



HEADLINES of HOPE



CARLOS T. CARTER ▲

SUMMER OF HOPE!

Dear Friends of HCEF,

Summer is one of my favorite times of the year, mainly because there is no snow and lots of sun. This summer feels especially hopeful as we ease out of many restrictions and prepare to connect with children and families in person. It will be great to see smiling faces in real life!

We have exciting things planned with our young people that will help to address learning loss and encourage them to let their hair down and have a little fun in the sun. I am especially enthusiastic about a few key programs and events. As always, we will award youth scholarships to teens who've experienced homelessness during their k-12 years. The Hope Through Learning awardees always warm my heart. Seeing the youth and their families glow with pride as we wish them well in their post-secondary pursuits inspires me as a leader, and reminds me of why we do what we do! I am also excited about our backpack drive in August and

the launch of our mobile learning pilot. Through this pilot, we will be "taking learning to the streets" with a multidisciplinary trauma-informed team approach to address learning and social emotional needs and more importantly, position youth and their families for success!

As you enjoy your summer, know that we will be thinking of you – our volunteers, donors and supporters who help us execute our mission every day. We cannot do what we do without you!

Have a great summer and stay safe!

Carlos T. Carter

Carlos T. Carter
Executive Director

**CARLOS'
CORNER**

SUMMER EVENTS! LEARNING NEVER STOPS.

For more info on any of these events,
just email us: info@homelessfund.org

JUNE 28

Summer
K-8 Programs
Kick Off

JULY 16

HTLA Scholarship
Award Luncheon
for Students

**JULY 8TH + 22ND
AND AUGUST 13TH**

Family Dinner Nights
Three this summer! A fun
way to connect with students
and families.

**AUGUST 14
AT MELLON PARK**

PUMP Kickball Tournament-
picnic, games & more (21+event).
**We are one of the beneficiaries.
All are welcome!**

**COMING IN
AUGUST!**

Backpack distribution
will take place mid to late
August. Exact date TBD.



K-8TH CORNER: JAVON WARMs OUR HEARTS

Javon (*not his real name) is a charming, intelligent 7-year-old boy. He moves back and forth, sometimes on a weekly basis, between two sets of caregivers – his mother and grandfather – one at an apartment and the other at a motel. The frequent changes mean different routines, meals and schedules.

Javon missed several months of first grade. When he re-enrolled in school, the guidance team connected him to HCEF, knowing he could benefit from extra support and encouragement. Each day Javon enthusiastically logs on with the HCEF team to virtually work on catching up on basic skills. Since we first met Javon in

April, he has jumped forward with quick progress in both letter naming and identification, things that were initially a struggle. His afterschool team and his in-school educators have been meeting weekly to keep up on his progress and talk about ways to encourage his growth.

Javon will be able to advance to 2nd grade in the fall. This likely would not have been possible without Javon's hard work and the team's effort to collaborate with his family and school. We're excited to celebrate Javon's love for learning and look forward to visiting him in person this summer for tutoring and creative play.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT MEET BAXTER



▲ BAXTER



Every year, we get 4 volunteers for our afterschool program through a partnership with Pitt's School of Pharmacy Experiential Learning Program. Baxter started with us through this program as a Pitt freshman in the 2020-21 school year – a tough task in

with students till the end of the school year after she completed her course requirements. Baxter loves to encourage students to share their interests and build confidence in their abilities. As a volunteer, she works alongside students on the same activities they're doing. She asks for help, shares ideas, and shows enthusiasm for her work and theirs, showing – rather than telling – how students can be successful, engaged learners.

It's clear that Baxter's time in our program has impacted students deeply. One elementary schooler decided on her own to create a special thank you card for Baxter (and all Pitt volunteers) using some of the Zoom features they had learned together throughout the semester, complete with plenty of personalized flower decorations. We're very lucky to have volunteers like Baxter who are so willing to go above and beyond for students.

a year where most learning was virtual, but she has excelled throughout and even went beyond her required hours. In addition to regularly participating in voluntary meetings with staff on how to promote inclusivity in our program spaces and improve our work with students, she also continued to work

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: TAYLOR IS TAKING BIG STEPS

Taylor connected with us during her senior year of high school in 2018. She found herself falling behind on her grades and at risk of not graduating. She wanted to drop out before being introduced to HCEF, but never told anyone about this other than her mother. "At that point I wanted to just drop out of school but my school counselor felt that was my last resort". While struggling with grades, Taylor was living doubled up, sleeping on a friend's couch because she lost housing due to flooding and mold. Taylor was discouraged, understandably, stating that "bouncing around from place to place made me feel useless because I wasn't able to help out my mom." She stayed focused and DID graduate—and was named salutatorian (!), despite these obstacles.

Over the past 4 years, with consistent support and help from HCEF's Teen Outreach Program, Taylor has had some major life changes, and has been receptive to assistance. We are happy to report that she now has, stable, supportive housing, and plans to enter online college in the fall. "Now it feels amazing." Because of what Taylor has experienced in the past, she still gets nervous about having her housing stripped from her. Taylor has goals and dreams to someday, not only own her own home, but also help her mother have stable housing.

With continued help through HCEF with college and career planning support, we will remain in Taylor's corner, cheering her on.

▼ TAYLOR'S MOVING DAY WAS FULL OF JOY!



▲ VISIT WWW.HOMELESSFUND.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION!

INTRODUCING OUR HIGH HONORS PROGRAM

A new program that is perfect for parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Recently, a granddad He asked us a favor: "Could we create a program where grandparents can donate to HCEF, in honor of a grandchild?" The child honoree would then receive a kid-friendly note, telling them a gift was made, and explain how it was helping other children. We loved the idea and with the help of our friends at CPI Creative, created a notecard featuring a beautiful design—painted by a young girl in our after-school program. To learn more about how you can make a gift in honor of a special child for a birthday, graduation or other milestone event, email us at info@homelessfund.org.

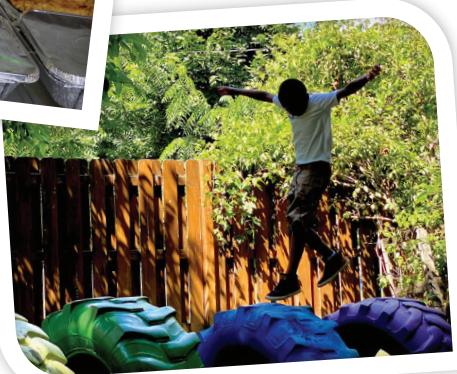
HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND
creating hope through learning



So great to RECONNECT
WITH FAMILIES and to SEE
STUDENTS LEARNING
while HAVING FUN



► ALIZE, HCEF'S FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR, WELCOMES GUESTS TO OUR FAMILY DINNER EVENT.



SUMMER ►
VIBES!