

# HEADLINES OF HOPE



HOMELESS  
CHILDREN'S  
EDUCATION  
FUND

creating hope through learning  
www.homelessfund.org

January - March 2020 | Quarterly Newsletter

## HCEF Adapts to the Health Crisis



Our students need community support now more than ever. School and business closures will majorly disrupt their educational, financial, and mental well-being—making them a highly vulnerable population in this time of crisis. As a result, HCEF remains committed to delivering and adapting our services as needed. We will be working directly with our partners and homeless providers to help them tackle their ever-changing needs.

As for the state of our office, the HCEF staff is operating remotely. If you need to reach us, please call 412-562-0154 or email [info@homelessfund.org](mailto:info@homelessfund.org), and you will be directed to the appropriate person. If you would like to contact a staff member directly, you can find their emails and extensions [here](#).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. HCEF is committed to the safety and well-being of our entire community. We will still be accepting donations to support our mission in this time of need at [www.homelessfund.org/donate](http://www.homelessfund.org/donate) where you can join our Build the Future monthly giving circle, donate a one-time amount, or a digital gift card.

## Kids Living in Shelters Received Special Learn-from-Home Kits



As our afterschool programs are temporarily suspended, HCEF prepared special educational kits for families to use while social distancing. Each kit contains a letter to the family and art supplies. In addition, each student has a unique folder with pens, pencils, a journal, a dry erase set, envelopes, and educational worksheets and activities. In addition, the kids have been enjoying educational activity packets and have been hard at work with their reading and writing. All materials have been thoroughly disinfected for the safety of all!

## Dashawn's Story: A Laptop is a Bridge to the Future



Dashawn, a senior at Brashear, has been resilient through multiple family crises that resulted in his homelessness this school year. While he is safe and staying with a friend, Dashawn just received word that he was accepted into the Electrical Apprenticeship program at CCAC for the fall. He intended to complete his basic competency tests on the school's library computer, but with the school closed, Dashawn was in jeopardy of not being able to complete the test that is necessary for his enrollment. HCEF advocates delivered him a laptop, and now Dashawn will be able to complete his enrollment.

### You Can Still Support Our Dedicated Marathon Runners!



The Pittsburgh Marathon has been moved online! Sign up to be a virtual runner to raise funds for HCEF at a time when our kids need it most. Race weekend is still May 2-3, and you can view the details [here](#).

One of our runners, Kathy Monangai says, “I want to run for the Homeless Children’s Education Fund because I believe children deserve our very best. Everyone is entitled to an education and should not be blocked from receiving one due to external circumstances.” This will be Kathy’s second half-marathon, and she is a recent PharmD graduate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.

### Hope Through Learning Award Applications are Due May 31

Reminder: Applications for the Hope Through Learning Award are due by May 31! The award is for youth under 24 who have experienced homelessness at any point during their education, entering a post-secondary school for the first time. Winners will receive \$2,500 to use towards their tuition, books, housing, or any school-related expense. Application and details can be found [here](#).

### PUMP Kickball Game to Raise Money for Children Experiencing Homelessness

Thanks to your votes, Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project (PUMP) has selected HCEF to be their charity for Kickball for a Cause, along with Book'Em. On August 8, 2020, the kickball tournament will take place in Mellon Park and bring together 600+ young people, ages 21+, for a day of kickball, fundraising, picnicking, and fun. Proceeds will help benefit our kids and teens.

### **Families Enjoy Dinner & Game Night at Afterschool Program**



In January, HCEF hosted our first Family Dinner for our afterschool program at Sojourner House MOMS. The kids and their families hung out and played games with HCEF staff and volunteers, enjoying delicious food donated by Z-Best Barbeque! The purpose of the dinner was to foster bonding between the parents and their kids.

### **Local Attorney Helps Teens with Advice & Career Guidance**



Anthony DeLuca, a local attorney, has been working with HCEF since the fall, offering teens free legal advice and representing them in court. Recently, he has been helping one student named Monika, a sophomore at Carrick who wants to attend law school post-grad. Monika experienced homelessness due to her mother losing her job, but has remained driven and dedicated to her education. Anthony met with Monika via Zoom, and he answered her questions about colleges and what it's like working in law. After the call, Monika met with our Teen Program Manager to work through enrolling in free online law courses from Ivy League Universities.

### **HCEF + the University of Pittsburgh = a Winning Partnership**



Congrats to our Teen Program Manager, Chris McAneny, and Dr. Carla Chugani and Dr. Elizabeth Miller from the University of Pittsburgh! The university presented them with the Partnership of Distinction Award for their Dialectical Behavioral Therapy based curriculum in our Teen Program— aimed at reducing teen suicide. The award celebrates the importance of partnerships that bring Pitt's mission of teaching and research to life in meaningful ways to the world around us.

## HCEF Addresses Housing Insecurity within Higher Ed. at Collegiate Basic Needs Dialog



Photo by Kate Farmer

In January, HCEF sponsored and attended the 3rd Annual Collegiate Basic Needs Dialog. Educators, administrators, students, and local non-profits gathered to discuss ways to change food and housing insecurity within higher education. During the conference, HCEF's Teen Program Manager, Chris McAneny, gave a presentation on student homelessness within our local education system.

## Event Cancellations: Champions for Children & Eleven Benefit Dinner

Champions for Children 2020 has been cancelled. Although we are disappointed, we look forward to seeing you in 2021. If you would like a refund at this time, please let us know and we'd be happy to accommodate you. You also have the option to donate your ticket fee towards our mission, as this is a dire time of need for our kids who may face more hardships with their education due to public gathering restrictions. Questions? Call us at 412-562-0154.

Our benefit dinner at Eleven on June 11th has also been cancelled. We will let you know the new date on that as well.



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