2021 Annual Report
OUR MISSION

To Overcome Homelessness Through Education

OUR VISION

Children and youth experiencing homelessness will have full access to quality learning, birth through higher education, so they will never be homeless as adults, and the next generation will never be homeless.
OUR WORK

We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with early childhood programs, schools, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

RESPONSIVE & EFFECTIVE POLICY ADVOCACY

- A strong voice for effective and responsive federal and state policies rooted in the realities of local communities
- Timely updates and analyses

PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE

- Tools and resources for early care, preK-12, and higher education
- Weekly newsletter with Q&A and practitioner voices
- In-person and online training on hot topics featuring national, state, and local presenters

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

- Scholarships and support to youth who have experienced homelessness
- Full and authentic integration of young people into all areas of our work
TOP FEDERAL POLICY ADVOCACY ACCOMPLISHMENT

$800 million to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

SHC led advocacy for the American Rescue Plan Act Homeless Children and Youth funds (ARP-HCY): we conducted research demonstrating the need for dedicated funding, worked closely with legislators, and mobilized grassroots support. ARP-HCY is eight times the annual appropriation for the McKinney-Vento Act’s Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program, more than the previous ten years of EHCY funding combined, and the single largest investment in child and youth homelessness in the nation’s history. The unprecedented amount and flexibility of funding will allow schools to increase their capacity to identify, re-engage, and support children and youth experiencing homelessness at a time of growing need.

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CHANDLER S. - SHC SCHOLAR BLOG ON THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEBSITE

“The resources provided through ARP are the resources I needed when I was experiencing homelessness and I am confident that these resources will be life-changing for students like me.”
I am so excited today...[we’re] getting ready to get the first cell phone out to one of our high school students!

We were also able to hire an Outreach Specialist (former DHS social worker) who works also with the virtual programs. Students that are not attending school and/or there is no communication; when phone calls and emails fail he will do a "home visit" and see if it is a McKinney-Vento situation. We also ordered a vehicle which is supposed to come in soon!

We have already identified about 200 more students this year than last school year. Thank you so much for your powerful advocacy for all this funding!

- Andrea Winstead, McKinney-Vento/Foster Care Liaison, Shoemaker Center/Federal Programs, Lawton, Oklahoma
TOP STATE POLICY ADVOCACY ACCOMPLISHMENT

14 state policy reforms that will make a difference for 88,224 homeless youth in 11 states.

Our success rate in achieving proposed policy changes exceeded 80 percent, with highlights including:

- New laws in Nevada and North Dakota to help unaccompanied youth access health care at the height of a pandemic.
- $4.4 million in Oregon for housing programs for unaccompanied youth, including $2.4 million for host homes.
- Groundbreaking changes to school discipline policies in Nevada to keep homeless and foster students in school.
- New laws in Montana and Maine that facilitate high school graduation for students experiencing homelessness, foster care, juvenile justice involvement, and other students with disrupted education.

**MARK HEINERT, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YOUTHWORKS, ND**

"Without the help of Patricia Julianelle and her team at SchoolHouse Connection, North Dakota would not have passed legislation this year to allow unaccompanied youth to gain access to their own vital records and have access to health care. The youth who led the project came up with the challenges that they wanted to address, and Patricia and our local team worked together to make it happen, alongside the youth. SchoolHouse Connection gets it. They have the expertise to help youth-led projects go from a good listening session to actions that change the lives of future generations of homeless youth!"
TOP K-12 EDUCATION ACCOMPLISHMENT

Helping state and local educational agencies in all 50 states utilize the $800 million in American Rescue Plan Act Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) funds.

- Passage of the American Rescue Plan Act Homeless Children and Youth funds (ARP-HCY) which includes $800 million to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

- Within five days of the bill’s passage, we convened state education agency coordinators for the education of homeless children and youth to help solicit practitioner views on the administration of funds.

- We quickly created four practical tools, and two multi-part series of Q&A webinars featuring individual school district liaisons sharing their creative ideas for using ARP HCY funds.

SHC helped increase the identification of students experiencing homelessness by 19 percent among Los Angeles County school districts. Following our convening in Los Angeles, 43 LEAs submitted specific action plans, resulting in a cumulative 19 percent increase in identified students experiencing homelessness over one school year. This contrasts sharply with the national trend over the same time period, during which LEAs nationally identified 28 percent fewer students experiencing homelessness.
“You all have been most helpful to me in increasing my awareness of the need of our families all while stressing the need to build partnerships in the communities. Every speaker has provided me with a wealth of information that I could not have received anywhere else.”

Terri Mabrey
McKinney-Vento Social Work Coordinator, Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West

“The webinars are always so informative! Thank you for ALL of your efforts to provide resources, tools, and strategies for us to share with the LEA homeless liaisons.”

Cheryl Myers
Education Specialist, Education Service Center Region 13, Austin, Texas

“Just wanted to pop in to say that this series has been the highlight of this school year! Thank you for doing this!!”

Michelle Mozingo
McKinney Vento District Liaison for Students in Transition, Wake County Public School System
SchoolHouse Connection and the National Head Start Association developed an app for K-12 homeless education liaisons to instantly and directly provide local Head Start programs with information to help enroll young children experiencing homelessness. To date, six states and seven local educational agencies are piloting the app. Based on estimates of homelessness among children under age six in those states, as many as 209,182 children experiencing homelessness, and their parents, stand to benefit from the comprehensive services Head Start uniquely provides to children and parents.
PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

We’re excited to partner with John Burton Advocates for Youth on a #HigherEdEquityChallenge, the first ever financial aid application completion initiative for homeless students in the country. FAFSA completion is a critical component of college access, retention, and success for youth experiencing homelessness. A focused effort to increase FAFSA completion is particularly important in light of the drop in enrollment in postsecondary education due to the pandemic, and in advance of the hard-fought changes to the FAFSA for homeless youth that will go into effect in 2023-2024. We hope to gain insights from the #HigherEdEquityChallenge that can be replicated in other states and nationally.

TOP HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOMPLISHMENT

Helped unaccompanied homeless youth access financial aid to pursue postsecondary dreams and achieve economic independence.

- To counter the historic drop in college enrollment in the pandemic, SHC created new practical tools that drew over 10,000 page views, including an email template to inform youth experiencing homelessness about the FAFSA, a resource to help students answer questions on the FAFSA, and tips for helping students fill out the FAFSA.
- Provided direct assistance to over 30 youth or providers who needed help to resolve FAFSA barriers.

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NUMBER OF HIGHER EDUCATION TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES SHC PARTICIPATED IN

[Image Above] Jillian Sitjar, Senior Higher Education Program Manager at SchoolHouse Connection (second from left), presented at an event hosted by Berks County Intermediate on national best practices for supporting college students experiencing homelessness at West Chester University, PA.

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COVID-19 RECOVERY

49,601

The number of times SHC’s summary of state minor consent laws was viewed this year.

SHC continues to provide timely and effective responses to the needs of schools, communities, and youth during the pandemic. We documented barriers faced by unaccompanied youth in accessing COVID-19 vaccines and testing because they are not in the physical custody of a parent who can provide consent, which is required in many states. We shared information about these barriers with the CDC, and as a result, the CDC linked to SHC’s summary of state minor consent laws on its webpage. That summary has been viewed 49,601 times this year, more than any other page on our website.
SHC supported twelve state teams to make measurable progress for children and youth experiencing homelessness in early childhood education, K-12 education, and higher education through our “Education Leads Home” Community of Practice. Read our 2020-2021 State Initiatives on Student Homelessness Progress-to-Date Summary to learn more about what the state teams accomplished.

15 STATES
Convened 15 states through eight virtual convenings to share best practices and tackle common challenges.

8 STATE TEAMS
Awarded $50,000 in mini-grants to eight state teams in August.
Our young people are one step closer to reaching their goals:

Thirteen of our scholars graduated in 2021 with either a high school or post-secondary degree.

100% of our scholars

- showed an increase in financial literacy in 2021
- are engaged in their communities in a meaningful way
- have stable housing, reliable health care, mental health care, and food security
SHC’s young people took over more leadership roles than ever in all areas of our work, including:

- Helping interview and select job applicants
- Co-leading more than 24 presentations to national (SXSW, NAESP, CCSSO, NFAR), state (DE, DC, OR, WA, TX), and local conferences and trainings.
- Leading meetings with legislators in Florida, New York, and Virginia
- Helping draft legislation in Florida, Nevada, Virginia
- Writing two blog posts for the U.S. Department of Education:
  - “The American Rescue Plan: Building the Bridge to Education and Beyond for Students Experiencing Homelessness”

Jahnee S. was invited to “take over” Secretary Cardona’s Twitter feed on July 28 to talk about youth homelessness and how the American Rescue Plan funds will support students experiencing homelessness.
Jordyn Roark, SHC’s Director of Youth Leadership and Scholarships, was featured on Secretary Cardona’s Twitter account, where she shared a video about her experiences as an unaccompanied homeless youth and how the American Rescue Plan would have helped her.
We were sought out for our expertise by numerous media outlets and were quoted in more than 40 stories, including in Education Week, Chalkbeat, the Wall Street Journal, the National Journal, Teen Vogue, Politico, the Hechinger Report, and the 74 Million.

**HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER**

44

NUMBER OF MEDIA STORIES SHC APPEARED IN IN 2021

**FEATURE STORY**

We were invited to publish a featured article in School Superintendent, the magazine of AASA, the School Superintendents Association. This award-winning magazine is delivered to every public school superintendent in the United States who is an AASA member and others at the cabinet-level.

FIRST-PERSON STORYTELLING

We launched a new series of stories: “Hidden Homelessness: Why Child, Youth, and Family Homelessness is the Crisis We Cannot Ignore.” Through first-person storytelling, the series explores the ways in which homelessness is an equity issue that is inextricably connected to others; it is an experience that many vulnerable student groups face at disproportionate rates and intersects deeply with other national crises of mental health, academic achievement gaps, xenophobia, and the impacts of systemic racism. Our five storytellers — two high school students and three school district homeless liaisons — remind us how the homelessness crisis underlies many others and therefore why federal policies and services for vulnerable children and youth must address the full picture of their lived experiences.
2021 AUDITED FINANCIALS

**REVENUE & SUPPORT**

- Contributions & Grants: $1,986,323
- Contracts: 31,748
- **Total Revenue & Support**: $2,018,071

**EXPENSES**

- Programs:
  - Federal and State Policy Advocacy: $286,280
  - Early Childhood: 1,100
  - Education Leads Home: 536,686
  - Higher Education: 89,012
  - Youth Leadership & Scholarship: 103,173
  - **Total Programs**: $1,016,251

- Support Services:
  - Management & General: $86,522
  - Fundraising: 28,332
  - **Total Support Services**: $114,854

- **Total Expenses**: $1,131,105

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**: $886,966

**NET ASSETS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR**: $1,116,114

**NET ASSETS AT THE END OF THE YEAR**: $2,003,080
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jennifer Pringle - President
- Viviana Otoya - Treasurer
- Phillip Lovell - Secretary
- Jill Sallows - Board Member
- Lynda Thistle Elliott - Board Member
- Melinda Dyer - Board Member

STAFF MEMBERS

- Barbara Duffield - Executive Director
- Patricia Julianelle - Senior Strategist for Program Advancement & Legal Affairs
- Alleanne Anderson - Policy and Advocacy Program Manager
- Leconte Lee - Senior Communications Manager
- Rodd Monts - Director of State Policy
- Erin Patterson - Director of Education Initiatives
- Roshanda Pinson - Program Manager, Youth Leadership & Scholarships
- Karen Rice - Senior Program Manager of Education Initiatives
- Jordyn Roark - Director of Youth Leadership & Scholarships
- Jillian Sitjar - Senior Program Manager, Higher Education
- Kevin Spears - Development Advisor