



2019

# ANNUAL REPORT



## HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

OUR MISSION is to advance the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in Southwestern PA, guiding them to be productive, empowered citizens.

our guiding  
principles:

WE BELIEVE THAT . . .

All people have intrinsic value, unique gifts, and deserve respect.

Homelessness is a condition, not an identity.

Quality education is a civil right, which breaks the cycle of poverty and empowers youth to lead fulfilling lives.

Parents and families are critical partners in their children's education.

Every community is responsible for eliminating homelessness.





Dear Friends,

2019 was a milestone year as we celebrated 20 years of empowering kids to break the cycle of homelessness through education and the retirement and transition of our founder Dr. Joe Lagana from our board and day to day activities. We are thankful for his vision, leadership and dedication to unstably -housed youth. It is our honor to move things forward.

This year, HCEF provided education and enrichment support to over 800 youth in our programs. Providing young people with diverse STEM and arts opportunities, career coaching and learning experiences as well as giving them tools to improve their mental health. For our teens, we provided coaching and support to maintain grade level, graduate and move on to college or career options.

Additionally, we provided over \$25,000 in college scholarship awards and equipped thousands of students with back packs to provide them the tools they need to start school. One mother shared with us that she was "no longer ashamed of not having school supplies for my children!" Testimonies like that are reassuring and remind us that **the support of donors like you is making an impact.** We continue to focus on youth's social and emotional learning in our shelter and high school programs and were proud to launch a partnership with Steel Valley High School and Dr. Carla Chugani (University of Pittsburgh) to help our students better manage and regulate behavior,

mitigate stress and reduce suicides — as young people experiencing homelessness are 6 times more likely to commit suicide.

We also were privileged to be recognized by the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh as an inaugural award recipient of the Community Resource: Rotary Ethics Excellence Award, for our commitment to serving the community with equity and integrity.

None of this is possible without the support of faithful donors like you. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, students experiencing homelessness need us more than ever. This crisis has impacted all of us, but families experiencing homelessness are impacted to a greater extent as they are already struggling to stay afloat. HCEF is willing to stand in the gap with your support. **I am hopeful that we will get through this time that continues to reveal the best of humanity.**

Your continued belief in our mission and in the youth we serve makes an impact. Thank you.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlos T. Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carlos T. Carter  
Executive Director







Student Stories of  
**STRENGTH,**  
**HOPE**  
**+ HEART**

## MEET: TORRELL



At 5 years old, Torrell entered HCEF's afterschool program under a lot of stress, having trouble processing his emotions healthily, holding attention, and following a routine. His formal schooling up until that point had been inconsistent, and he couldn't write all of the letters in his name.

Our instructors & volunteers worked closely with Torrell to help him map out his schedule on a visual chart and teach him how to verbalize his emotions using a facial expression chart. They also collaborated with his mother and school to get him special education supports he desperately needed and enrolled him in an extended school year program.

By the time Torrell entered first grade, he had visibly progressed in so many ways, and was excited to come to the afterschool program every day. He could spell his name, sound out certain words, and he was always eager to get his homework done before he ate his snack. It was so gratifying to see that Torrell had learned to trust-both himself and others. He walked away from the program more confident, and with many of the tools he needed to succeed in school and life.

## MEET: MONIKA

Monika met HCEF in September as a sophomore in high school when her family had lost their home. Their situation was dire. Her mother had to be on bed rest after a complicated pregnancy. With a job that did not provide paid sick leave, however, she was let go, and their financial situation was grim.

Despite this traumatic experience, Monika remains resilient, focused and career-driven. She already knows she wants to go to law school. She is eager to learn, reading free law books online, while saving up money working at Walmart. Recently, our Teen Program Manager set up an online mentoring session with Anthony DeLuca, a local attorney, who gave her college and career advice. HCEF also connected her with free online courses that she can take from Ivy League Universities, which she is excited to begin in her free time. Now moving into her junior year, Monika will have our continued assistance to select a great school, and tap into the best scholarships.

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

# our HCEF VOLUNTEERS make so much HAPPEN!



## MEET: ASHLEY

Ashley Gallardo is energetic and passionate about children and their needs. She became interested in putting her talents to use for our mission after attending Champions for Children in 2018, where she was shocked to learn about the staggering number of local children who are experiencing homelessness. Since then, she has been a regular committee member and volunteer for our Champions for Children and our Bierhaus events, donating many hours—assisting primarily with web development and auction gift entry. Ashley is one we know we can call on and count on, for valuable input and hands on help. As an editor and motion graphics designer for On Motion Media, Ashley was instrumental in the creation of our amazing "Raising Hope" video. "It was a great opportunity to use my skills as a video editor to help tell the impactful stories of how HCEF changes lives as well as raise awareness about all they do for the community."

Outside of work, Ashley loves to cook, take her dog for walks, and explore Mt. Washington. When asked to reflect on her work with us, she said that "HCEF is a great organization to get involved with not only because of the mission itself but also because of the amazing and passionate people working to advocate for this community and push the mission forward." Thank you Ashley for all that you've contributed to HCEF, and for inspiring others to also become involved.

# OUR NUMBERS

tell a story of Students Served

# 307

## Teens and Young Adults

participated in our TUTORING,  
ENRICHMENT, AND COLLEGE &  
CAREER GUIDANCE through  
our Teen Outreach Program.

.....

Some needed material support  
such as bus passes and food  
and/or hygiene items.



Children in the afterschool  
program read for over

# 2,215 minutes

# 2,059 backpacks



filled with school supplies were  
delivered to CHILDREN & YOUTH  
at PARTNERING HOUSING AGENCIES  
and COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS





# 600

**children + teens**

participated in **ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS** including science, visual arts, music, technology and storytelling workshops at...



# 175

**empowered to reach their full potential**

in regular afterschool programming and summer camps with four partners

# 17

**housing partner sites.**

At Steel Valley High School,

**we reached**

# 93

**teens** with Dialectical Behavior Therapy

# STEPS-A

a social and emotional learning curriculum, co-taught with health teachers. This program is aimed at teaching coping skills, stress reduction and reducing teen suicide

# 6

**high school graduates**



received our **Hope Through Learning** Award—doubling the awards from 2018!



# 5,204

**HOURS** of volunteer support in direct service, outreach and back office and event support  
**POWERED HCEF'S 2019 IMPACT.**

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES As of December 31, 2019

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

#### REVENUES

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Contributions                          | \$191,564 |
| Grants from Corporations & Foundations | \$420,859 |
| Special Events—Tickets & Sponsorships  | \$146,623 |
| Interest Income                        | \$41,382  |
| Other Income                           | \$953     |
| Realized/Unrealized Gains/Losses       | \$161,577 |

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|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Total Revenues & Gains | \$977,265 |
|------------------------|-----------|

#### EXPENSES

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Programs       | \$659,155 |
| Fundraising    | \$185,558 |
| Administrative | \$80,877  |

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|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Total Expenses | \$867,426 |
|----------------|-----------|

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Change in Net Assets | \$109,839 |
|----------------------|-----------|

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Net Assets (Dec. 31, 2019) | \$2,054,740 |
|----------------------------|-------------|

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|            |                             |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| NET ASSETS | \$2,164,579 (Dec. 31, 2019) |
|------------|-----------------------------|

The audited financial statements are available by request at 412-562-0154. Audit conducted by Schneider Downs.

To learn more about HCEF or to make a donation, go to [www.homelessfund.org/donate](http://www.homelessfund.org/donate)

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### ASSETS

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Cash & Cash Equivalents           | \$946,032 |
| Prepaid Expenses                  | \$24,398  |
| Contributions & Other Receivables | \$52,449  |

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|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Total Current Assets | \$1,022,879 |
|----------------------|-------------|

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Investments          | \$1,185,750 |
| Property & Equipment | \$14,306    |

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|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Total Assets | \$2,222,935 |
|--------------|-------------|

### LIABILITIES

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Accounts Payable    | \$25,248 |
| Deferred Revenue    | \$20,176 |
| Accrued Liabilities | \$12,932 |

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|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Total Current Liabilities | \$58,356 |
|---------------------------|----------|



“The greatest good is what  
we do for one another”

– Mother Teresa

# AMAZING!

## high points of our year



1



2

### CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WAS A SUCCESS!

We honored Karina Chavez as our Champion for Children, and we raised over \$100,000 for our kids and teens.



### KIDS AT SOJOURNER HOUSE MOMS RECEIVED A COMPLETELY REMODELED LEARNING CENTER!

The colorful, kid-friendly center offers a safe space for our kids to study, play, and participate in our afterschool & enrichment programming.

*Thanks to Continental Builders for partnering with us on this!*



Board Chair Harry J. Soose, Jr.



3

### HCEF BECAME MARATHON OFFICIAL:

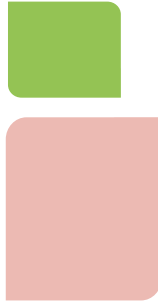
Team HCEF achieved our goal of raising \$10,000 for our kids in the Pittsburgh Marathon, which means we will be an official charity for the marathon going forward.



# 4

## THE TEEN OUTREACH PROGRAM PILOTED AN EXCITING CURRICULUM

in Steel Valley High School, with Dr. Carla Chugani, aimed to enhance mental health and reduce teen suicides.



# 6



**ANDREW MCCUTCHEN, FORMER PITTSBURGH PIRATE AND BASEBALL MVP, VISITED HCEF WITH A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS FOR CUTCH CHARITY WEEK.** The team wrote letters in books to “future readers” and created writing journals for kids in the afterschool program.



# 5

**WE HAD ONE LARGE MARKET SQUARE “STAND UP FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN” art installation during Homeless Children’s Awareness Week in October.**



# 7

**IN 2019 WE RECEIVED THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE: ROTARY ETHICS EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF PITTSBURGH.**



## FOUNDATIONS, BUSINESS AND CIVIC SUPPORT (\$1000 AND ABOVE)

A.J. & Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust  
Abeles Family Charitable Fund  
Allegheny Intermediate Unit  
Ampco-Pittsburgh Charitable Foundation  
Ayers Foundation  
Bank of America  
Birmingham Foundation  
Black Rock Matching Gift Program  
BNY Mellon  
C.S. McKee LP  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
Centimark Corporation  
Christine Cochrane Family Foundation  
Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc.  
Cottage Bridge Foundation  
Covestro, LLC  
Dollar Bank  
Donald and Sylvia Robinson Philanthropic Fund  
Eat'n Park Hospitality Group  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation  
FOF Golf Association  
Fragasso Financial Advisors  
Gateway Health Plan, LP  
Gismondi Family Fund  
Hefren-Tillotson, Inc  
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Huntington National Bank  
Jack Buncher Foundation  
Janney Montgomery Scott LLC

Kades-Margolis Corporation  
Macedonia Church of Pittsburgh  
Mascaro Construction Company  
Massey Charitable Trust  
McAuley Ministries  
McElhattan Foundation  
McKamish, Inc.  
Mechanical Contractors Association of WPA, Inc  
Monat Global  
Norman C. Ray Trust  
Opportunity Fund  
Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti LLP  
Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation  
Pittsburgh Rotary Club Foundation  
PNC Financial Services Group Inc.  
REVERB  
Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church

Standard Bank PA  
Standard Charitable Foundation  
Terry and Janet Serafini Fund  
The Ann & Frank Cahouet Foundation  
The Buncher Company  
The Grable Foundation  
The Margaret Ritchie R. Battle Family Charitable Fund  
The Mascaro Family Foundation  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Turnitin Pittsburgh  
United Way of Southwest Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
UPMC Health Plan  
Uptown Dental  
Waldron Private Wealth  
Walmart  
Walters and Mason Retail, Inc



Service is the rent we pay for being.  
It is the very purpose of life, and not  
something you do in your spare time.

– Marian Wright Edelman

## FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS (EMERITUS)

Joseph Lagana, Ph.D. (Founder)  
Tony Accamando  
Linda Dickerson (Chair Emerita)  
Veronica Edwards  
Becky Rodgers  
Jerry Wozniak

## OUR BOARD

Harry J. Soose, Jr., Chair  
Ebony Pugh, Vice-Chair  
John Gallardo, Vice-Chair  
Chris Kush, Treasurer  
Tim McKenna, Secretary  
Kristine Autenreith  
Cheryl Belsterling  
Bernice Boyden  
Shelly Renee Brown  
Jo Clark  
Matthew Clark  
Stacy De Las Alas  
Michael J. Maglio  
Kimberly Orth  
Shawn Kintner Nelson  
Brian Sheridan  
Alan Steinberg  
Joe Stromei  
Rev. James Tinnemeyer

## OUR HOUSING PARTNERS

ACTION Housing  
Allegheny Valley Association of Churches  
Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center  
Auberle  
Center for Victims  
Community Human Services  
Crisis Center North  
East End Cooperative Ministry  
Familylinks  
Family Promise  
Goodwill SWPA  
HEARTH  
Light of Life Rescue Mission  
Naomi's Place  
Pittsburgh Public Schools  
Salvation Army Family Caring Center  
Sister's Place  
Sojourner House  
Sojourner House MOMS  
Three Rivers Youth  
Veterans Leadership Program  
Womanspace East  
Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh  
Western Psych Neighborhood Living Project

## OUR SCHOOL PARTNERS

Pittsburgh Public Schools  
Woodland Hills School District  
Steel Valley School District

## OUR UNIVERSITY COLLABORATIONS

Dr. Carla Chugani Team at University of Pittsburgh  
Duquesne University







# HOPE

is everything!

## HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

One Hope Square  
1901 Centre Ave., Ste 301,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
[www.homelessfund.org](http://www.homelessfund.org)  
[info@homelessfund.org](mailto:info@homelessfund.org)

