



families & friends

1986 / 2016
30!
SUMMER 2016



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The Homeless Families Foundation

Empowering Children And Families:

Reading is essential...

A flash of clarity. An "aha" moment. A suddenly illuminated path. The look on the face of a child, who has struggled with reading, when they reach the next level of comprehension. At HFF, we like to refer to these moments as "light switch moments" and they are priceless! The HFF Dowd Education Center Reading Mentorship Program was created to make sure children who struggle with reading get the personal attention they need to learn. The program empowers these children to read, to learn and to have confidence in their abilities. This was the second year of the program and thirty-one volunteer Reading Mentors worked one-on-one with 58 children.

This evolving initiative has become a true mentorship program impacting children's lives beyond reading. Reading Mentors help students mentally and academically prepare for standardized tests, encourages them to have confidence, and helps build their sense of self-worth. These mentors went above and beyond by

helping students with other subjects, like math, encouraging them to value learning, and solidifying the child's connection to the Dowd Education Center. Fourteen volunteers returned this past school year and their enthusiasm was contagious!



Many of our new mentors were inspired by current mentors to get involved. The success of the Reading Mentorship Program comes from the dedication of these volunteers who meet weekly with their mentee to work on the personalized lessons prepared by Erin Priest, Curriculum Coordinator for the HFF Dowd Education Center.

The Reading Mentorship Program will start up again in the fall. If you are interested changing the life of a child by becoming a Reading Mentor, please contact Karie Gallegos, Community Liaison, at kgallegos@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org.

Family engagement is vital to a child's education...

We have fantastic support from our families at the HFF Dowd Education Center. During the 2015/2016 school



year we had monthly family nights where parents and relatives could come and have fun with their children. Our family nights have included a Halloween hot dog roast, family game night, the Dowd Olympics, and a Pine Car Derby.

Great community partners support our family nights including Battelle, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the Upper Arlington Rotary.

Everyone's favorite family night is the talent show we have in May. Students and families all have the chance to show off their skills. This year we had singing, dancing, slime making, tumbling, and joke telling. Several staff members got into the act showing off their singing and dancing talents (or lack of talent!) During the summer families will be invited to participate in several activities including our annual day at the zoo, sponsored by the Columbus Zoo.



The Harvard Family Research Project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education reinforces the importance of these family events, "The evidence is clear: Family involvement helps children get ready to enter school, promotes their school success and prepares youth for college." To learn more about how family involvement impacts education go to www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org/learn/newsroom/current.html to review the full research report.





For nearly a decade Hexion Inc. has supported many HFF initiatives, most recently sponsoring the 2016 No Show Mother's Day Gala, helping to raise nearly \$53,000 to help struggling mothers secure a brighter future for their children. This generosity does not end with monetary support. Doug Johns, Executive Vice President, General Counsel at Hexion was recently appointed to The HFF Board of Trustees. Doug generously volunteers his time and talents to The Homeless Families Foundation. His skills as a leader will help HFF continue to evolve its services to meet the needs of homeless children and their families living in Central Ohio.

About Hexion Inc.

Hexion Inc. is a global leader in specialty chemicals and materials, with a broad range of advanced specialty products serving wide range industries, including automotive, energy, housing and construction. At Hexion, corporate social responsibility means being active in supporting our communities and our associates. Our charitable programs primarily focus on causes that support children and efforts to eliminate homelessness. We have been partnered with The Homeless Families Foundation for over nine years and we admire the work the Foundation has done to help families in need in Central Ohio. For additional information please visit www.hexion.com.



Join us this year for the Annual Ridge Runner Ramble on Saturday, July 16, 2016



Columbus Outdoor Pursuits Presents



Benefitting The Homeless Families Foundation

Ride scenic roads Northeast of Columbus with friends and family. Columbus Outdoor Pursuits (COP) is carefully planning the routes to ensure they provide a safe and fun environment for all ages. There will be support teams monitoring the routes and pit stops along the way. Need a tire fixed...need some water...maybe a boost from a snack...we've got you covered. Plan to stick around after your ride for lunch. For more information and/or to register for the ridge please go to http://www.outdoor-pursuits.org/Ridge_Runner_Ramble.

SAVE THE DATE:

Come Home for the Holidays

Wine tasting and auction will be held on Friday, November 4, 2016 at Brookside Golf and Country Club. Save the date and plan to attend. More information will be posted periodically to our website, www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org

Presenting sponsors for Come Home for the Holidays are:



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The Homeless Families Foundation would once again like to thank all of the wonderful people, who made this event a success by helping to raise nearly \$53,000 to support struggling families in Central Ohio. We look forward to joining you next year in gladly NOT ATTENDING The No Show Mother's Day Gala -- May 14, 2017. www.noshowmothersday.org



If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for any of our upcoming events, please contact Donna Powell, Director of Donor Relations and Development at 614-715-8342 or dpowell@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org.

Enabling families to succeed...

"The impact of homelessness on children often leads to chronic stress and trauma from frequent moves; inconsistent relationships; lack of places to play; and witnessing domestic violence and substance abuse. This stress and trauma is emotionally and cognitively damaging to them." Horizons for Homeless Children, <http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org/understanding-homelessness/impact-of-homelessness-on-children/>

Being homeless was a trial for the Crosby family, but it was especially difficult for their son Mario. The Homeless Families Foundation began working with them in late December 2015 and helped them move into their own home. Mario, then 8 years old, started attending the Dowd Education Center in February 2016. In the brief time that Mario has been attending the Dowd he and his family have experienced several benefits.

Erin Priest, Dowd Center Curriculum Coordinator, has worked to educate Mario's parents about their rights regarding the development, implementation and ongoing access to education assistance as outlined in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for Mario. Erin is also advocating directly with the school district to ensure that Mario undergoes the appropriate evaluations for the IEP process.

There has been a marked improvement in Mario's overall performance at school since enrolling at the Dowd. But most notably, Mario has gained 4 levels in reading! His mother was very proud to tell her Case Manager that for the first time, Mario had read her an entire book without any help! Mario's parents report he is more engaged at home and school, and is finding his own voice as he is learning better ways to express his emotions.

This comes at pivotal time because Mario's mother, Chris, has recently been diagnosed with cancer. The family knows that there will be periods of confusion, anger, and fear ahead for Mario. However, they are comforted knowing Mario will come home each day from the Dowd full of excitement regarding the day's activities. They are also grateful that with each day at the Dowd, Mario learns or improves upon the skills he will need to navigate this confusing time in his life.

Adrienne Corbett, Executive Director

30 years serving homeless families...



How many of us remember our world in 1986? Personally, I was pregnant and delivered my second daughter on July 4, 1986. Top Gun was top of the movie charts, Oprah Winfrey debuted her incredibly successful TV show, Ronald Reagan was president and Nintendo video games were first released.

For the Homeless Families Foundation, 1986 marks the beginning of 30 years of service to homeless children and their families. Three community women, Teresa Dowd, Jan Wagner and Mary Jane Carpenter had the foresight, courage and most of all, compassion to recognize that too many innocent children and their families were hungry, scared and literally homeless. Together with a handful of dedicated volunteers, the three launched the Homeless Families Foundation.

Although the methodology of serving families has evolved impressively over the past 30 years, the mission to nurture children, support and empower families and promote housing stability has been and continues as our overarching goal.

Teresa, Jan and Mary Jane laid the groundwork. Throughout the years, our board, staff and community have upheld the commitment to be innovative, client focused, and to insist on a culture of operational excellence.

As we celebrate 30 years of service to children and families, I am most proud of a deep seated value of service that focuses on respect and safe-guarding of the dignity for all we are privileged to serve.

Please join me in celebrating 30 years of extraordinary growth and transformation.

**DONATE
NOW**

- ◆ Send your gift in the enclosed envelope today.
- ◆ Become a *Champion of Hope* by sending a monthly gift
- ◆ Give in Honor/Memory of Someone
- ◆ Donate online at www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org
- ◆ Donate a gift of stock

Contact Donna Powell for more information at 614.715.8342 or dpowell@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org



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To discontinue receipt of communications from HFF, please contact Dorothy Bastian at dbastian@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org.

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www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org



Columbus Outdoor Pursuits Presents



Benefitting The Homeless Families Foundation

Saturday, July 16, 2016

Three routes of 25, 50 and 80 miles

All routes start and finish at New Albany High School
(7600 Fodor Rd.)

Start Times:

80 mile route at 8:00 am; 50 mile route at 8:30 am;
and, 25 mile route at 9:00 am

T-shirt included if registered online before Midnight,
Monday, July 11, 2016

REGISTER AT:

http://outdoor-pursuits.org/Ridge_Runner_Ramble

COP Members \$35, Non-Members \$45

Day Event - EVERYONE \$50

The sponsors for the
2016 Ridge Runner Ramble are:

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