

## About Homeless Children's Awareness Week

Many people don't yet realize the extent and effects of child homelessness.

**The purpose of Homeless Children's Awareness Week is to change that.**

Children of all ages are negatively impacted by homelessness in the areas of physical health, emotional and behavioral development, and academic success. Their bright futures are unfortunately hindered by the stress of homelessness, especially if they experience repeated or chronic homelessness.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states that children are homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This definition includes a large population of children whose families may not know they are entitled to various rights under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Our hope is to alert these families of their rights while also encouraging others to get involved in the effort to make a difference in the lives of these vulnerable children.

We need your help to make Homeless Children's Awareness Week a success across the state of Pennsylvania and the nation. Participate in the events Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF) has already scheduled, or host your own Homeless Children's Awareness Week event in your community!

Check us out on Youtube!  
[www.youtube.com/HopeThroughLearning](http://www.youtube.com/HopeThroughLearning)



### Hosting an Event?

Let us know!

<http://hcaw2012.tumblr.com>



2100 Smallman Street, 2nd Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
(412) 562-0154

[www.homelessfund.org](http://www.homelessfund.org)



#HCAW2012

## Homeless Children's Awareness Week

October 14 - 20, 2012



### HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

**Mission:** To provide advocacy, community engagement, and direct service programs that support the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County.



# Homeless Children's Awareness Week

## Art Installation

The "Stand Up for Homeless Children," a performance art installation, is a purposeful gathering in which each participating volunteer holds a portrait of the face of a child in front of his/her own and stands in silence for 15 minutes, representing the number of children experiencing homelessness in the area.



- **Location and Date:** HCEF's "Stand Up" will be **October 18, 2012 at 5 p.m.** The goal is to use this date for all HCAW art installations, if possible. Choose an open, public location where the installation will be visible by passersby.
- **Promotion:** Create flyers and ads for the purpose of recruiting volunteers and notifying spectators.
- **Volunteers:** The "Stand Up" is volunteer-driven, so it is essential to recruit as many volunteers as possible. Ask volunteers to arrive early to go over the instructions.
- **Materials:** Create or use copies of HCEF's portraits. Instructions for the volunteers may be printed on the opposite side. You will also need a banner or sign showing the statistics of homeless children in your area.

## EVENTS

## Run/Walk

- **Location and Date:** Find a good place to hold the event, choose the dates and times for the race, and seek permission to use the space. Permits need to be obtained for the course as soon as possible.
- **Promotion:** Promote your race with flyers, advertisements, and by word of mouth.
- **Registration:** Set up the registration process on Active.com and include a waiver form.
- **Sponsors:** Seek sponsors to financially support the event and donate materials.
- **Safety:** An EMT and police officer should be present at the race.
- **Volunteers:** Invite volunteers to help with the preparation and assist participants on the day of the race.
- **Materials:** Prizes/awards, food/refreshments, goody bags, signs, tables, tents, chairs, race bibs, registration forms and waivers, pens/markers, timer, etc.



## Other Event Ideas

- Movie night
- A day of community service
- Host a guest speaker
- Poster or essay contest
- Day of fasting
- Arts and crafts show
- An open mic night
- School supplies, food, or clothing drive
- Sunday school lesson on poverty and homelessness – contact us for further information and materials

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual HCEF Events in Allegheny County

<http://hcaw2012.tumblr.com/calendar>

### Sunday, October 14:

HCEF Cabinet of Congregations Events

### Monday, October 15:

Children: An Evening of Storytelling

### Thursday, October 18:

Stand Up for Homeless Children at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall

### Saturday, October 20:

Stand Up and Run for Homeless Children, a 5K Run/Walk at North Park