

THE INSIDER

Phone: 617-635-8037

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IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

We are excited to present you with yet another way to keep you connected with the happenings of the Homeless Education Resource Network. This newsletter will provide you with general information about our services and will highlight some activities conducted throughout our summer program, *Circle of Fun and Enrichment*.

MISSION

To provide a comprehensive program for students who are temporarily without homes so that they may continue to have stable educational experiences.

HERN COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEMBERS

Mary M. William
Director of Homeless Education Resource Network, BPS

Donna Casali
HERN Service Coordinator

Bernadette Moitt
Social Worker, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Program, BPHC

Cassandra Villari
Teacher, BPS

Chevanese Van Dyke
Parent

Cyntoria Grant
Dean, Parent University, BPS

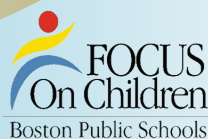
Gwendolyn Clark
Former Assistant Director, Special Education and Related Services

Maxi Hudson
Outreach Pastor, Jubilee Christian Church

Monica Roberts,
Director of Federal and State Programs, BPS

Renee Suchy
Executive Director, Dennis McLaughlin House of Charlestown

Ruby Brown
Case Manager, Sojourner House



BACKGROUND

TARGET POPULATION

In this school year 2009-2010, the BPS served approximately 1200 students who were temporarily without homes. The most frequently requested services were transportation, assistance with enrollment and referrals to other community resources. Due to the city's definition of student homeless status, it is believed that there are at least 3000 students in the BPS who are experiencing homelessness.

The Homeless Education Resource Network (HERN) is a part of Special Education and Student Services which provides an array of additional support services to the 63,000 students attending Boston Public Schools, of which 3000 are homeless..

The HERN, originally called the Homeless Student Initiative, was created 18 years ago after a federal McKinney-Vento grant was awarded to BPS. HERN has worked diligently to secure and maintain additional funders for the program. At this time our primary funding sources are the Massachusetts Department of Education and Title I. Donna Casali was hired 10 years ago as the Service Coordinator to assist Mary William, who created HERN and continues in her role as Boston Public School's liaison for homeless students.

NEWS



This summer's *Circle of Fun and Enrichment*, was a great success. The newly added thematic art component enhanced the experience of the children and has transformed the general outlook of the program. From the words of the Outreach Pastor of the Jubilee Christian Church, "this has been the best summer program thus far." The children enjoyed hands-on activities, arts and crafts, games and several trips to Ward's Berry Farm, Roller World, the Federal Reserve Bank, among others. Through mentoring and team building, they learned about themselves and became part of a larger community.

OUR SERVICES

- Assistance with enrollment, attendance, & assignment
- Customized transportation to & from school
- Crisis intervention & advocacy
- School materials
- Coordination of Screening and Assessment Services
- Mentoring programs & summer programs
- Training & consultation services around issues of homelessness for school personnel
- Collaboration with other school districts, shelters, community agencies
- HERN CCC to provide assistance to service providers
- *BrownBagLunches*

DESIGNED BY BRYAN LEYVA

CONTACT US

Ms. Mary William, MSW
Program Director

Donna Casali, B.S.
Homeless Service Coordinator

Homeless Education Resource Network
Special Education and Student Services
Boston Public Schools
443 Warren Street
Dorchester, MA 02121

phone: 617-635-8037

fax: 617-635-1546

mwilliam@boston.k12.ma.us