

In a year when  
EVERYTHING CHANGED,  
we **FOUGHT** through  
the challenges,  
we **ENGAGED** new ways  
to **ENCOURAGE** learning,  
we were **ENERGIZED**  
by collaboration  
and we **TRANSFORMED**  
despair, hopelessness and  
uncertainty, into...  
**LOVE, SUPPORT,**  
**STABILITY** and **SUCCESS.**



**2020**

# 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,

2020 was a year like no other to date COVID-19. The youth and families we served had complex needs that escalated during a pandemic, economic and social crisis. Despite the varied obstacles that ranged from school closings, canceled events, hunger, the need for technology and the need to develop remote programming, we kept the focus on the needs of the youth. We had to pivot and find creative ways to deliver and fund programs that fit the times. Families had emergency needs, and often had service sector jobs – with work that could carry a high risk of infection or layoff.

We were able to serve families in new ways by providing virtual tutoring, along with other educational and creative supports. In addition to supporting our shelter partners and families, we created new partnerships with two elementary schools in the Historic Hill District and one in the Northside of Pittsburgh to deliver school supplies, virtual learning packets and food to children experiencing homelessness.

We helped a mother of two who was a domestic violence survivor and concurrently battling cancer. She needed support on many levels and quality referrals. We also provided virtual supports to promote educational success and even a bed – as the mother was sleeping on a couch. After receiving her bed, she gratefully reported to us that she was more rested and better able to support her children's education. It's stories like this that remind us of the importance of our mission. We cannot help families in need without the generosity of donors like you!

This year, HCEF was thankful to be in a position to expand its staff, with greater diversity that reflects the population we serve. These two dynamic team members bring more capacity and support to our teen program and K-8 programs. HCEF also added four strong directors to the Board, who have passion, expertise and eagerness to make an impact.

We were fortunate to serve 2,240 students this year across our programs, and to serve them in ways that built one to one relationships, even though they were primarily remote. All through the year, the community was there for our students, with heartfelt generosity that inspired us. With your continued support, we will do what it takes to make sure that all children are able to succeed despite housing insecurity.

Thanks again for all you do to help our children break the cycle of homelessness through education!

Carlos T. Carter  
Executive Director







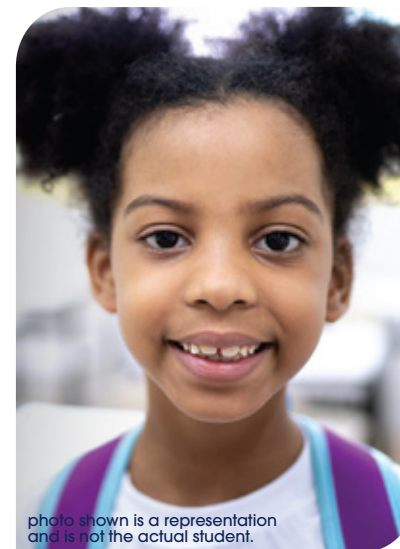
## Student Stories of

# COURAGE+

# DETERMINATION

## E L E M E N T A R Y S T U D E N T I M P A C T

### MEET: Kaliya



In third grade, and experiencing homelessness, Kaliya was in a situation new and frightening. All the changes that happened so quickly with the onset of the pandemic were hard to process at any age, much less at age 9.

One of our new partners, Miller Pre K - 5 African-Centered Academy, let us know that Kaliya moved about 10 miles away and her family had difficulty getting her educational packets. The homework and lessons were essential to her schooling, but her family had no way to get them. HCEF was happy to step in and assist.

Since that initial, emergency call, we've gotten to know Kaliya well – she attends ZOOM after school three days a week. In our time together, we work on homework, create art, play games, and build connections with instructors and volunteers. Kaliya has captured our hearts with her quirky sense of humor and expressive face. She always lets us know how she is feeling!

Kaliya has grown with the right mix of parental encouragement, and adult mentorship. She was at first shy to show us her art, and now she proudly displays it. We also have fostered better communication between mom and the school, which is so important to facilitate Kaliya's success. Instructors built on her strengths in math (persistence and quick to learn basic facts and to practice and apply them, create challenging problems for others to solve) and encouraged her to make up her own math game. Now one of her favorite activities is to play her math game where she becomes the teacher posing new challenges to the HCEF instructors and volunteers each week!

## MEET: Tina

Imagine being 17, with a mom struggling with serious mental health and addiction issues. You move in with your grandmother for safety and a sense of stability, but she contracts COVID 19, and you become a caretaker in addition to managing a household and trying to keep up with demanding school work. You end up taking a month off from school. That was Tina's (\*not her real name) 2020.

Our staff was able to assist her in multiple ways. Tina did not have a computer that could maintain a charge, so we provided her with a laptop. We also paired Tina with a volunteer—an EMT in his “day job”—who was dedicated to building a strong relationship and to working on geometry—remotely—no small task. Tina's goal is to earn her GED this year, gain full-time employment, and attend community college. She also is committed to our DBT program (a curriculum that teaches coping skills and stress reduction) and improving her mental health. Her resilience is a lesson for all of us.



photo shown is a representation and is not the actual student.

## MEET: Jacqueline Yakish



Jacqueline Yakish is a person who lives out her values. Growing up in Erie and inspired to study teaching, her day job is working with children in a local elementary school, teaching special education. Initially introduced to HCEF by attending a fall event in 2019, Jacqueline sought out staff during the event to learn more and explore ways to get involved.

That initial interest has bloomed into a volunteer service on multiple levels. Jacqueline has delivered supplies to families, hosted a ZOOM call with friends about our mission, helped with Champions for Children auction, joined the Outreach team and chaired our fall 2020 NOLA event, even serving as emcee. Jacqueline has such positive energy and truly shines when she is volunteering her time.

Jacqueline says she wishes the public were more aware of the plight of youth experiencing homelessness, and about the prevalence of the problem. When asked how she'd encourage others to get involved, she said: “This community has blessed me in so many ways, I knew it was my turn to give back. At the end of the day, that's all you have to ask yourself. What exactly CAN you give back? Time? Money? Dedication? HCEF needs it all—everyone has something to give! They cannot serve without YOU! Gabriela Mistral says it best: "Many things we need can wait. The child cannot. Now is the time his bones are formed, his mind developed. To him we cannot say tomorrow, his name is today."

## MEET: Michael & Steffanie Jasper



“Happiest are the people who give the most happiness to others.”

– Dennis Diderot,  
French Philosopher

The Jaspers have a heart for children, and are firm believers in the power of education. Natives of Erie and Pittsburgh, the couple described education as “the key to changing circumstances”. Reflecting on how and when they learned about the issues our kids face, they remarked that that “kids are carrying stress that even adults don’t have to carry.”

Michael first learned about HCEF when working on a video project. He said he previously was unaware of the depth and breadth of the problem, right here in our city and region. Since that initial introduction, both Michael and Steffanie have been consistent donors, community ambassadors and friends. Michael recently joined the Board of Directors.

With three children of their own, the Jaspers stressed how important it is to impart the value of education as a life philosophy. Education opens doors and minds, and Michael said he tells his kids “it’s a big world out there and it’s important that you interact with people different from you.” We are fortunate they have chosen our organization to support. Steffanie summed it up so well: “Being a donor is where it starts. Once you hear more, you think what can I do?”. The Jaspers inspire us by their passion and commitment to making the world a better place for children and youth. We are grateful for their support and friendship.

# 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

**9** HOPE  
Through  
LEARNING  
Awards

were made to defray costs associated with college. Students celebrated at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens with their families.

**330**

TUTORING SESSIONS  
held for K-8th graders

**90%**

of **students** in the  
TEEN OUTREACH  
PROGRAM  
**graduated**  
from HIGH SCHOOL

**DELIVERED**  
**6 WEEKS**

of mental health curriculum  
(DBT STEPS-A) to **3 CLASSROOMS**  
at Steel Valley High School.

**29** NEW  
VOLUNTEERS

**1463**

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

**110**

TEEN EMERGENCY  
DROP OFFS  
(of supplies & more)



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES As of December 31, 2020

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

#### REVENUES

Contributions	\$223,025
Grants from Corporations & Foundations	\$838,551
Special Events—Tickets & Sponsorships	\$110,170
Interest Income	\$37,901
Other Income	\$451
Realized/Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$72,996

Total Revenues & Gains \$1,283,094

#### EXPENSES

Programs	\$646,425
Fundraising	\$118,558
Administrative	\$44,882

Total Expenses \$809,865

Change in Net Assets	\$473,229
Net Assets (Dec. 31, 2020)	\$2,164,579

NET ASSETS \$2,637,808 (Dec. 31, 2020)

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	\$1,314,245
Prepaid Expenses	\$20,214
Contributions & Other Receivables	\$24,296

Total Current Assets \$1,358,755

Investments	\$1,286,303
Property & Equipment	\$9,241

Total Assets \$2,654,299

### LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$7,232
Deferred Revenue	\$8,300
Accrued Liabilities	\$959

Total Current Liabilities \$16,491

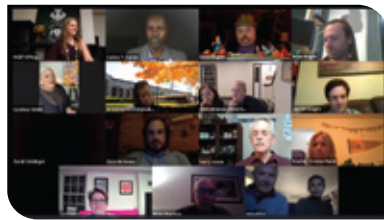


# NEW THINGS HAPPENED MILESTONES from 2020

1

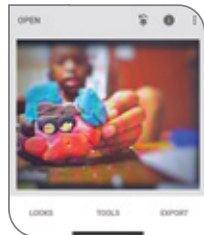
**HIRED TWO NEW PROGRAM STAFF MEMBERS** to work directly with youth and families & **WELCOMED FOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

2



**HELD A SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL EVENT** in the fall:  
A NIGHT IN NOLA

3



**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND SUPPORT WENT VIRTUAL & WE DELIVERED VITAL SUPPLIES** – school packets, school supplies and technology

4



**RECEIVED A PARTNERSHIP OF DISTINCTION AWARD** for DBT Steps-A from University of Pittsburgh

5



**REVAMPED VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT** – utilizing volunteers to make deliveries and adapting to virtual assistance with afterschool

6

**ADDED THREE NEW PITTSBURGH PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AS REFERRAL SOURCES** for youth in Hill District and North Side: Weil, Miller, and King

7

**ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE PITTSBURGH LEARNING COLLABORATIVE**, an interagency education advocacy group formed in response to the pandemic. Participated in group advocacy efforts to improve school policies for students during school closures and remote learning, focusing on communicating the stories and specific needs of students experiencing homelessness

8



**ENGAGED IN BI-WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS ON RACE AND EDUCATION** including working through Professional Development from ELIE Circle Focused on Trauma Informed Care and Anti-Racist Education



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

A.J. & Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust  
Abeles Family Charitable Fund  
Acts of Faith Fund  
Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation  
Altar'd State - Ross Park  
American Eagle Outfitters Foundation  
Ampco-Pittsburgh Charitable Foundation  
Ayers Foundation  
Bank of America  
Benter Foundation  
Bethany Community  
C.S. McKee LP  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
Child Health Association of Sewickley  
Christine Cochrane Family Foundation  
Citizens Bank Wealth Management  
Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc.  
Comcast - Keystone Region  
Cottage Bridge Foundation  
Covestro, LLC  
Dollar Bank  
Donald & Sylvia Robinson Family Foundation  
Duke Family Foundation  
Episcopal Church Women Diocese of Pittsburgh  
Eyenavision, Inc.  
Fidelity Charitable  
Fragasso Financial Advisors  
Fund For Charitable Giving - PNC  
Gateway Health Plan, LP

Half the Sky Action Group  
Hefren-Tillotson, Inc  
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Hundred Acres Manor, Inc.  
Huntington National Bank  
J.R. and Margaret McCartan Charitable Fund  
Jack Buncher Foundation  
John and Barbara Pane Giving Fund  
Keytex Energy  
Kline & Specter, PC  
Lauren and Adam Sufrin Family Foundation  
Mascaro Construction Company  
Massey Charitable Trust  
McElhattan Foundation  
McKamish, Inc.  
Metro Benefits Inc.  
Mitsubishi Electric Trane HVAC US, LLC  
Nextier Bank NA  
Norman C. Ray Trust  
Pennsylvania State Education Association  
Philip and Patricia Muck Charitable Foundation  
Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspani LLP  
Pitt Ohio Express  
Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation  
PPG Foundation  
R&R Express Inc.  
Reed Smith, LLP  
REVERB  
Richard King Mellon Foundation

Rite Aid Foundation KidCents  
Rosen Louik & Perry  
Sigma Pi Phi - Rho Bule  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church  
Standard Charitable Foundation  
Stephenson  
Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky  
TABLE Magazine  
Target Circle  
Terry and Janet Serafini Fund  
The Ann & Frank Cahouet Foundation  
The Bookstore at Calvary Episcopal Church  
The Bryan and Joyce Hondru Family Fund  
The Buncher Company  
The Grable Foundation  
The Heinz Endowments  
The James and Pamela Rogers Family Fund  
The Margaret Ritchie R. Battle Family Charitable Fund  
The Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation  
The Mascaro Family Foundation  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
The Poleski-Collier Family Charitable Fund  
The Wilson Group LLC  
Turnitin LLC  
Turnitin Pittsburgh  
United Way of Southwest Pennsylvania  
UPMC Health Plan  
Waldron Private Wealth  
Washington Financial Charitable Foundation



“We don’t accomplish anything in this world alone. Whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one’s life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.”

– Sandra Day O’Connor



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020

Harry J. Soose, Jr., Chair  
Shelly Renee Brown, Vice-Chair  
John Gallardo, Vice-Chair  
Michael Jasper, Treasurer  
Tim McKenna, Secretary  
Bernice Boyden  
Christopher Brennan  
Jo Clark  
Matthew Clark  
Brian Sheridan  
Alan Steinberg  
Joe Stromei

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS (EMERITUS)

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

EDUCATION PARTNERS

A+ Schools  
Pittsburgh Learning Collaborative  
Pittsburgh Public Schools  
Steel Valley School District  
Sto Rox School District  
Woodland Hills School District



## PA 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  
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

## PUBLIC PARTNERS

Allegheny County Department of Human Services  
Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board  
Allegheny Intermediate Unit

## UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

Duquesne University  
University of Pittsburgh

DEVOTION



HOPE  
is everything!

## HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

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