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Pennsylvania State Education Association
Western Region
Phillips Respironics
Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens
Pitt Ohio
Point Park University
Russell Charitable Foundation
United States Steel Corporation
Westinghouse Electric Company
WordWrite Communications



HOMELESS
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Homeless Children's Education Fund

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hope through learning

OUR MISSION:

To advance the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County by:



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- Providing educational programs and services
- Serving as a trusted advocate
- Sharing expertise
- Facilitating collaborative relationships that maximize the collective impact among community partners.

"What I like most about our Learning Center is... It is beautiful. It is colorful."

— Child at a partnering homeless provider agency



Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF)

Creating *hope through learning* for children experiencing homelessness since 1999...

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.

Since its founding in 1999, HCEF and its sponsors, staff, volunteers, advisors, and trustees have believed that children experiencing homelessness should be afforded equal access to the same educational opportunities and experiences as their peers. From creating positive learning environments in partnering homeless agencies, to facilitating a regional network of people driven to make a difference in the lives of children and youth experiencing homelessness, HCEF has continuously focused on helping these children overcome the obstacles to experiencing a life-changing education.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness deserve equal access and full participation in the same educational and enrichment opportunities enjoyed by their stably-housed peers.
- Young people can overcome the barriers of homelessness with the support of individuals and organizations that are steadfastly committed to nurturing their resilience and realizing their gifts.
- Collaboration is essential to confront homelessness and ensure that the myriad needs of children and youth without homes are respectfully and effectively met.

"We need to go from 'homeless children' to 'our children'. These are beautiful, intelligent kids who want to do well, and deserve to do well."

— Dr. Peter Miller, Associate Professor - Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

2013 AS TOLD BY "OUR" KIDS:

2013 CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH POSTER & ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS:



"A better education can help children and youth experiencing homelessness in many ways."



"Homelessness is just the position you are in, it does not mean that you're not good enough for education."



Left: As part of an HCEF field trip, students received cameras to document their adventures. These are two of their photos.

Right: A self-portrait from an enrichment workshop presented by Art Expression.



"Parents have shared how grateful they are that the programs were offered to their children, because otherwise they may not have had these wonderful experiences."

— Staff member at a participating enrichment site

2013 OUTCOMES:

8,744 Hours

Thirty-eight volunteers per week served as tutors at HCEF's partnering agencies during afterschool and summer camp programming. Other volunteers provided special events assistance, community outreach, and office assistance. HCEF volunteers logged a total of 8,744 hours of service in 2013.

\$15,500 in Field Trip Grants

In partnership with the AIU, approximately \$15,500 (\$7,750 from HCEF) in summer and winter field trip grants allowed 16 homeless providers to take an estimated 380 children and 180 parents on over 50 field trips.

2,475 Backpacks

HCEF delivered 2,475 backpacks filled with school supplies to 23 homeless housing providers, local schools, and social service organizations through its partnership with Citizens Bank and community donors.



\$27,461 in Mini-Grants

HCEF awarded \$27,461 in mini-grants to 16 homeless providers to fund enrichment projects and learning resources, reaching a predicted 700 children and 250 parents.

160 Children

HCEF provided afterschool programs and summer camps to 160 children in grades K-7 at five partnering agencies during the 2012-13 school year. Approximately 50% of the students attend the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Over 89% of regularly attending students developed individualized learning goals created with an instructor.

50 Youth Workers

Fifty homeless agency staff members participated in professional development workshops organized by HCEF in 2013.

400 Children

HCEF provided 315 workshops through partnerships with eight enrichment organizations in 2013, reaching approximately 400 children and youth at 15 agencies. Thanks to the generous support of EITC contributors, HCEF was able to increase the number of workshops by 50% compared to the previous year. Children residing in emergency housing participated in an average of 5 enrichment workshops during their stay. Children in transitional housing participated in an average of 14 workshops in 2013, while children in permanent supportive housing participated in an average of 23 workshops.

2014 HCEF GOALS

WE WILL...

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

EDUCATE through direct services that provide learning and enrichment opportunities and materials for children and youth in partnering homeless housing agencies in Allegheny County.

COLLABORATE to improve the educational outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness by serving as a convener, facilitator, and catalyst of the Homeless Education Network (HEN).

"The children are constantly asking when the next LabRatz or Hip-Hop day will be. The families are always thankful that their children have the opportunity to take part in activities they are unable to involve them in themselves."

— Staff member at a participating enrichment site



Above:
A child participates in the Tail Wagging Tutors program. Since 2010, HCEF and Therapy Dogs International have partnered to provide canine literacy programs.



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FACILITATING COLLABORATION

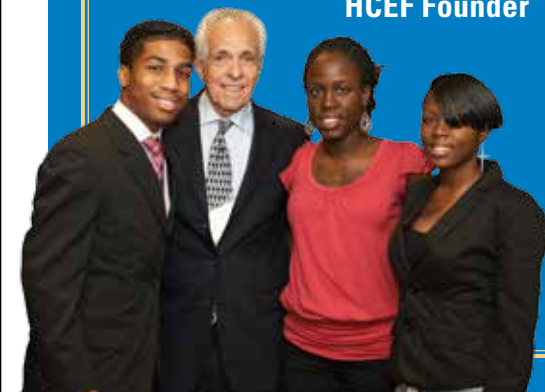
“Recently, the Pennsylvania Department of Education released the results of a statewide report on the number of children and youth identified as experiencing homelessness, according to the federal definition of homelessness. Unfortunately, the total number has increased. In Allegheny County, more than **1,800 children and youth** have been identified. Surprisingly, over 60% of the identified children are residing outside the City of Pittsburgh in the suburbs.

The increase reflects several factors:

1. The economy is still negatively impacting people living in poverty.
2. Officials charged with the responsibility of educating these vulnerable children are becoming more knowledgeable and skilled.
3. The PA Department of Education is becoming more assertive in implementing the federal mandate to identify, enroll, and advance the academic performance of these children.

I am grateful for the community’s response to the urgent and critical need to educate these children. I am pleased that our elected officials and public school leaders have joined this important mission.”

**Joe Lagana,
HCEF Founder**



WE COLLABORATE TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR THE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Summit IV: Beyond the City – Responding to the Spread of Poverty & Homelessness into Suburban Communities was held on November 15, 2013 in Downtown Pittsburgh. Poverty and homelessness are often thought of as urban issues, but recent census data shows that 33% of the nation’s poor now reside in suburbs. In Pittsburgh’s suburban communities, the poverty rate increased by 15.7% from 2000-2011, compared to 6.3% in the city. Yet suburbs are historically ill-prepared to deal with the problems of homelessness. Without adequate public transportation in many suburbs, families have difficulty accessing jobs, basic needs, and important services like counseling and education. Suburban families represent many of the “first-time homeless” who may struggle to ask for help due to feelings of stigma and shame.

The summit featured talks by Elizabeth Kneebone, author of *Confronting Suburban Poverty in America* (Brookings Institution, 2011) and Dr. Peter Miller, Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as a panel of local educators and service providers. The event created a dialogue among over 200 participants representing more than 60 schools, non-profits, government agencies, and other community organizations in the Greater Pittsburgh area. In response to demand from participants, HCEF will work with local community leaders in 2014 to address the challenges of suburban homelessness through several regional working groups that will share resources, knowledge, and best practices across systems.

“The topic is one needed to bring awareness of the expanding scope of homelessness. Understanding the possible causes enables participants to engage in discussions with others and examine solutions to cure the homelessness of youth and their families, which in turn affects youths’ education.”

— Summit participant

The Homeless Education Network continues to advance the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness through work in the following areas:

- **AWARENESS & INFORMATION:** Building community support for children experiencing homelessness, sharing knowledge, and giving voice to diverse perspectives.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Creating an infrastructure to coordinate resources and spark action.
- **ACTION:** Developing collaborative initiatives to solve key problems identified by the education and housing communities.

To date, the Homeless Education Network has over 600 active members, including homeless liaisons, teachers, guidance counselors, and government officials, as well as social service and community leaders.

Service Access for Youth (SAY) is an outreach to Pittsburgh’s unaccompanied youth ages 18 -24 experiencing homelessness, in which HCEF has been collaborating with the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, PERSAD, Familylinks, Auberle, UPMC Adolescent Medicine, Community Human Services, Shuman Juvenile Detention Center, and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services since January 2012. The SAY drop-in is open downtown four days a week with the mission of providing opportunities for education, services, and empowerment in a respectful, non-judgmental environment for young people experiencing homelessness.

ACT 123 “Task Force on Homeless Children’s Education,” established by the legislature and signed by the governor, will soon publish its recommendations for consideration and approval by the legislature. PA Senators Fontana and Vulakovich are to be commended for their leadership in establishing the state task force and exerting vigilance over the proceedings. Allegheny County and HCEF have been honored to actively participate in creating strategies for better educating these children and youth across the Commonwealth of PA.

WE PROVIDE A MENU OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

2013 – A YEAR OF NEW MILESTONES

What if you had to choose between school supplies for your child and food on the table? Or sending your child to an afterschool program versus getting your prescription filled? For families experiencing homelessness, sacrifice is a painful reality of everyday life. At HCEF, we believe that no family should have to choose between education and basic needs, even in a time of crisis. That is why we offer a rich menu of educational programming available to children, youth, and families throughout our network of homeless agency partners in Allegheny County. Whether a child is experiencing homelessness for a day or for a year, our programs and services are there to help relieve stress, build self-confidence, and foster creativity.

Community support is essential to the work we do, and 2013 was a year of several exciting “firsts” that enhanced our impact in the region, including:

- Partnering with Grow Pittsburgh to develop a shelter-based family gardening program which reached 50 children and 30 parents in the pilot year.
- Serving as a consultant to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit in order to deliver summer camp programming for underserved families in Washington, PA.
- Laying the groundwork for our first-ever higher education scholarship fund to benefit two deserving young people in 2014.

What’s next? As HCEF enters its fifteenth year, we’re at work on customizing our programming to better meet the specific learning needs of teens as well as preschoolers. We are also expanding our professional development opportunities for volunteers, homeless providers, and parents. We invite you to join us in our work!



SUMMER AND WINTER FIELD TRIP GRANTS cover the cost of transportation and admission, allowing families in homeless housing programs to participate in the wealth of cultural resources the Greater Pittsburgh area has to offer.

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUCCESS AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

empower students to realize their full potential as learners and citizens through daily on-site programming led by highly qualified teachers and volunteers who work with students on homework, literacy, and creative projects.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

deliver on-site workshops that engage students in visual and performing arts, science, world cultures, and career exploration during out-of-school time. 2013 enrichment partners included: America’s Arts & Music Crossroads Center; Andy Warhol Museum; Art Expression, Inc.; Institute for International Arts & Languages; Grow Pittsburgh; Lab Ratz Science Club; Saturday Light Brigade Radio; and children’s author Sydelle Pearl.

GEAR FOR GRADES BACKPACK DRIVE, done in partnership with Citizens Bank and community partners, distributes 2,500 backpacks filled with school supplies to children experiencing homelessness each year.

MINI-GRANTS FOR EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT

equip partnering homeless providers with funds to jump-start diverse, innovative educational initiatives that benefit the children, youth, and families in their programs.

**“I liked the duck. It was cute.
It flapped its wings and quacked.”**

— Child (speaking about the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium’s zoomobile program)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

opportunities are offered throughout the year as free trainings for our partnering homeless housing providers on topics of interest to youth workers, such as behavioral health, parenting, literacy, and afterschool best practices.

NEW IN 2014 – HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

provide two \$2,500 awards to youth who have experienced homelessness and are pursuing higher education. HCEF recently established the scholarship fund to provide monetary support for expenses associated with post-secondary education, such as tuition, fees, books, and supplies.

GRATITUDE, SUPPORT, AND PASSION...

“We’re talking on behalf of these children about an effort to restore greatness not just to our country, but to ourselves and our souls.”

— Grant Oliphant, President & CEO, The Pittsburgh Foundation

“Children participating in the HCEF afterschool and summer programs are reading better and enjoying it more. On behalf of these children and HCEF, I would like to say thank you. We could not be impacting the children with our programs without your tremendous and ongoing support.

HCEF continues to expand our educational programs and support, as well as increase community awareness of the challenges faced by children and their families who are experiencing homelessness. Eighty-three cents of every dollar donated to HCEF goes to programs to support the children.

Our efforts are reflected very well by the following quote from Grant Oliphant, President & CEO, The Pittsburgh Foundation: ‘We’re talking on behalf of these children about an effort to restore greatness not just to our country, but to ourselves and our souls.’ ”

**Bill Wolfe,
HCEF Executive Director**



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**“I have noticed
more and more
children wanting
to read more.
The children are
receiving better
grades. It’s great
to see!”**

— Staff member at a participating
afterschool program site



WE OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

The HCEF Outreach and Volunteer Program recruited and engaged community volunteers in 8,744 hours of service in afterschool and summer camp programming, special events assistance, community outreach, and office assistance.

In 2013, the HCEF Cabinet of Congregations’ “Conscious Caring” curriculum was used to educate third to fifth-grade school children about the challenges of homelessness. Seventeen Duquesne University education students worked with Kaitlyn Nykwest, HCEF afterschool instructor and author of the curriculum, to bring this program about homelessness to three schools and three congregations.

“Volunteering has been such a heartwarming and humbling experience, because not only are you influencing the lives of these kids, but they’re influencing your life because you realize how much you take for granted.”

— HCEF Volunteer (in Point Park University’s The Globe, Oct. 2013)

The state of Pennsylvania declared October 14 – 20, 2013 as the second annual Homeless Children’s Awareness Week, and Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh proclaimed it for the third year. During that week, the HCEF Outreach Team produced an Evening of Storytelling, a 5/10 K Race in North Park, and “Stand Up for Homeless Children” performance art installations at the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, and Point Park University.





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WHERE WE SERVE

Educational partnerships have been established with the following
homeless housing and service providers in Allegheny County:

- ACTION-Housing
- Allegheny Valley Association of Churches
- Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center
- Auberle
- Bridge to Independence
- Center for Victims
- Community Human Services
- Crisis Center North
- East End Cooperative Ministry
- Familylinks
- Family Promise of Southwestern Pennsylvania
- Gaudenzia Erie House of Crossroads
- Goodwill Healthy Start House
- Goodwill HEART House
- HEARTH
- Light of Life Rescue Mission
- Naomi's Place Transitional Housing, Inc.
- Salvation Army Family Caring Center
- Sisters Place, Inc.
- Sojourner House
- Sojourner House MOMS
- Three Rivers Youth
- Veterans Leadership Program
- WPIC Neighborhood Living Project
- Womanspace East
- Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh
- YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2013

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$832,940
Prepaid Expenses	---
Contributions & Other Receivables	\$5,916

Total Current Assets \$838,856

Investments	\$1,288,217
Property & Equipment	\$29,646
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(\$29,646)
Net Property & Equipment	---

Total Assets \$2,127,073

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$2,851
Deferred Revenue	\$19,850
Accrued Liabilities	\$13,193

Total Current Liabilities \$35,894

Net Assets

Undesignated	
Operating	\$878,392
Property & Equipment	---
Designated	\$749,232
Temporarily Restricted	\$463,555

Total Net Assets \$2,091,179

**Total Liabilities
& Net Assets \$2,127,073**

Statement of Activities

As of December 31, 2013

Change in Net Assets

Revenues

Contributions	\$434,036
Grants from Corporations & Foundations	\$171,158
Special Events—Tickets & Sponsorships	\$171,703
Interest Income	\$29,169
Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$54,851

Total Revenues & Gains \$860,917

Expenses

Programs	\$661,571
Fundraising	\$94,309
Administrative	\$38,872

Total Expenses \$794,752

Change in Net Assets	\$66,165
Net Assets (December 31, 2012)	\$2,025,014

Net Assets (Dec. 31, 2013) \$2,091,179

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 2013 auditor's report. HCEF is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Donations can be made online at www.homelessfund.org/donate 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.