



MONTHLY UPDATE | APRIL 2026

HCEF: IN MOTION

DRAFT DAY ACCESS



Through the **NFL Inspire Change** initiative, HCEF students participated in Draft week programming with the Pittsburgh Steelers and community partners the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, Pittsburgh Mercy and Light of Life Rescue Mission.

30+ HCEF students took part in a Speed Mentoring session with NFL players, legends, and staff, engaging in conversations about education and career goals.

Students engaged with **NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, Pittsburgh Steelers Vice President of Business Development and Strategy Dan Rooney III, Pro Football Hall of Famer Curtis Martin, and other NFL players** during the experience.

The session included direct interaction with professionals across multiple roles.



FROM SHELTER TO STABILITY

As families transition out of shelters, the K-8 team is supporting continuity through **Mobile Learning**.

Of the **66 students** currently enrolled in Mobile Learning:

- **20** previously participated in shelter-based programming
- **11** also participated in afterschool programming

Students continue receiving consistent academic support during housing transitions, reflecting **HCEF's Childhood-to-Career Continuum**.



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THE I AM GALA

On June 13, HCEF will host **The I AM Gala presented by Dollar Bank** at The Westin Pittsburgh.

The event will include immersive elements reflecting student experiences, live storytelling and performances, the launch of **Echoes of Brilliance**, the presentation of the **Dr. Joseph Lagana Champions for Children Award**, the inaugural **President's Award for Transformational Impact**, and the **After Gala Power Party**.

Supporters, partners, and advocates from across the region will be in attendance.

Tickets, tables, and sponsorship opportunities remain available.

To learn more,
Scan the QR Code 👉
or email us
gala@homelessfund.org.



AND THE AWARD GOES TO...



HCEF President and CEO AJ Jefferson was named an honoree of **City & State's Above & Beyond Awards**, recognizing women across Pennsylvania for leadership and professional impact.

Honorees are selected for their contributions to their fields and their role in mentoring and civic engagement.

AJ was recognized at a reception in Philadelphia earlier this month.

HCEF: In Motion is a monthly snapshot of real time updates and the work happening across our community and beyond.

Info@homelessfund.org | www.homelessfund.org