

HCEF

2011
ANNUAL
REPORT

hope through learning



HOMELESS
CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION
FUND



OUR MISSION:

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.



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The Homeless Children's Education Fund...

Since HCEF's founding in 1999, its mission statement has been:

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

That statement served us well over the years, but new understandings of homelessness as it affects children and youths and a better understanding of the educational challenges they face had become apparent. There were also "naming" issues. With the support and approval of the HCEF Board of Trustees, the staff has recast the statement and has also adopted a vision statement and a set of guiding principles.

OUR MISSION: To provide advocacy, community engagement, and direct service programs that support the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County.

OUR VISION: That all children and youth experiencing homelessness will receive the necessary educational resources, guidance, and opportunities to launch them on a path of success in school and in life.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: Children and teens experiencing homelessness deserve equal access and full participation in the same educational and enrichment opportunities enjoyed by their stably housed peers.

"In so many ways HCEF supports our efforts to bring children back into balance. They need the educational structure you help us to provide, and every one of them is growing and healing."

2012 HCEF Goals: **WE WILL...**

DELIVER direct educational and enrichment services to children and youth in partnership with homeless providers in Allegheny County.

GENERATE AWARENESS of the plight and promise of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

ADVOCATE for the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness on a local, state, and national level in order to ensure compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act and Title I.

SERVE through the Homeless Education Network (HEN) as the catalyst for community collaboration aimed at improving education outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness as mandated by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

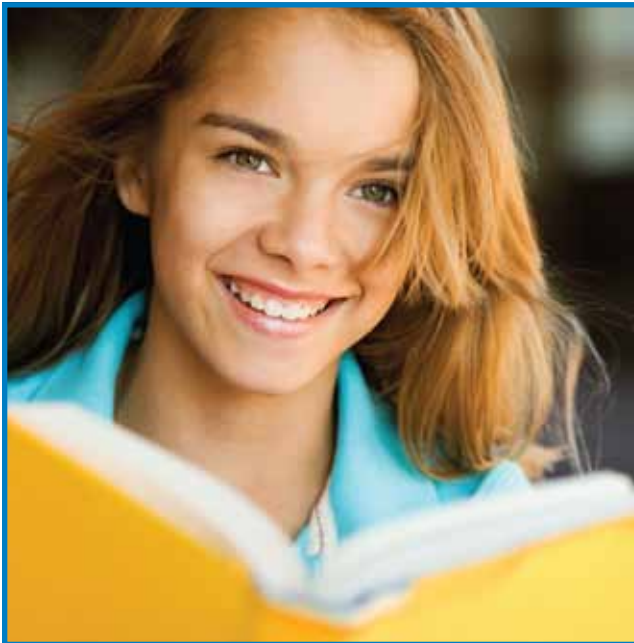
"We certainly share your concern that all of our children get the academic support they need to succeed. Your ongoing support for our children is critical, allowing us to help them improve their reading, learn math skills, and develop a love for science."

WE PROVIDE A MENU OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

We learn the most about the impact of HCEF's educational programming by listening to the voices of the children we serve in the **HCEF Learning Centers and Resource Libraries** and the adults who care about them. They tell us of many "firsts"—the first time reading a book from cover to cover without help, the first time being on a boat, the first time seeing the Downtown Pittsburgh skyline, the first time going ice skating or picking berries on a farm. All of these first opportunities to touch, see, taste, and explore, and all of these opportunities to learn, carry a special significance for a family that has been displaced by homelessness.

It is an honor for HCEF staff and volunteers to work hand-in-hand with our region's homeless providers as together we develop out-of-school time programming that enriches the mind and the spirit.

Mini-Grants for Education equip our partnering homeless providers with funds to support educational resources and programming during the school year.



"With our Mini-Grant our elementary and secondary school children learned about and visited the city of Altoona. Prior to the trip we studied the history of the railroad, the railroad's impact on the founding of Altoona, the railroad's impact on the steel industry, and Altoona itself. Educational field trips are meant to provide a sense of reality for students. This is exactly what the Altoona trip has done."

"Our Mini-Grant for Educational Enrichment made it possible for us to teach the children about sound by using music and instruments. They were able to create their own music with the rhythm band set. They learned what sounds different instruments make and how the different instruments sound together. This was the children's favorite part of the program because they could make noise and have fun doing it! And they didn't even know they were learning!"

"We took our children and teens on a RiverQuest Explorer excursion and scientific study. The trip was intended to give them exposure to the city they live in, a greater sense of place, and hands on learning. It accomplished all of these goals. A test of their knowledge about the city and its environs prior to the excursion resulted in an average 45% score. Their average post test score: 100%."

Summer and Winter Field Trip Grants enable homeless providers to cover the cost of transportation and admission for families.

Building Blocks for Success Afterschool Programs recruits qualified teachers and volunteers to provide on-site homework help and literacy support to children at five partnering agencies.

"I have had an opportunity to provide them with a positive learning environment where they feel comfortable to read and to learn. The children have read over 500 pages so far this summer!"

"I was particularly excited about a fifth-grade boy who had been talking about not wanting to come down to the Learning Center."

By the time I had worked with him for awhile he was engaged and asking to 'read more.'"

"Another child, who will be entering first grade, has made amazing progress in identification of vowels and differentiating between long and short vowel sounds. It is exciting to work with students who can be so motivated to learn!"

"We call our HCEF Learning Center the Happening Place. The children tell us of different places they read about and they imagine what it would be like to visit there. Moms of the smaller children borrow the interactive books where the littlest ones can push buttons and open flaps. They are so excited when they see what their babies can accomplish."

Customized Accelerated Programs for Education (CAPE)

delivers high-quality, on-site enrichment workshops in the arts and sciences during out-of-school time.

"Activities such as drumming and dance were found to be among the most successful activities for facilitating engagement of parents and children through creative activity. Mothers have expressed that they are able to bond with their children in ways that they may not have been able to through non-creative activities."

"We conducted 18 youth radio workshops in the course of 7 weeks. At each site, the kids were amazing and had wonderful things to say about friendship, childhood, and their favorite things. We were truly impressed with their level of engagement and maturity when handling such sophisticated equipment."

Gear for Grades Backpack Drive in partnership with Citizens Bank and community partners distributes 2,500 backpacks to children experiencing homelessness each year.

"Thank you for allowing our kids to feel good about the first day of school."

"What joy around here today! These absolutely wonderful school bags arrived. Our children will be over the moon!"

"We have a whole group of new children fresh from the pain of homelessness and deeply needing our support - academic, social, and psychological."



WE OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

The HCEF Outreach and Volunteer Program recruited and engaged community volunteers in over 4,800 hours of service.

Of particular note was their envisioning and executing the nation's first Homeless Children's Awareness Week. They designed and produced a week-long awareness program that included a 5K race, an Evening of Storytelling, and a Stand Up for Homeless Children and were honored by Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh's declaring October 15 - 23 as Homeless Children's Awareness Week. HCEF will celebrate its Homeless Children's Awareness Week each October.

The Outreach Team graduated its first Speakers Bureau class and formed the Cabinet of Congregations. The Cabinet, an interfaith team of volunteers, is dedicated to learning about the challenges facing children experiencing homelessness and bringing those concerns back to their congregations. With the assistance of an education professional, they created a K-4 church school curriculum that very effectively raises awareness and understanding of homelessness, particularly as it affects children.

The service learning programs at several Pittsburgh area universities engaged their students in the afterschool programs at six of HCEF's partnering agencies as well as in such outreach events as the Stand Up for Homeless Children in Oakland, at Duquesne University, at the Monroeville Mall, and at Slippery Rock University.



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WHERE WE SERVE

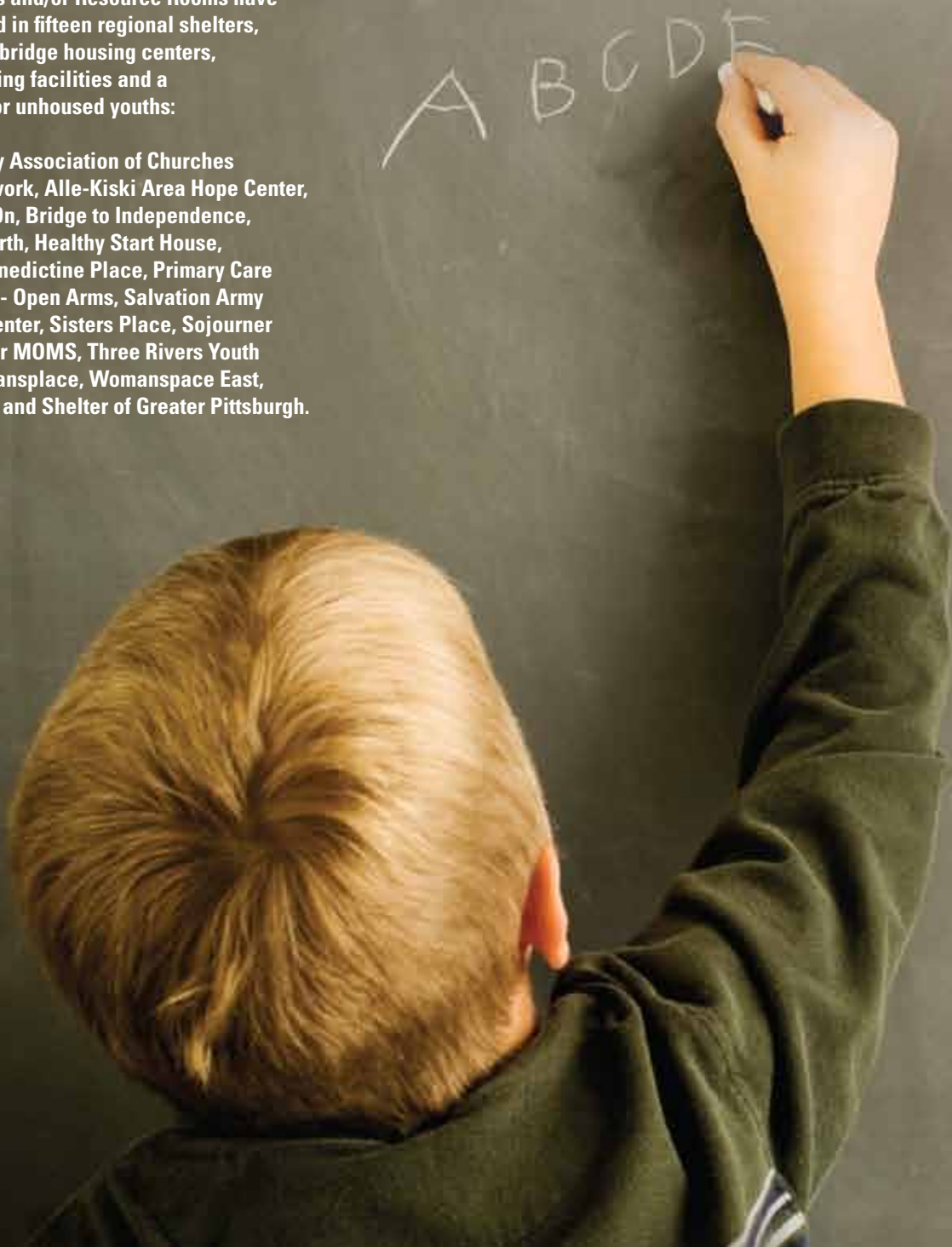
Learning Centers and/or Resource Rooms have been established in fifteen regional shelters, transitional and bridge housing centers, permanent housing facilities and a drop-in center for unhoused youths:

Allegheny Valley Association of Churches Hospitality Network, Alle-Kiski Area Hope Center, Auberle Movin' On, Bridge to Independence, Crisis Center North, Healthy Start House, THE HEARTH Benedictine Place, Primary Care Health Services - Open Arms, Salvation Army Family Caring Center, Sisters Place, Sojourner House, Sojourner MOMS, Three Rivers Youth - The Hub, Womansplace, Womanspace East, Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.



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To learn more about the Homeless Children's Education Fund, visit www.homelessfund.org or call (412) 562-0154. To make an online donation, click the DONATE button at the upper right on each website page and lower right on the home page.



Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2010

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,005,364
Prepaid Expenses	\$998
Contributions & Other Receivables	\$50,451

Total Current Assets	\$1,056,813
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Investments	\$870,825
Property and Equipment	\$29,646
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(\$27,468)
Net Property and Equipment	\$2,178

Total Assets	\$1,929,816
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Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$6,746
Deferred Revenue	\$71,750
Accrued Liabilities	\$7,019

Total Current Liabilities	\$85,515
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Net Assets

Undesignated	
Operating	\$639,129
Property and Equipment	\$2,178
Designated	\$651,426
Temporarily Restricted	\$551,568

Total Net Assets	\$1,844,301
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Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,929,816
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Statement of Activities

As of December 31, 2010

Change in Net Assets

Revenues

Contributions	\$231,310
Grants from Corporations & Foundations	\$468,786
Special Events—Tickets & Sponsorships	\$283,942
Interest Income	\$15,167
Unrealized Gains/Losses	(\$15,153)

Total Revenues & Gains	\$984,052
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Expenses

Programs	\$531,839
Fundraising	\$108,544
Administrative	\$37,693

Total Expenses	\$678,076
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Change in Net Assets	\$305,976
Net Assets (December 31, 2010)	\$1,538,325

Net Assets (Dec. 31, 2011)	\$1,844,301
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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 2010 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 PA Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania at 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

"HCEF really understands the devastating difficulties faced by the kids who become homeless."

"Thanks to a strong and growing support base, a talented and passionate staff, as well as an active and dedicated Board of Trustees, HCEF had a very successful 2011. We are well positioned both financially and structurally as we go into 2012 to provide increased and higher quality education services to children experiencing homelessness as well as to continue to increase public awareness and advocacy for their right to a public education.

On behalf of the HCEF Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all of you for your support in 2011 and ask for your continued involvement in 2012 and beyond as we work to provide children experiencing homelessness with guidance and opportunities to launch them on a path of success in school and in life."

– BILL WOLFE,
Executive Director

"With your continued support, we are able to positively impact the lives of our children."



WE ADVOCATE FOR THE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

The Homeless Education Network (HEN) has made great strides in creating community collaboration and awareness of the critical educational needs of children and youth in homeless situations.

The “Summit II: Homeless Education Network, Collaborations and Models” gathering brought together more than 325 community leaders, including: The First Lady of Pennsylvania Sue Corbett, state and local government officials, city officials, foundation staffs, and housing provider staffs. Many area citizens interested in learning more about homelessness in Allegheny County and across the state also attended. A highlight of the event was United States Attorney David Hickton’s keynote address, which concluded with his firm declaration that *“the education of homeless children is a civil right.”*

HEN collaborated with the Education Law Center to create “School Success for Students Without Homes: A Toolkit for Parents and Providers.” This comprehensive and interactive guide ensures that parents, school officials, government agencies, and others responsible for ensuring children without stable housing have access to the full range of public education programs and services.

HEN has continued to nurture its partnership within the “Clairton Collaborative.” The collaborative unites the Clairton City School District and Sisters Place (one of HCEF’s partner housing agencies) so that the educational needs of these children and youth are served responsibly and successfully. The model formed through the Clairton Collaborative and the McKinney-Vento workshops offered by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, the Office of Child Development, and the Homeless Children’s Education Fund have had incredible and documented impact, proving that collaboration within and across a community not only works, but works well.

“We do need to circle the wagons and hold accountable every entity responsible for our children.”



Excerpts from U.S. Attorney, Western Region, David Hickton’s presentation before attendees at the April 18, 2011 Summit II.

“The welfare of our children is one of society’s most important concerns. Children are our future. The proper raising and rearing of our youngest members determines the course of tomorrow. Ensuring the physical, emotional and social welfare of the youngest among us is essential. Frederick Douglass said, ‘It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.’ Our investment in our children is not only morally required, it is the product of good judgment and common sense.”

“The homeless children crisis is a civil rights issue. Homeless children deserve equal protection and equal opportunity under the law.”

“They are also the most educationally at-risk student population. Children experiencing homelessness are more likely to drop out than graduate and more likely to become homeless and unemployed as adults. This ensures another generation of downward cycle, despair, and lost promise.”

“In a life filled with uncertainty, loss and deprivation, school is a place of safety, structure and opportunity. School is a place of hope.”

“I say to you, let the light of homeless children shine. Let them be educated, for they have a chance; their plight is not their fault. Let us liberate them by ensuring that their civil rights are protected. There is no more noble exercise of our work here on Earth.”

2011 Outcomes:



IT'S IN THE NUMBERS

3,000 hours

72 trained volunteers served as tutors at HCEF's partnering agencies, logging in over 3,000 hours of one-on-one and small group tutoring time with between one and four students per tutor.

150 children

150 children received direct instruction through the Building Blocks for Success After-school Programs.

330 children

Through HCEF's Customized Accelerated Programs for Education (CAPE) approximately 330 children and youth participated in hands-on enrichment programming including science, printmaking, global arts and languages, and music workshops totaling more than 262 hours of instruction.

\$22,405 in Mini-Grants awarded

2010-11 school-year HCEF Mini-Grants totaling \$22,405 were awarded to 13 agencies and impacted 534 children and youth and 110 parents.

5 PA-Certified

Five Pennsylvania-certified elementary teachers served as after-school instructors in the Building Blocks for Success After-school Programs.

Over 55%

Over 55% of children served in HCEF's after-school and summer programs were in grades 1-5; 18% were in kindergarten; 16% in grades 6-8.

\$8,819 in Field Trip Grants awarded

\$4,200 in summer field trip grants was awarded to 14 agencies and impacted 198 children/youths and 133 parents; \$4,619 winter field trip grants were awarded to 9 agencies.

14 hours

The average student received 14 hours of tutoring and other afterschool services each month during the academic year.

29 hours

The average student participation in HCEF summer camp activities at their residence was 29 hours each month.

educ

Children

"In the Yoga classes, the children learned to calm down if they feel frustrated. They were taught discipline, responsibility, patience, and respect. It was good for the kids and good for us."

"Now I feel like my house is like other kids houses. I can talk about using a computer at home too. I can even do reports."

COLLABORATIVE SUPPORT

Young people cannot soar above the barriers of homelessness without the support of individuals and organizations steadfastly committed to upholding their dignity, fostering their resilience, and realizing their gifts. Communities must work collaboratively, creatively, and proactively to confront homelessness and ensure that the needs of children and teens without homes are effectively met. Your faithfulness is such a gift for our families. Your support through monetary gifts and grants as well as your volunteer efforts on behalf of HCEF ensure that our innovative after-school educational programming is working for children and youth experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County. You are providing them with the greatest gift of all: hope through learning.

"2011 was an exceptional year from two vantage points. Despite the continuing downturn in the economy our financial support was sustained and HCEF was able to address and respond to the educational needs of the increased number of children who became homeless. We are well-positioned to expand our services in 2012 as a result of the extraordinary community awareness to the plight and promise of homeless children in Allegheny County. We are grateful for the collaboration of myriad partners, foundations, and corporations for their responsiveness to our mission."

Joe Lagana, HCEF Founder

Recipient of the 2010 ACHIEVA:
Sattler Humanitarian Award of Excellence

attention

"Through these workshops the children learned they were required to follow directions, work together as a team, and pay attention to the task at hand."

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