

HEADLINES OF HOPE



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April - June 2019 | Quarterly Newsletter

Shelter Partners and Enrichment Providers Connect to Bring Educational Programming to Youth Experiencing Homelessness



In May HCEF hosted our partners meeting and enrichment fair at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Highland Park! We met with our shelter partners to discuss their current needs and to connect them with our programs and enrichment providers, so that they can provide their kids and teens with educational resources to jumpstart their futures. The HCEF staff gave presentations on our programs the shelters can utilize, including our Hope Through Learning Award and Annual Backpacks Collection. The Carnegie Library also spoke about their reading program and free resources for literacy and career-training. After the meeting, our partners mingled with our enrichment providers to learn what kinds of fun programs they can offer to the children—everything from art, to music, to science experiments.

Local Teens to Benefit from Suicide Prevention Curriculum This Fall



Great news! Dr. Carla Chugani, Dr. Elizabeth Miller, and our Teen Program Manager, Chris McAneny, received a grant award from the University of Pittsburgh CTSI for their project "Preventing Suicide in Homeless Youth." This project fosters a partnership between Steel Valley High School and HCEF, providing training for teachers and working directly in classrooms, utilizing foundational concepts, skills, and strategies adapted from Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). DBT is an evidence-based practice for helping people whose intense emotions lead to self-harm and suicidal behaviors learn how to live the lives they want to live.

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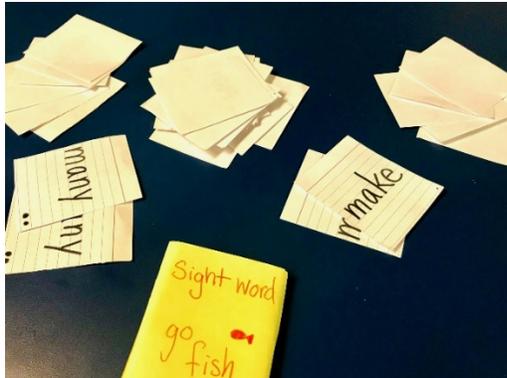


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Another Successful Year Comes to a Close for the Afterschool Program



Our afterschool program for 2018-2019 came to a close after another successful school year. Over 100 children and youth experiencing homelessness spent time reading together, creating art, writing stories, and building relationships with instructors and volunteers. Students read over 1,000 books this year. HCEF connected our shelter partners with 10 different enrichment providers for hands-on activities with providers such as the Andy Warhol Museum, LabRatz, and Art Expression Inc.

Welcome to our New Administrative Assistant, Renee!



HCEF would like to welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Renee Brown! Renee is a native of Philadelphia and has worked with Allegheny County nonprofits for more than 18 years, where she developed an interest in engaging individuals living with socio-economic challenges. Her experiences in the nonprofit field include acting as point of contact for individuals living with mental health and drug & alcohol disorders and family units experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. Renee says she was drawn to HCEF because of the guiding commitment to provide education and learning support to youth and young adults experiencing boundaries to success.

HCEF's Pittsburgh Marathon Team Raises Funds for Homeless Youth



On the weekend of May 4th and 5th, team HCEF completed a successful marathon, running the 5K, half-marathon, full-mile, and relay. We surpassed our funding goal of \$10K, raising \$11,429 for homeless children

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and youth. With that, our team can apply to be an official marathon charity next year! Many volunteers and staff members passed out water and cheered the team on during the race. Pictured is our Board Chair, Harry Soose, after he completed his 5K. We thank all of our generous donors and supporters for making this HCEF's most successful marathon yet!

Susy Robison, Director of Outreach & Volunteer Services, Retires



On May 24th, we said goodbye to our beloved Director of Outreach & Volunteer Services, Susy Robison. After 10 dedicated years to HCEF, Susy embarked on her retirement. We threw her a party at Cioppino Restaurant in the Strip District where staff, volunteers, board members, and HCEF friends gathered to congratulate her. Words cannot express how grateful we are for her commitment to serve children and youth experiencing homelessness—from recruiting and maintaining relationships with our volunteers, to running countless awareness events & art installations, to

always being there to lend a hand. Pictured is our board Vice-Chair, Ebony Pugh (left) and Susy (right).

Volunteers Needed for Bierhaus!



Volunteers Needed!

Contact Brian Knight at
bknight@homelessfund.org
or 412-562-0154x206
if interested.

We need volunteers willing to help with our annual Bierhaus fundraiser with event planning, sponsorships, marketing, publicity, ticket sales, and the auction, among other tasks. Volunteers also can join our Young Professionals Group, working to raise funds year-round. Bierhaus will be taking place on September 12th, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. Young professionals and others are welcomed to gather at Spirit PGH for music, food, and to learn about our mission. Contact Brian Knight at bknight@homelessfund.org or 412-562-0154x206 if interested in volunteering.

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Bethel Park Youth Stand up for Homeless Children in Market Square



120 students from Independence Middle School from Bethel Park School District gathered in Market Square for our “Stand Up for Homeless Children” art installation. The students stood in silence for 15 minutes, holding up the portrait of the face of a child—representing the 4,000+ children identified as homeless by Allegheny County schools last year. Bystanders were seen taking pictures, asking staff about the installation, and spreading the word about the problem of youth homelessness.

New Business Partnerships Enhance our Afterschool and Teen Outreach Programs



HCEF has fostered many new business partnerships this quarter. Firstly, we are working with [Continental Building Company](#) to renovate the Learning Center at one of our shelter partners. They have big plans for the space to make it more kid-friendly through adding bookshelves, painting the walls, and updating the furniture. In addition, members of our team met with [Waldron Private Wealth](#) and discussed possibilities for internships and career options for teens we work with. If you are interested in finding out how your business can get involved with HCEF, reach out to MJ Meenen at mjmeen@homelessfund.org or 412-562-0154x201.



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