

## The [Extra Help](#) Fund

The mission of the [Extra Help](#) Fund is to give some “extra” financial assistance to students who have experienced homelessness, are successfully graduating high school with a diploma or GED certificate, and have been accepted to a college or trade school.

More than 1.4 million public school students nationwide experience homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law designed to remove barriers to education created by homelessness, and thereby increase the enrollment, attendance, and success of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children and youth are experiencing homelessness if they lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes staying in emergency shelters or transitional living facilities, places not meant for human habitation, motels, campgrounds, bus or train stations, substandard housing, or staying with people temporarily when they don't have anywhere else to go.

We have chosen **SchoolHouse Connection** ([www.schoolhouseconnection.org](http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org)) as our partner nonprofit who will receive our donations for these students. SchoolHouse Connection provides one-on-one support to students experiencing homelessness nationally through their Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program. Scholarship recipients are seniors in high school who are experiencing or have recently experienced homelessness, and have demonstrated commitment to education. Recipients are provided one-on-one support to ensure that they are successful in getting both to and through higher education. SchoolHouse Connection will be responsible for identifying scholarship students in need of assistance from the Extra Help Fund and disbursing the funds directly to the vendors for and on behalf of the student.

[Extra Help](#) donations can be used for dorm fees, meals, a needed laptop, internet service fees, transportation, books, emergency medical help etc; whatever may be needed and as determined between the student and their advisor.

The [Extra Help](#) Fund is a donor advised fund through the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties. Profits from our sales at ChariTEES.org and the Firestone Group Inc of Boca Raton, Florida will be used to fund this initiative as well as volunteer to solicit donations and in kind products and services to help these students