

# HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

## Summer 2011 E-Newsletter — Vol. 6 No. 3

### WINNIE SAYS “IT’S ALL ABOUT KIDS!”



#### Kids offered educational enrichment discover. . .

That they can  
make for themselves a French “pancake”  
filled with  
sliced banana: *la banane*  
jam: *le confiture*  
powered sugar: *le sucre en poudre*  
Nutella: *Nutella*  
syrup: *le sirop*  
whipped cream: *le crème fouettée*  
that is now *le crêpe*  
and that has added 6 words  
to their French vocabulary.



That learning another language is fun.  
That learning about the country and the people  
where this language is spoken makes you want  
to learn more about that country.  
That the best way to learn more is by reading.

(Thanks to instructors from the *Institute of International Arts and Languages* and to our Pennsylvania EITC - Education Improvements Tax Credit - partners who provide the financial support for our CAPE programming)

#### Mini-Grants for Educational Enrichment

As long-time friends of HCEF know, August is the time when we award what has been until this year called Mini-Grants for Educational Innovation. The program continues to offer our partner housing agencies this opportunity to apply for a Mini-Grant while acknowledging that *educational enrichment* is the goal of the program.

Grants of up to \$2000 were awarded August 12, 2011, to 13 partners in service: Alle-Kiski Area Hope Shelter, Alle-Kiski Hope Center Transitional, Crisis Center North, Healthy Start House, HEARTH, Primary Care Supportive Housing – Open Arms and San Kofa House, The Salvation Army Family Caring Center, Sisters Place, Sojourner House, Sojourner House MOMS, Woman Space East, Womansplace, Women’s Center and Shelter.

On average,

- 500 children and 150 youths benefit from HCEF Mini-Grants each year
- 150 children and 70 parents participate in HCEF-funded field trips each year
- 4000 children and youths have benefited from HCEF Mini-Grants since 2004.

These grants are funded entirely by the financial contributions of individual donors in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County as well as such donors from across the Commonwealth and the nation. Not one penny goes to HCEF operations.

**HCEF is now on YOU TUBE at**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/HopeThroughLearning>

## Gear for Grades 2011

Monday, August 16, was backpack delivery day for HCEF. Over 2000 backpacks were delivered to homeless residential housing agencies on this day, with hundreds more available for children and youth new in supportive housing at any time during the coming school year. HCEF has partnered with Citizens Bank for several years, with the bank purchasing the thousands of backpacks and inviting donations of required school supplies through its area branch offices.



Partnering this year with HCEF were CBL Properties, Diocese of Pittsburgh's Catholic Youth Ministry Co-ed Softball Championship Tournament and Youth & Adult Ministry, Kenny's Club and Paige's Promise, Iota (Pittsburgh) Chapter Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority, rue21, inc, and — as always — many individual donors.



Bus load of supply-filled backpacks

Listen to KDKA's interview with HCEF Executive Director Bill Wolfe and Citizens Bank Vice President Pam Wigley:

<http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/video/6110560-help-local-children-through-the-gear-for-grades-program/>

## Pittsburgh Gives: October 4



The Pittsburgh Foundation will hold its 2011 Day of Giving Tuesday, October 4, 2011, from 12:00 a.m. until 11:59:59 p.m. All donations made to the Homeless Children's Education Fund during that 24-hour period will receive a pro-rated portion of the match pool. (If, for example, the match pool is \$500,000 and the *total* amount raised that day is \$2,000,000, then your donation to HCEF will receive a match of \$.25 cents on the dollar.)

Only MasterCard and Visa donations received through [www.pittsburghgives.org](http://www.pittsburghgives.org) during the 24 hours of October 4 will be matched for this event and no donations by check, cash, or stock will be accepted.

The minimum gift is \$25. The maximum gift an individual can give per organization is \$10,000. Note: On October 4 the Pittsburgh Gives Donate page will not be accessible until 12:00 a.m.



We are most grateful for the very many donations we received during last year's *Pittsburgh Gives*.

We know that friends of HCEF are also friends of other Allegheny County not-for-profit organizations, and we appreciate your support of each of these as well your support of the Homeless Children's Education Fund.

## Auberle Movin'On

HCEF and Auberle staff and clients celebrated the opening of an HCEF computerized Learning Center in the *Movin'On* transitional housing facility in Duquesne, Pennsylvania.



The facility serves boys 16-21 who are in homeless situations or at risk of becoming homeless.

Up to ten clients can be served at any one time and they can participate in the program for up to 24 months or to the age of 21, whichever comes first. The clients participated in remaking the space that now houses the center.

The Learning Center was made possible by the Nathan Minoski Memorial Fund through The Pittsburgh Foundation. As Kevin Jenkins, Director of the Community Initiatives/Senior Program Officer at the foundation, said, "When two social service organizations work together, the outcome can only be great."

<http://homelessfund.org/learningcenterauberle.html>

## Our Community Benefactors

This summer has seen an amazing variety of events benefiting HCEF and so also the children we serve. Not previously reported:

Thursday, July 7, jazz vocalist Jessica Lee's regular **Entrepreneurial Thursday's Happy Hour** at Little E's in downtown Pittsburgh was an *awareness raiser* entitled "Innovating to Help Children Experiencing Homelessness" with speakers Bill Wolfe, Executive Director of the Homeless Children's Education Fund; Samantha Murphy, Education Liaison, Allegheny County Department of Human Services; Nick Vargas, Family Support Specialist, Sojourner House MOMS; and Dr. Dick Deluca, chair of the HCEF Volunteer Committee.

The **Penguin Bookshop** in Sewickley held two events. First was its 2011 Children's Festival. Visitors to the bookshop were encouraged to purchase and donate books that were then given to teen readers living in HCEF-partner homeless housing.

HCEF Advisor Brett Keisel was on hand to read stories to the very excited children gathered in the upstairs children's books section.



The second event was the August 19 *Pittsburgh Noir Evening*, which raised \$2,275 for HCEF through the auctioning of one-of-a-kind Adirondack chairs.

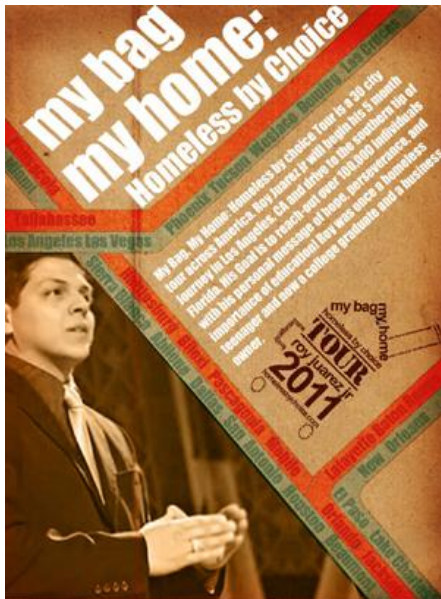
## And coming this fall . . .

*An Extraordinary Evening*, Saturday, October 22, 2011, 6:30 p.m. at the Grazie Event Center (in the Oxford Athletic Club, 100 Village Club Dr, Wexford). The Latin-themed event will feature Shelly Hipsky, who created and presented last year's fun and fundraiser *Taste of Broadway*; Sheldon Ingram of Channel Four Action News as Master of Ceremonies, a salsa band, talented dancers, Latin-fusion foods, and an exotic dessert.



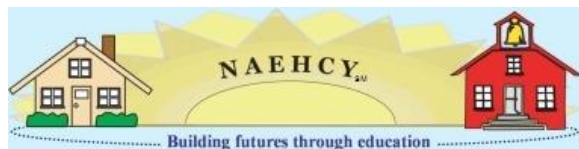
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Keynote speaker will be Roy Juarez, Jr., currently on a "couch-surfing" journey across the United States with his *My Bag, My Home: Homeless by Choice Tour* and his story about living homeless as a teenager.



General Admission tickets are \$50 per person and \$100 each for VIP tickets, the latter including a reception, conversation with Roy, and beverages. To make your reservation, contact Zach Marsh, HCEF Office and Events Manager, 412-562-0154. Note that the venue will accommodate only 175 guests.

Also contact Zach to become an event sponsor or to provide a program ad.



Not a fund raiser for HCEF but certainly a celebration of our work

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHYC) 2011 Conference is scheduled for November 5-8 at Pittsburgh's Weston Convention Center. HCEF staff members will be lead presenters of three breakout sessions: Clairton Collaborative — Laura Bailey, Education Program Manager; HEN — Charlie LaVallee, Director; Toolkit for Parents and Providers — Maura McInerney,

Staff Attorney, Education Law Center, and Bill Wolfe, HCEF Executive Director.

## We celebrate the children's learning and all who make it possible

Heartfelt thanks to all who have made monetary contributions to HCEF, have made donations in honor or memory of loved ones, have sponsored and attended fund raising events on our behalf, and have tutored the children. In all these ways you have helped make a difference in the lives of children caught up in the uncertainties of homelessness.

<http://homelessfund.org/donate.html>

LabRatz experiment: Which objects will float? Which will sink?



A perfect *crêpe*. Let's eat!



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"Providing hope through learning"