



Homeless Children's Education Fund

Volunteer Newsletter

Volunteer Opportunity - The Summit II

The Summit II will be one of the Homeless Children's Education Fund's biggest events of the year. The Summit II entitled: "Collaborations and Models Impacting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness" will be very informative, and it will also give an update on the issues regarding the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness at a local, state, and national level. The event will take place on April 8, 2011 at the Rivers Club, Downtown. The Summit II will feature a presentation by Barbara Duffield, in which she will speak about her perspective

on the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness from a national level. We will also have someone talking about a state-wide legislation to be passed that would make it possible to better identify and track children and youth experiencing homelessness in the state of Pennsylvania. There will also be a local panel discussing a model created to help children and youth experiencing homelessness implemented in the Clairton City School District in collaboration with Sisters Place. U.S. Attorney, Western District, David Hickton is also confirmed as a keynote speaker. He'll discuss how the education of chil-

dren and youth experiencing homelessness is more than just a small problem, it is an issue of civil rights. Finally, there will be one more panel, which will discuss the tool-kit, a resource for homeless providers that is focused on parent engagement. The Summit will feature more speakers than what are mentioned here, and will do much more than inform, it will empower. Volunteers will be needed at the event, so anyone willing to help out for the evening can contact the office for more details. This event is very important for HCEF, and we welcome all volunteers willing to participate.

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Jeremy Novak

Writer & Editor

Featured Volunteer

"It is wonderful that there are people willing to help, and I commend all the volunteers who work with this organization," said Dick Deluca. Dick is the Chairman of the Volunteer Committee, a member of the Outreach Committee, and is currently helping to establish the Speaker's Bureau for HCEF.

Dick's life has always revolved around education, having been a professor at Clarion University and the Superintendent of Public Schools in Johnstown, PA. He started volunteering with HCEF and realized just how big of a problem homelessness is for children in Allegheny County. His background in education put

him right at home here, as he knows firsthand just how important education is for children.



Dick Deluca



Meeting Summaries

Outreach Team

The Outreach Team Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 25th, at The Library in South Side. Among the topics discussed were the Summit, Champions for Children, and our Pittsburgh Community Television opportunity to name a few. We talked about some ways to incorporate music into the shelters for the kids. This would be an opportunity for children to learn instruments they were interested in, but were unable to pursue because of their circumstances. The programs for shelters are not limited to just music though. An example? When the Andy Warhol museum conducted a silk screening activity at Sojourner House MOMS it showed just how much the children can

benefit from creative activities. We also discussed the idea of bringing a conflict resolution film, created by John Michalczyk, in for an outreach event. The films would be a way to explore something new, and we would like to have a panel of experts focused on film and conflict resolution. There was talk of a special event to be held at Mélange Bistro some time in April, which would be an event where HCEF volunteers and associates could mingle and enjoy very high quality food for just a \$10 donation. Proceeds of this event would help to support the discussed music program. Ideas were thrown around in regards to making the 2011 Purposeful Gathering even more

successful than the 2010 event. The Volunteer Appreciation event on June 23 was also mentioned with more details on that in the Volunteer Opportunities section. The meeting was successful overall, covering a lot of ground, and helping to start out a new year packed full of events.



2010 Purposeful Gathering

Volunteer Committee

The Volunteer Committee meeting was held on Monday, January 24th. The meeting, chaired by Dick Deluca, covered the Speaker's Bureau, the volunteer appreciation event, after-school reading mentors, and the Congregations Cabinet. The reading mentor program is an opportunity for volunteers to get directly involved with

the education of children in the shelters. Reading mentors assist the children with one-on-one reading practices to develop and improve reading skills and to help cultivate a love for reading. The Congregations Cabinet is a program to have members of different congregations speak about HCEF with members at their congregation.

The goal is to have one individual from each congregation meet, and for them to take and share any information they receive with the members of their own congregation. Anyone interested in either of these opportunities can contact the office for additional information.

HCEF on PCTV

Through the efforts of Bruce Krane, an Outreach Team member, HCEF has recently been given the opportunity to broadcast interviews on Pittsburgh Public TV (PCTV), which is a local television station available to residents of the city of Pittsburgh. There are currently three interviews scheduled to air. First off, there was a segment with

Executive Director Bill Wolfe focused on HCEF and its many initiatives. Following that, Education Program Manager Laura Bailey with Myra McNeal, Child Specialist will be featured in a segment focused on the education of children living in the shelters. Finally, there will be a half hour segment with Susy Robison and Lori Trautwine focused

on volunteerism/outreach. These segments are meant to increase awareness of HCEF and the problems we're trying to prevent. We hope to be able to continue these segments past the first three, so we're open to suggestions for future segments.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

The next few months are full of opportunities for volunteering. One of the biggest opportunities for the Homeless Children's Education Fund volunteers is the chance to apply for the **Speaker's Bureau**. Anyone who would like to have a chance to speak as a representative for HCEF at events and to spreading the word about what we do can apply. Anyone interested can ask for an application either in person at our office, or can request that one be sent to them via e-mail. Interested individuals have to be qualified and comfortable speaking in front of an audience. Once se-

lected, applicants must be properly trained over the course of five two hour sessions at our office in the Strip District. March 7th we'll be hosting our biggest fundraiser of the year, the **Champions for Children Benefit**. General admission tickets for the event are \$100 each. VIP tickets are \$300 and include an invitation to the reception before the event. Along with these and other opportunities, there will be a **Volunteer Appreciation Event** on Thursday, June 23rd. This will take place in conjunction with the Community Partners Concert hosted by the

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at Heinz Hall. HCEF volunteers are invited to attend the event for free as a sign of our appreciation for all that you do. Tickets for this event can be purchased through the HCEF office, and all of the money from ticket sales goes straight to HCEF. The concert will be held at Heinz Hall and it will feature Boyz II Men. Additional volunteer opportunities include **The Summit II** takes place on Friday, April 8th. Please contact our office for any additional information on any of these events, and we hope to see you all there!

The History of the HCEF Logo

The logo for the Homeless Children's Education Fund features a hand helping a small child, that could be either a boy or girl, wearing a blue backpack. This child is named Winnie, and it has come to represent all the homeless children out there in the world who may not be able to get the education they deserve. But what is the story behind Winnie? About a decade ago, the marketing firm Elias Savion offered to help HCEF do a logo for

free. A representative of their company brought in ten potential logos to present to a board committee. After a discussion, the board chose the image we now call Winnie. The name was chosen because it could be used for both a male and a female. Adam Smith, a philosopher/economist inspired the design. He wrote about the need for the community to help the less fortunate and to give them hope. Thus Winnie's hand is being held by

the invisible hand of the community. Winnie's eyes are also looking up, a sign of hope. This is how Winnie came to be the image now associated with the Homeless Children's Education Fund.



Winnie

Reminder: McKinney-Vento Act soon to be up for reapproval

We would like to remind all of the volunteers that the Federal McKinney-Vento Act will be up for reapproval this year! We need to make sure that this stays in effect so that children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to the same educational opportunities as their classmates. These children shouldn't be denied a chance to learn. Please e-mail or call your local representative and tell them you want the McKinney-Vento Act to be reapproved. Please, do eve-

rything you can to help us make sure that this law is once again reapproved, so that homeless children aren't denied any of the opportunities given to their peers. If you are interested in being an advocate for this cause, please contact Susy at X 206 or srobinson@homelessfund.org for information on how to get more involved. For more details on the bill see page 4.

Homeless Education Network - The HEN connects and advocates with interested parties, facilitates discussions among partners, serves as a catalyst for action, creates effective models, brokers resources and provides a forum for community discussions to ensure that children and youth who are experiencing homelessness are enrolled, attending and succeeding in school as mandated by the McKinney - Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The McKinney-Vento Act - The McKinney-Vento Act: Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) was created to help remove barriers for a child's education that may be caused by homelessness and to give he/she a brighter future. It provides transportation for children experiencing homelessness so that they may attend school. In early 2011 this legislation is up for re-approval and, along with homeless providers and school districts across the country, the Homeless Children's Education Fund asks for your support. If you are interested in helping and are willing to contact your legislators, please let us know by sending an email to Susy at srobson@homelessfund.org.

Our Mission

Ensuring that homeless children have equal access to the same educational opportunities and experiences as their peers.



HOMELESS
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Hope Through Learning