



*Building Futures Through Education*

## National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

# MW 20

### 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT

On July 22, 2007 advocates for education, affordable housing, and social justice observed the 20th anniversary of the signing of the McKinney-Vento Act, one of the most influential pieces of legislation that provides rights and relief to homeless children and families. NAEHCY urges homeless education liaisons, advocates working in housing, homelessness and education to recognize this milestone by advocating for those experiencing homelessness and, specifically, the programs McKinney-Vento provides.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MARK THE OCCASION

- 1. ENLIST OTHERS!** Highlight your program with an event to commemorate this anniversary: back to school supply drive, family information and referral connection night, hunger banquet, etc. Find a sample press release and then tell us about your events at the web address below.
- 2. SHARE YOUR SUCCESSES!** Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper explaining how McKinney-Vento is making a positive difference in the lives of homeless children and youth.
- 3. LET THEM HEAR YOU!** Call your Congressional representative and urge him or her to advocate for McKinney-Vento and propose additional funding for its programs. See <http://www.naehcy.org/update.html> for talking points and bill summaries for legislation that affects children and youth in homeless situations.
- 4. INVOLVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN SOLUTIONS!** Invite policymakers, educators, and service providers to the visit summer academic programs that serve homeless children.
- 5. BE THANKFUL!** Send an acknowledgement of appreciation to all service providers who address the needs of homeless families.
- 6. JOIN US!** Become a member of NAEHCY by visiting [www.naehcy.org](http://www.naehcy.org) and join the conversation and the action on homeless education.

**NAEHCY**, a national grassroots membership association, serves as the voice and the social conscience for the education of children and youth in homeless situations.

**NAEHCY** connects educators, parents, advocates, researchers, and service providers to ensure school academic achievement and overall success for children and youth whose lives have been disrupted by the lack of safe, permanent, and adequate housing.

**NAEHCY** accomplishes these goals through advocacy, partnerships, and education.

NAEHCY's 19th Annual Conference, *Blazing Trails and Moving Mountains: Educating All Our Children and Youth* is a unique showcase for best practices and services from across the country. It is the only national conference dedicated to improving the well-being of homeless children and youth. NAEHCY's conference equips educators and advocates nationwide with the knowledge, skills, information, and inspiration they need to remove barriers and help ensure that every child and youth experiencing homelessness is successful – academically, personally, and socially.

## National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

For more information, visit our web site [www.naehcy.org](http://www.naehcy.org)