



**HOMELESS  
CHILDREN'S  
EDUCATION  
FUND**

# HEADLINES of HOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | 3RD QUARTER | JULY - SEPTEMBER



CARLOS T. CARTER ▲

## FALL FORWARD!

Dear Friends of HCEF,

One of the best things about living in Pittsburgh in addition to its people, is the chance to experience and thrive in all four seasons. Summer was great despite navigating COVID-19. We were able to have great summer programming that brought smiles and helped to mitigate learning loss experienced by our children due to remote learning. Although we don't know what the future may hold, we continue to fall forward to ensure that we support the social emotional and academic learning of our students. Unfortunately, students experiencing homelessness and other marginalized populations are hit the hardest when schools are closed.

As students are returning to in-person school, many of their counselors are overwhelmed by their great need. With the support of donors and volunteers like you, HCEF will continue to work hard to empower our children to overcome learning loss and other challenges related to homelessness. We are hopeful that with much love and support our children will persevere and fall forward to success!

Thanks for your commitment to help our children persevere!

Carlos T. Carter  
Executive Director

**CARLOS'**  
CORNER

## COMING UP!

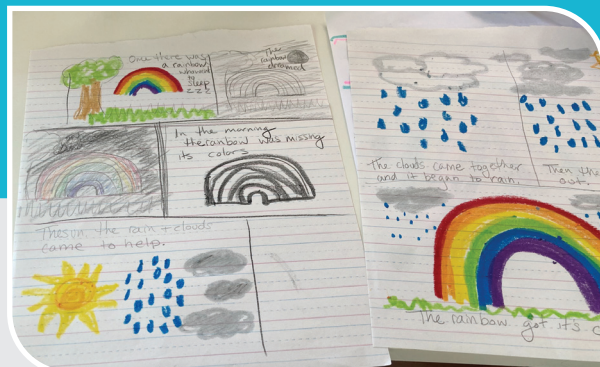
### COMING IN MAY OR JUNE 2022!

Stay tuned for exciting details about our 2022 Champions for Children Event!

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22ND  
MARKET SQUARE at 12:00 PM**  
HCAW-HOMELESS CHILDREN'S  
AWARENESS WEEK: Art Installation  
and Awareness Event. To learn more  
call or email Brian Knight.  
(bknight@homelessfund.org)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH**  
PHILANTHROPY AWARDS: Congratulations  
to Nancy & Paul Collier, our great friends  
were named Outstanding Philanthropist by  
the Association of Fundraising Professionals.  
They will be honored with this prestigious  
award in a virtual event.

**SPRING 2022**  
PLANT A SEED CAMPAIGN  
We have raised \$24,000 of the \$50,00 that  
we need to construct a shelter and surround it  
with beautiful landscape for families. You can  
still help! Reach out to [info@homelessfund.org](mailto:info@homelessfund.org)  
to learn more.



GRACE'S HARD WORK & PERSISTENCE IN ACTION! ▲

We met Grace, age 9, in the fall of 2020 and her mom Madison. They participated in virtual after school programming on a consistent basis. Since the initial referral, Madison and Grace have moved a total of four times in the 2020-2021 school year, moving from shelters to doubling up with family to recently moving into their new home with support.

This summer we were able to meet Grace in person, on her porch, with our new Mobile Learning Program. They were one of four initial families served in our pilot. She and her mother joined our tutoring team for weekly morning sessions. At a table set up

## K-8TH CORNER: MEET GRACE

outside, Grace and her Mom participated in educational activities including reading new favorite stories and playing "store" to practice identifying and adding coins and bills. We also created science experiments with edible materials like the phases of the moon with Oreo cookies.

Grace attends Cyber School, as a third grade student, making virtual learning a norm for her, yet she still needed some extra support during Covid-19. During our virtual afterschool program, we've seen immense growth and confidence in Grace's reading and storytelling. She's a lively, energetic student who always shows up with a smile on her face ready to learn and contribute. We've also greatly enjoyed building a relationship with her mom, Madison, who is an amazing advocate for Grace's learning and well-being. We are so excited to continue to work alongside Grace and her mother this year, to build upon progress.



## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT MEET DR. B.



▲ DR. BARBARA BIGLAN AND FAMILY

Barbara Biglan is known as "Dr. B" to her former students. To us, she is known as a caring neighbor who has a heart for the youth we serve. Living in Oakmont with her husband, Dr. Albert Biglan, Barbara is retired from a long and varied teaching career, where she encountered students from pre-school to college.

When she talks about her students, she emanates love. She said she encourages new teachers-to-be, telling them: "You will love teaching! Just look at the kids. My love was returned 7 million times." Reflecting back, she adds, "the smile on their faces was all I needed to stay motivated."

This genuine love of children and of education is the best, right? Dr. B. encourages her family to make HCEF part of their charitable giving, as each year they decide where to put their philanthropic dollars. When asked why HCEF resonates, Barbara said "The children you serve may think it's their fault that they are experiencing difficulties. It isn't. Kids deserve all the love and belief in them that is possible to give them. If you give them that, they can carry that the rest of the way."

We are so honored that Dr. B and her extended family found our organization and that they are committed to giving youth the support they need to succeed. Thank you!

# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: MEET BRIANNA!

Meet Brianna! (\*not her real name) We met the 18-year-old when she applied for a Hope Through Learning Award. Before the start of Brianna's senior year of high school, she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. Determined to finish school and make a better life for her and her son. Brianna focused hard on her schoolwork.

Brianna's hard work paid off, and she not only graduated but was accepted to Community College of Allegheny County. Her journey and success made her eligible for the 2021 Hope Through Learning Award. Brianna was honored in our annual HTLA event at Phipps Conservatory with eight of her peers and received \$2,500 to continue her education. Each awardee had the chance to meet their fellow awardees, HCEF staff and board, and they also received bedding and a backpack so they can start the year off right.

This summer Brianna participated in the Summer Yoga & Mindfulness program hosted by Danielle Thum and our partners at UPMC. Danielle serves as Health & Prevention Program Manager of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Family Care Connection centers. Summer Yoga & Mindfulness were held once a week outside of the Oakland branch Carnegie Public Library. Along with program participation incentives Brianna received early childhood intervention support for her son.

The Teen Outreach Program highlights Brianna for pursuing her dreams through education and taking steps to ensure her child is given the necessary supports for healthy development.

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*creating hope through learning*

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION THIS SUMMER



HCEF benefitted from the hard work of students and young professionals this summer. Thanks to Sonja of the Breckenridge Youth Service Committee (BYSC) and to PUMP for hosting great events that raised awareness and funds that support our mission. These two events combined to raise over \$6000. **Way to go!**

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## HEADLINES of HOPE

THIRD  
QUARTER

JULY  
AUGUST  
SEPTEMBER

## Summer Highlights: 2021 HOPE THROUGH LEARNING AWARDS

We get inspired every year, meeting the Hope Through Learning applicants. They share their stories with us, submit transcripts and get interview practice. The next step is almost always a congratulatory call from Carlos, which brings joy to Carlos and the awardees alike! This year's awardees have big plans with their \$2,500 awards including attending Bethany College, Penn State, and CCAC. **What an impressive group!** We wish them all the best.



▲ OUR 2021 HOPE THROUGH LEARNING  
AWARD RECIPIENTS