

Each one of us has a stake in the education of our children. The impact of failure in school is immediate for the student, the school district and our communities. In the longer term, the result is young adults with deficiencies in reading, writing, and mathematics, few of the necessary technological skills, and thus limited opportunities for employment or post-secondary education. For children at risk, as many children who experience homelessness surely are, HCEF programs can make the difference.



2006 Corporate and Group Support

- Bortek Industries, Inc. (EITC)
Equitable Resources (EITC)
First National Bank Corporation, Pittsburgh Region (EITC)
Mellon Bank, N.A. (EITC)
Allegheny County Bureau of Hunger and Housing
Allegheny County Library Association
Allegheny General Hospital
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons
Barnes & Noble
Beckwith Machinery
Bender Consulting Services
Bethel Park Library
Boston Waterfront Restaurant & Lounge
The Buncher Company
Building Owners & Managers Association
Cards by Anne/Anne Kernion
Carnegie Mellon University
Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania
Comcast
Consumers Produce Co. Inc.
Diocese of Pittsburgh
Dollar Bank
Dominion
Duquesne Light Company
Duquesne University
East End Concerts for Causes
Fifth Avenue Place
The Fragasso Group
Gateway Financial
Highmark Inc.
The Hillman Company
Hunter & Associates
- IKON Office Solutions
Jenkins-Empire Associates
John Caputo and Associates
Kappa Delta PI Omicron Chapter
Kröme Communications, Inc.
Lincoln Investment Planning
Massaro Corporation
McKamish, Inc.
Mellon Financial Corporation
National City Corporation
National Council of Jewish Women
Neighbors in the Strip
Oxford Development Company
PA Alpha Delta Kappa
Penn State Education Association
Pitt Ohio Express, LLC
Pittsburgh Public Schools
Pittsburgh Technical Institute
Reed Smith LLP
Renda Broadcasting Corporation
Schneider Downs
Scholastic, Inc.
Spaghetti Warehouse
Standard Property Corporation
Steel City Media
Strategic Energy LLC
Town Tavern
United States Steel Corporation
University of Pittsburgh
UPMC Health System
Verizon
Western Region Pennsylvania State Education Association

2006 Foundation and Grant Support

- Audrey Hillman Fisher Foundation
Ayers Foundation
Charles Talbot Campbell Foundation
City of Pittsburgh Emergency Shelter Grant
Eden Hall Foundation
Fair Oaks Foundation Inc.
The Forst Foundation
Fund for Charities
G. Whitney Snyder Charitable Fund
Giant Eagle Foundation
The Grable Foundation
Highmark Caring Foundation
Jewish Healthcare Foundation
Mary Rita King Trust
- Matthews Educational & Charitable Trust
John R. & Margaret S. McCarten Ch. Fund
The Murrin Foundation
National Association of Independent Life Brokerage Agencies (NAILBA) Foundation
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
Pennsylvania Department of Education
PNC Advisors Charitable Trust
Russell Charitable Foundation
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
York Foundation

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2006

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$253,171
Investments	447,004
Contributions and Other Receivables	87,446
Total Current Assets	787,621
Prepaid Expenses	1,053
Property and Equipment	23,109
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(18,205)
Net Property and Equipment	4,904
Total Assets	<u>\$793,578</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$4,368
Deferred Revenue	33,166
Accrued Liabilities	1,711
Total Current Liabilities	39,245
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	
Undesignated	
Operating	138,152
Fixed Assets	4,904
Designated	461,605
Temporarily Restricted	<u>149,672</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>754,333</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$793,578</u>

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2006

Change in Net Assets	
Revenues	
Contributions	\$116,282
Grants from Corporations and Foundations	253,996
Special Events – Tickets and Sponsorships	146,232
Interest Income	12,781
Unrealized Gains	13,206
Other	<u>637</u>
Total Revenues and Gains	543,134
Expenses	
Programs	267,901
Fundraising	60,081
Administration	<u>44,725</u>
Total Expenses	<u>372,707</u>
Change in Net Assets	170,427
Net Assets – January 1, 2006	<u>583,906</u>
Net Assets – December 31, 2006	<u>\$754,333</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 2006 auditor's report. HCEF is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Donations can be made online at 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 Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania at 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.