

HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND



hope through learning



**HOMELESS
CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION
FUND**

2012
ANNUAL
REPORT

OUR MISSION:

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



HOMELESS
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*"I dream of
everybody having
a home."*

– Third-Grader,
via HCEF's "Conscious
Caring" Curriculum

Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF)

Providing hope through learning for children experiencing homelessness since 1999...

Since its founding in 1999, HCEF has always operated with the principle in mind that children experiencing homelessness should be afforded equal access to the same educational opportunities and experiences as their peers. Serving as a voice for these children, HCEF and its contingency of sponsors, volunteers, advisors, staff and trustees all have a common goal in mind: to extend a helping hand that can guide these children onto the right path, assist them in making positive life and educational choices and provide them with hope for their futures.

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.
- Young people cannot soar above the barriers of homelessness without the support of individuals and organizations that are 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 respectfully and effectively met.

"A priority of HCEF is to champion the right to education for all children, even - especially - those made invisible by homelessness. Their plight, which is no fault of their own, is now the life's cause of so many."

– Uncensored, Fall '12 Issue (a Publication of the Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness)



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 afterschool 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.

HOPE THROUGH LEARNING

2012 Outcomes:

\$29,852 in Mini-Grants awarded

HCEF Mini-Grants totaling \$29,852 were awarded to 18 agencies in 2012, impacting 810 children and youth and 301 parents. Mini-Grant funds are made possible entirely by individual contributions to HCEF.

6,578 hours

80 volunteers served as tutors at HCEF's partnering agencies during afterschool time and summer camp programming. Other volunteers provided special events assistance, community outreach, and office assistance. HCEF volunteers logged a total of 6,578 hours of service in 2012.

\$9,767 in Field Trip Grants awarded

\$9,767 in summer and winter field trip grants was awarded to 21 agencies, impacting approximately 400 children and youth and 200 parents in a total of 28 field trips.

127 children

HCEF's Building Blocks for Success afterschool and summer programs provided academic and enrichment programming to 127 students in grades K-8 at 5 locations in 2012. Students participated in an average of 5 hours of weekly programming led by a team of teachers and volunteers at each location.

485 children

Through HCEF's Customized Accelerated Programs for Education (CAPE), approximately 485 children and youth participated in a total of 203 workshops, including 50 in creative arts, 123 in science and technology, and 30 in multicultural programming.





2013 HCEF Goals: **WE WILL...**

GENERATE awareness to the plight and promise of children and youth experiencing homelessness and 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).

"Through African drumming, the children were able to express creativity. The girls really gained a lot of self-esteem during the activity, which is very important, because it is something that the girls here at the shelter tend to struggle with a lot."

– Staff Member, Emergency Shelter



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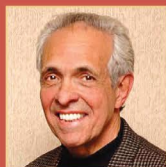
HOW?

hope through learning

"The Pennsylvania Department of Education identified over 1,700 children and youth experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County. That number is expected to increase.

Fortunately, support from the Greater Pittsburgh community enabled HCEF to expand educational services to 25 homeless housing providers. In addition, our state legislators, with Senator Wayne Fontana's leadership, approved SB 157, signed by Governor Corbett as Act 123. The Act establishes a statewide task force to assess mandated educational opportunities for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The expected outcomes are recommendations to legislators to increase enrollment and school success in our commonwealth.

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 have joined this important mission."



Joe Lagana, HCEF Founder

WE RAISE AWARENESS 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.

SUMMIT III: Impact of Poverty on Learning and Brain Development for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

was held on Friday, May 4, 2012 at the Rivers Club. This year's Summit welcomed more than 230 attendees representing over 106 organizations that traveled from across the city, state, and nation. One of the Summit's keynote speakers, Dr. Ralph da Costa Nunez of the Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness, wrote in a post-event blog entitled "Pittsburgh - A Model for Addressing Child Homelessness":

"The Summit was a model for connecting the dots of research, policy and practice with everyone coming from different perspectives, but sharing the same goal."

This blog appeared nationally on The Huffington Post website. Additionally, Summit III received positive feedback from its attendants, with one comment describing the event as "filled with information everyone should (know) to help reduce the stigma of homelessness, as well as provide awareness in order to work together to reduce the causes of homelessness."

ACT 123 "Task Force on Homeless Children's Education," enacted on July 5, 2012 by the State of Pennsylvania, requires the establishment of a task force within the Pennsylvania Department of Education, providing for its powers and duties, and providing for administrative support. Act 123 was made possible through the efforts and dedication of PA State Senators Wayne Fontana (HCEF Advisor) and Randy Vulakovich, Dr. Joseph Lagana (HCEF Founder), and others. The task force consists of 18 members throughout the state, including three from Allegheny County: Nicole Anderson (Region 4 Coordinator, PA Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness Program); Dr. Joseph Lagana (Founder, HCEF); and Bill Wolfe (Executive Director, HCEF).

WE PROVIDE A MENU OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Stress relief. Self-expression. Pride. These are just a few of the many powerful benefits that HCEF programs impart to children and youth who have lost their homes. This year, we brought our signature programs to young people at 25 homeless housing agencies throughout the county - more than ever before in HCEF's history. Whether sitting down to work with a caring tutor, picking out a brand new backpack for school, or going behind-the-scenes in radio production or animation, our students are making a commitment to learning every day - and in turn, they inspire us to work harder to ensure they have access to the best educational opportunities that our region has to offer. It's a team effort, and HCEF thanks the many organizations, schools, individuals, and volunteers who help us deliver programs that are strong and sustainable. Together, we are creating hope through learning.

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 PROGRAM

- Empowers 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.

CUSTOMIZED ACCELERATED PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATION (CAPE)

- Delivers high-quality, on-site enrichment workshops that engage students in visual and performing arts, science, world cultures, and career exploration during out-of-school time.

GEAR FOR GRADES BACKPACK DRIVE

- Distributes 2,500 backpacks filled with school supplies to children experiencing homelessness each year in partnership with Citizens Bank.

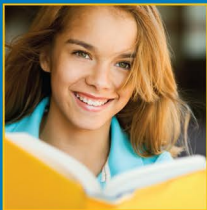
MINI-GRANTS FOR EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT

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



"The greatest successes I saw occurred when we were able to get the kids excited about learning or help encourage them to be more positive about themselves and others. . . . Seeing a child's face light up with the excitement of comprehending and answering a question correctly always makes me happy."

— HCEF Afterschool Volunteer



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GRATITUDE, SUPPORT, AND PASSION...

"What better way to contribute to our communities than to help ensure all children grow up with the educational opportunities to be successful citizens positioned to contribute positively to the community themselves?"

—Gregg Budoi, President/ CEO of EZ Energy USA

"HCEF was able to offer our 'Menu of Educational Opportunities' to eight additional homeless provider agencies in 2012 thanks to strong community support. We estimate this resulted in HCEF impacting 250 additional children experiencing homelessness with direct educational support services. We plan to continue to expand our educational program services to reach more children experiencing homelessness in 2013.

Through the Homeless Education Network, we continue to raise awareness of the educational challenges of children experiencing homelessness on a local, state, and national level. These awareness-raising efforts are resulting in more support being provided to the children.

On behalf of the HCEF Board of Trustees, I would like to thank you for your support in 2012 and ask for your continued help in 2013 and beyond. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children in our community and enable them to become positive and productive adults."



Bill Wolfe,
HCEF Executive Director



WE OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

*The HCEF Outreach and Volunteer Program recruited and engaged community volunteers in **6,578 hours** of service in afterschool and summer camp programming, special events assistance, community outreach, and office assistance.*

HCEF's Cabinet of Congregations made significant progress in 2012 with its "Conscious Caring" curriculum, designed to teach elementary-age children about homelessness, as well as to foster empathy toward others. The curriculum was piloted with great success at Sewickley Academy in the spring, in which upper school students were instructed by HCEF staff to introduce the curriculum to their lower school peers. In the fall, HCEF partnered with Duquesne University service learning students to teach the curriculum in other Pittsburgh-area schools.

Emerging from the success of last year, the second annual Homeless Children's Awareness Week was proclaimed by not only the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, but the State of Pennsylvania, thanks to Pennsylvania Senators Wayne Fontana and Randy Vulakovich. The week ran October 14 - 20, 2012 and featured a 5K race, an evening of storytelling, and multiple performances of HCEF's "Stand Up for Homeless Children" art installation. Save the date and get involved in next year's Homeless Children's Awareness Week: October 13 - 19, 2013.

"The whole message of the week was to tell people that there are homeless children. During the Stand Up, we all held painted masks over our face, which represents the homeless children. A lot of times, you can't see them, so you're disguising yourself, and that's like what we did."

— HCEF Outreach Team Volunteer, Age 9

WHERE WE SERVE

Educational partnerships have been established with 25 housing provider agencies:

Adagio Healthy Start House
Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center
Allegheny Valley Association of Churches
Auberle
Bridge to Independence
Center for Victims
Community Human Services
Crisis Center North
East End Cooperative Ministry
Familylinks
Family Promise of Southwestern Pennsylvania
HEARTH
Light of Life Ministries
Naomi's Place Transitional Housing
Primary Care Health Services
Salvation Army Family Caring Center
Sisters Place
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



To learn more about the Homeless Children's Education Fund, visit www.homelessfund.org or call (412) 562-0154. To make an online donation, go to www.homelessfund.org/donate.

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2012

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$881,204
Prepaid Expenses	\$998
Contributions & Other Receivables	\$33,914

Total Current Assets \$916,116

Investments	\$1,175,340
Property & Equipment	\$29,646
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(\$28,775)
Net Property & Equipment	\$871

Total Assets \$2,092,327

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$6,486
Deferred Revenue	\$50,675
Accrued Liabilities	\$10,152

Total Current Liabilities \$67,313

Net Assets

Undesignated	
Operating	\$454,784
Property & Equipment	\$871
Designated	\$911,177
Temporarily Restricted	\$658,182

Total Net Assets \$2,025,014

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$2,092,327

Statement of Activities

As of December 31, 2012

Change in Net Assets

Revenues

Contributions	\$307,522
Grants from Corporations & Foundations	\$322,079
Special Events—Tickets & Sponsorships	\$219,336
Interest Income	\$20,654
Miscellaneous Income	\$4,051
Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$35,569

Total Revenues & Gains \$909,211

Expenses

Programs	\$576,504
Fundraising	\$113,042
Administrative	\$38,952

Total Expenses \$728,498

Change in Net Assets	\$180,713
Net Assets (December 31, 2011)	\$1,844,301

Net Assets (Dec. 31, 2012) \$2,025,014

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 2012 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.

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Homeless Children's Education Fund

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www.homelessfund.org

As of April 1, 2013, the new location of
HCEF's office will be 2020 Smallman Street.

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