

Expanding opportunities for children...

It has been a long road for Isaiah but he got a second chance and is making the best of it. Isaiah was in kindergarten when his family became homeless. The year was 2008 and that was the start of his relationship with The Homeless Families Foundation (HFF). To begin to stabilize their lives and overcome many obstacles, the staff assisted Isaiah's family by helping find housing and employment, providing financial support where needed, giving emotional support, and connecting them with other local community services.



Isaiah and his friend Jaisha pick up a sandwich to share.

Isaiah attended HFF's Dowd Education Center and he had a rough start. Isaiah's behavior at school and at the Center revealed his personal struggles at home. He was often angry and verbally combative. Isaiah is very intelligent but his refusal to cooperate with his teachers resulted in failing marks.

Isaiah's home situation remained unstable for years. His one constant was the Dowd Education Center with a staff that truly cared for him. Unfortunately Isaiah had to leave our care for a short time. With the support of his grandparents Isaiah returned to the Dowd. It was his second chance and he knew it. Isaiah was a sixth grader last year and talked often with staff members about his desire to do better. Over the course of the year we saw a new Isaiah. He started performing better in school, talking to staff about his efforts to be positive and he even began to pursue his passion for cooking. He helped prepare all the food for one of the Center's

family nights. Isaiah beat the odds! By the end of the school year he achieved all A's and was chosen by his teachers to attend a week-long youth leadership program in Washington, DC.

With the help of a loving, caring community of support Isaiah faced the challenges life handed him and overcame his adversities. He continues to take strides to improve his attitude, his behavior and his future. We at HFF are excited to see what this new school year brings for Isaiah and see what he accomplishes next!

Isaiah and his Dowd Education Center mentor, Ryan.



All children should be safe...

Nicole's family is feeling safe these days, but that hasn't always been true. Prior to moving to Ohio to live with a friend, thirty-nine year old Nicole and her four children ages 6, 8, 9, and 14 were living with domestic violence. Unfortunately, after she moved her family to Ohio Nicole discovered her friend lived in an area filled with drugs, prostitution and violence. Seeking safety for her family, Nicole entered the homeless shelter and began meeting with a case manager from the Homeless Families Foundation.

HFF helped Nicole find a house with a yard, fence and garage close to her children's schools. She was then able to find full-time employment. The case manager linked Nicole to mental health services to help her and the children adjust to their new home and recover from the trauma of living with domestic violence and being homeless. HFF also helped her find assistance with utilities and food. Thanks to a generous donor, HFF was also able to provide all four children with new clothes and shoes to start school this year.

Nicole will soon exit the Homeless Families Foundation program and has been able to find the safety she was seeking for her children. She recently told her case manager, *"I feel safe in my new home and things are starting to feel normal again"*.

In the beginning, *it was all volunteers...*

As we celebrate our 30th year it seems fitting that we highlight a donor who has given unselfishly of her time, talents, and treasures to The Homeless Families Foundation throughout its history. In 1990 Casey Clark was invited by a member of HFF's Women's Board to take a tour. *"Once I took a tour I never left!"* Casey explained. Her first volunteer experience was helping families find permanent housing. A good fit since she was a real estate appraiser and had familiarity with housing. She also answered phones, spearheaded the Christmas Wish List Program, and held the hands of people who struggled with sobriety. ***"In those days most of us were volunteers. We did it all back then."*** Casey noted.

In 2003 Casey lead the charge for renovating the Dowd Education Center. What began as a minor renovation quickly became major. In September 2005 The Center was complete. From asbestos removal to a new playground, all was donated. Casey inspired so many community leaders to get involved. "The renovation consumed me." She said, "It was a true labor of love!"

Casey continues to be the catalyst for HFF's signature event. The inspiration for the event came 18 years ago while golfing with her friend, Patti Mathews, a former member of the Women's Board. Casey mentioned she wanted to do a wine tasting fund raiser for HFF and Patti conceived the name **Come Home for the Holidays**. The event was held at Brookside Golf and Country Club who has hosted it ever since.

Casey is trustee emeritus at HFF and served on the Board of Trustees through 2008. She annually sponsors the Come Home for the Holidays event and gives vigorously of her time and talents. She admits "My life changed the day I toured HFF, volunteering for 26 years for an organization that helps homeless children.... how blessed am I?" **How blessed is HFF and the hundreds of children and families whose lives have been changed because of Casey Clark?**



Wine Tasting Party and Auction

Sample fabulous wine, browse and bid on great auction items, enjoy wonderful food and friends in a casual, fun atmosphere.

6:30 pm to 10:00 p.m.
Friday, November 4, 2016
Brookside Golf and Country Club

\$160 Couple | \$80 Individual Ticket



is on your side

homelessfamiliesfoundation.org/holiday

MAKE IT MONTHLY!

Impact the lives of hundreds of children and families in
our community.

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Make a
monthly
donation
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homelessfamiliesfoundation.org/champ

You can
change or
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gift any time.

To find out other ways to make monthly donations contact Donna
Powell, Director of Donor Relations
dpowell@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org

Making birthdays special...

The Upper Arlington Birthday Club (UABC) is a generous group of volunteers who have a real heart for the children we serve at HFF. UABC has been making birthdays special since 2008. Every month the Upper Arlington Birthday Club receives a list from HFF Family Services for the children of current clients who have a birthday during the month. UABC then assigns one child to one of their volunteers and asks them to purchase a gift at a cost no greater than \$25, wrap it and deliver it to HFF prior to the child's birthday. HFF then delivers the gift to the client. Month after month UABC's generosity has put smiles on little faces, helping to relieve the uncertainty in their lives for their special day. There are currently 80+ members of the Upper Arlington Birthday Club and new members are welcome. If you are interested in being part of UABC's effort to make birthdays special for homeless children, please email them at uabirthday@gmail.com.



Adrienne Corbett, Executive Director

A career in service to others...

"Don't cry because it's over – smile because it happened"

Dr.Suess

It is with tears in my eyes, a smile on my face and a heart filled with gratitude that I pen this last newsletter. I am embarking on the next chapter of my life and retiring in December of this year.



The tears are for the reality of what I will miss – the many colleagues, remarkable staff and a community of support that allowed me the honor of serving homeless families and children. The smile is because I know that I am leaving an organization strong in every aspect – our programs and services for families and children are second to none; our financial position is solid

and sustainable; and most importantly, a staff that is highly competent and will carry on the legacy. Finally my heart is full of gratitude for the privilege of working with caring, creative and committed staff and Board of Directors who worked with me to meet our mission of educating and nurturing children while empowering families to achieve self-sufficiency.

Our five year strategic plan establishes our priority to align Homeless Families Foundation to be the creator of our destiny – one that is driving our own mission and values. Our programs and services will better serve the individual needs of our families by responding to the diversity of causes that lead to homelessness.

Change is difficult. I, however, want to assure you that Homeless Families Foundation will remain the premier organization for achieving long term stability and success for families and children.

My sincere thanks to all of you who have supported, mentored and guided me over the past 12 years. There

are too many to list but I would be remiss not to send a special note of gratitude to my leadership team, past and current Board Presidents and trustees, colleagues, devoted friends and my wonderful daughters. I am looking forward to what magic and change the future holds.

Give **HOPE** to children and families
living in crisis. **Donate Today!**



-Mail your gift using the enclosed envelope-

-Donate Online-

homelessfamiliesfoundation.org/donate

Empower children and families in 2017 while having fun.
Save these dates...



Sunday, May 14, 2017

Columbus Outdoor Pursuits Presents



Saturday, July 15, 2017



Friday, November 3, 2017

Watch for more information at www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org/events



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The Homeless Families Foundation
33 North Grubb Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2748
614-461-9247
www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org

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

We are grateful to Hopkins Printing and Image Print for the design and printing of the newsletters.

www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org



Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 29, 2016

We have some exciting things planned for **Giving Tuesday** this year. Bookmark this link and make sure to come back on November 29, 2016!

www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org/pt