



SchoolHouse
Connection

2017

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.

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Barbara Duffield
Executive Director

Melinda Dyer
Board President



In 2017, groundbreaking research by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago provided striking evidence in support of SchoolHouse Connection's mission to overcome homelessness through education. The study found that lack of a high school degree or GED was the top risk factor for youth and young adult homelessness: youth without these credentials are **4.5 times** more likely to experience homelessness than peers who completed high school. The second highest risk factor was having a child: unmarried young parents are **3 times** more likely to experience homelessness than non-parenting peers. This finding is especially alarming because homelessness in early childhood can have lifelong consequences, including diminished academic achievement. This contributes to a vicious cycle, with the majority of homeless young adults also having experienced homelessness during childhood or adolescence.

The third highest risk factor for youth and young adult homelessness was low household incomes: youth reporting annual household incomes of less than \$24,000 are **2.6 times** more likely to experience homelessness. A high school diploma and postsecondary credential protect against poverty by leading to sustainable, living wage employment.

Clearly, if we are to prevent and end homelessness, education—from early care through postsecondary – must be a priority.

In our first year of operation, we made major strides to ensure that all children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to quality learning from birth through higher education, so they will never be homeless as adults, and the next generation never will be homeless. We led national and state policy advocacy; provided practical help to educators and service providers; broadened the base of support for children and youth experiencing homelessness; increased understanding and awareness; and directly assisted our young leaders to stay in school and graduate.

Our authentic engagement with young people sets us apart. In addition, our strong grassroots connections to people working in schools, early childhood programs, postsecondary institutions, and homeless services give us the opportunity to listen and learn before we advocate. Whether in the U.S. Congress, state legislatures, governors' offices, school districts, or individual classrooms and organizations, SchoolHouse Connection is creating meaningful, measurable change for children, youth, and families.

We are grateful to our many friends and colleagues who made our first year a resounding success, and we look forward to continued victories for children, youth, and families in the years ahead.

OUR WORK



Legislative & Policy Advocacy

- A strong voice for effective and responsive federal and state policy
- Timely updates and analyses



Tools & Practical Assistance

- Implementation tools for preK-12, early care, and higher education
- Webinars featuring national, state, and local presenters
- Weekly newsletter with Q&A, guest perspectives, and resources



Youth Leadership & Scholarship Program

- Providing scholarships and support to youth who have experienced homelessness
- Incorporating youth leadership in all our programs

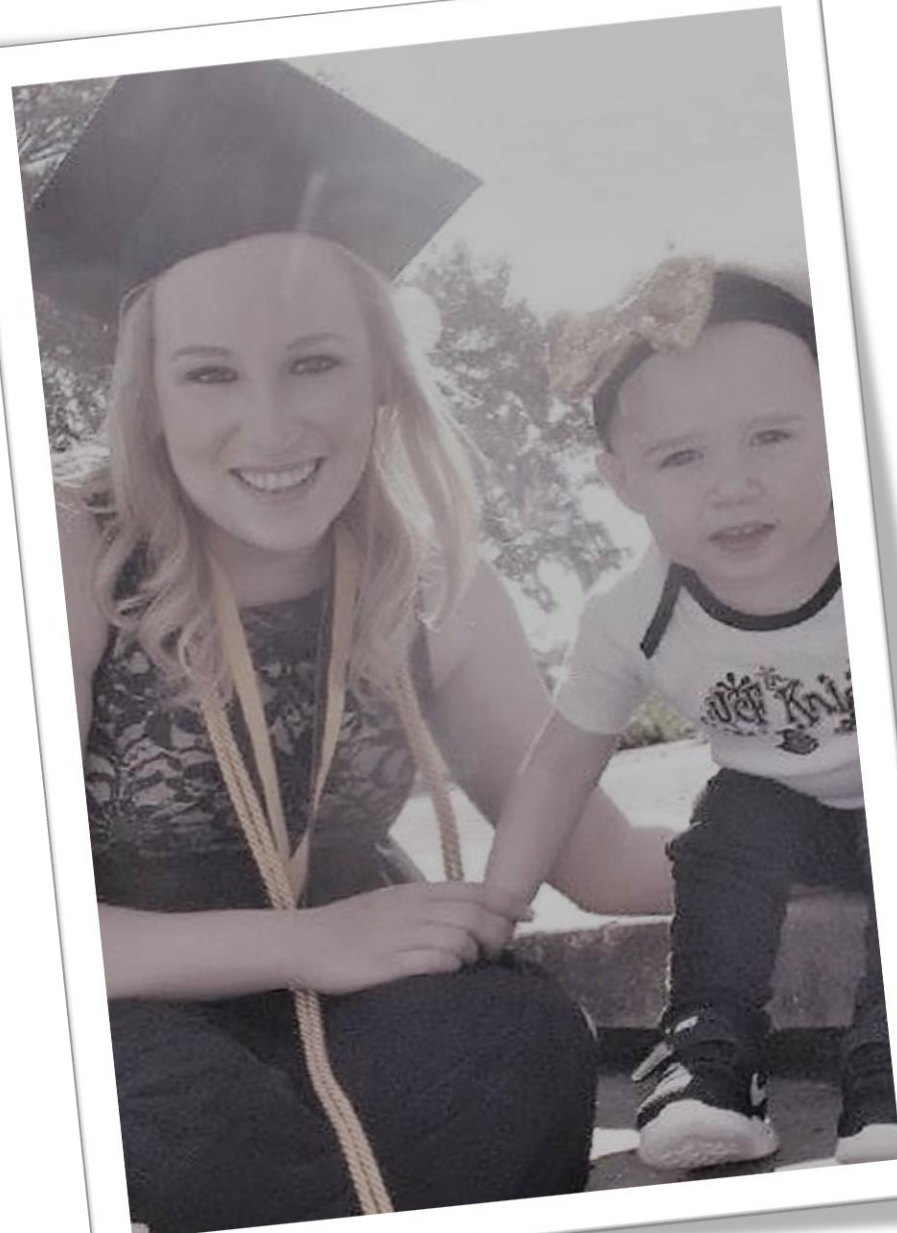


Image above: Our Young Leader at her graduation ceremony with her daughter.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Leading national and state policy advocacy

We led federal policy advocacy for three bi-partisan bills in the U.S. Congress that would remove barriers to housing and education. We also launched a major state policy advocacy program, holding State Advocacy Institutes in Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee, with more planned for 2018. With our state partners, we are working on active legislation in several states.

Timely, responsive, and practical help

Within days of the hurricanes and the DACA decisions, we produced tools to assist communities. In addition, we created over 20 new resources to help educators and early childhood providers implement law and policy. We conducted in-person trainings in 16 states, led or participated in 20 webinars, and responded to hundreds of questions about individual children, youth, and families, many of which are archived in the most popular section of our website: “Q&A from Our inbox”.

Building a wider and strong base of support

We built a wider and stronger base of support for children and youth experiencing homelessness through new and robust partnerships with diverse organizations, such as Sesame Street Workshop’s Trauma Initiative, Family Promise, the Salvation Army, and America’s Promise Alliance.



Image above: Barbara, Patricia, and our young leaders at a conference in Virginia.



Image above: Amy, Susannah Wayland (Ohio State Homeless Education Coordinator), and our young leader at a conference in Ohio.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Raising awareness and increasing understanding

We helped to raise awareness and increase understanding of the education and related needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness through media outreach and strategic communications, including a featured op-ed in Education Week and 35 e-newsletters. Visitors to our website hear directly from youth and practitioners through our “Guest Perspective” blog and receive timely information on policy, practice, and research. We also collaborated with Civic Enterprises to produce 50 state progress reports summarizing available data on the early care and education of homeless children and youth.

Providing direct support to over 60 young adults

We provided direct support to over 60 young adults through our Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program, including helping 17 students cross the finish line to their college graduation. We also brought 13 young leaders to Washington DC, where they educated policymakers in a Congressional briefing and met with officials at the U.S. Department of Education. Our young leaders were featured in Youth Today, Diverse Issues in Higher Education, and The Chronicle of Higher Education. We closed 2017 by selecting ten new scholarship students, who will receive their award and join our family in 2018.



Image above: Our young leader at her graduation ceremony.



Image above: Our young leader at her graduation ceremony.



Image above: Our young leaders at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC.

HIGHLIGHTS

Led
3

Bi-partisan bills that would remove barriers to housing and education.

Created over

20

Resources to help educators and early childhood providers implement law and policy.

Led or participated in over

20

Webinars with over 3,000 participants, and responded to 100+ questions about individual children, youth, and families.

Conducted over

30

Training sessions in 16 states on various topics

Supported over

60

Young adults through our Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program



Image above: Our young leader, Elaine Williams, and other witnesses at the November 27, 2017 Senate Committee Hearing on FAFSA.



Image above: Grace (far right) participating in the American Psychological Association (APA) on early childhood education and homelessness.

2017 AUDITED FINANCIALS

REVENUE & SUPPORT

✓ Contributions & Grants	\$960,378
✓ Contracts	89,436

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS:

✓ Building Teams for Change State Advocacy	\$121,486
✓ Education Leads Home. Early Childhood, Advocacy	218,690
✓ Youth Leadership & Scholarship	74,093

TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT \$1,049,814

TOTAL \$414,269

SUPPORT SERVICES:

✓ Management and General	\$29,003
✓ Fundraising	17,561

TOTAL \$46,564

TOTAL EXPENSES \$460,833

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$588,981

NET ASSETS AT THE END OF YEAR

\$588,981

DONORS

Shelley Werner	Erin Carlstrom	Margie Milenkiewicz	Connie George	Courtney Sharkey
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Joe Lagana	Brandy Sincyr	Judith Deedy	Ian Nasman	Joanna Finch
Marta Martinez	Viviana Reyna	Beth McCullough	Irene Saucedo	
Jodi Mincemoyer	Sara Gutt	Barbara James	Bob Reeg	



The SchoolHouse Connection website is an incredible resource. I put it in my favorites toolbar, because I visit it all the time.

Courtney Porter

School Social Worker, SAU 6, Claremont NH



SchoolHouse Connection has definitely become the go-to source for assistance and support in the work we do. I hope you know how grateful so many people are every day for the work you all are doing!

Nicole Sequiera

McKinney-Vento Liaison, Independence Public School District, Missouri



The staff at SchoolHouse Connection are amazing; they are an incredibly talented and passionate team of professionals who bring awareness to an important societal issue and make an indelible impact on the work we do with children experiencing homelessness. I value our partnership greatly and learn from them every day. They've made our world and the work we do a little wider.

Jennifer Tisdale, MSW, MPH

Project CATCH Coordinator, Salvation Army

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF MEMBERS

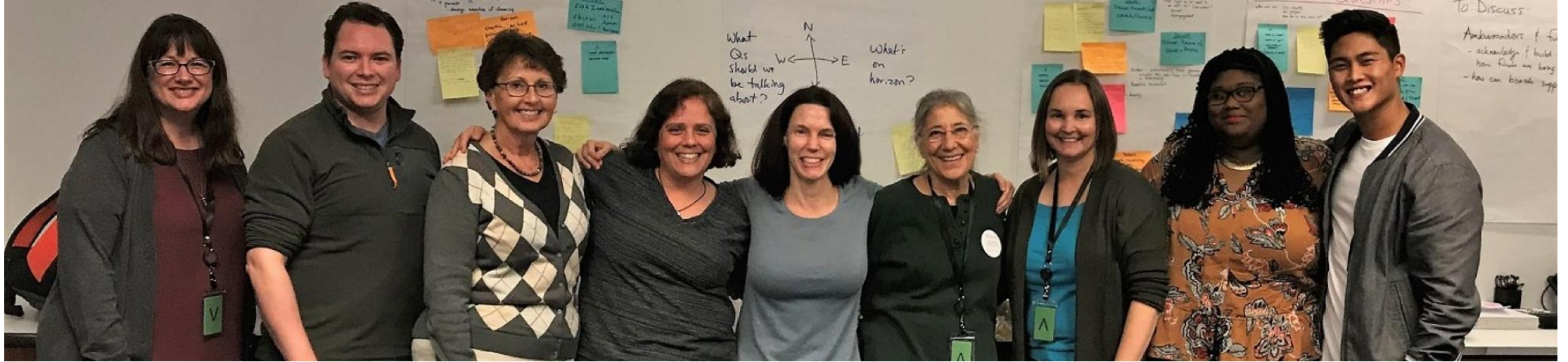


Image above: The SchoolHouse Connection board and staff at a retreat in Washington, DC.

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Director of Early Childhood Initiatives

GRACE WHITNEY, Ph.D., MPA, IMH-E (IV)

Communications Manager

LECONTE LEE