



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION  
OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Annual Report 2012-2013

# Mission



The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) is the voice and social conscience for the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. NAEHCY accomplishes this through advocacy, partnerships and education.

## Board and Contractors

The NAEHCY Board is a working board of diverse individuals supported by five contractors to assist in the day-to-day operations of the organization.

**Barbara Duffield**

*Policy Director*

**Creating Order, LLC**

*Business Manager &  
Conference Coordinator*

**Cyekeia Lee**

*Higher Education Liaison*

**Jess Lewis**

*LeTendre Specialist*

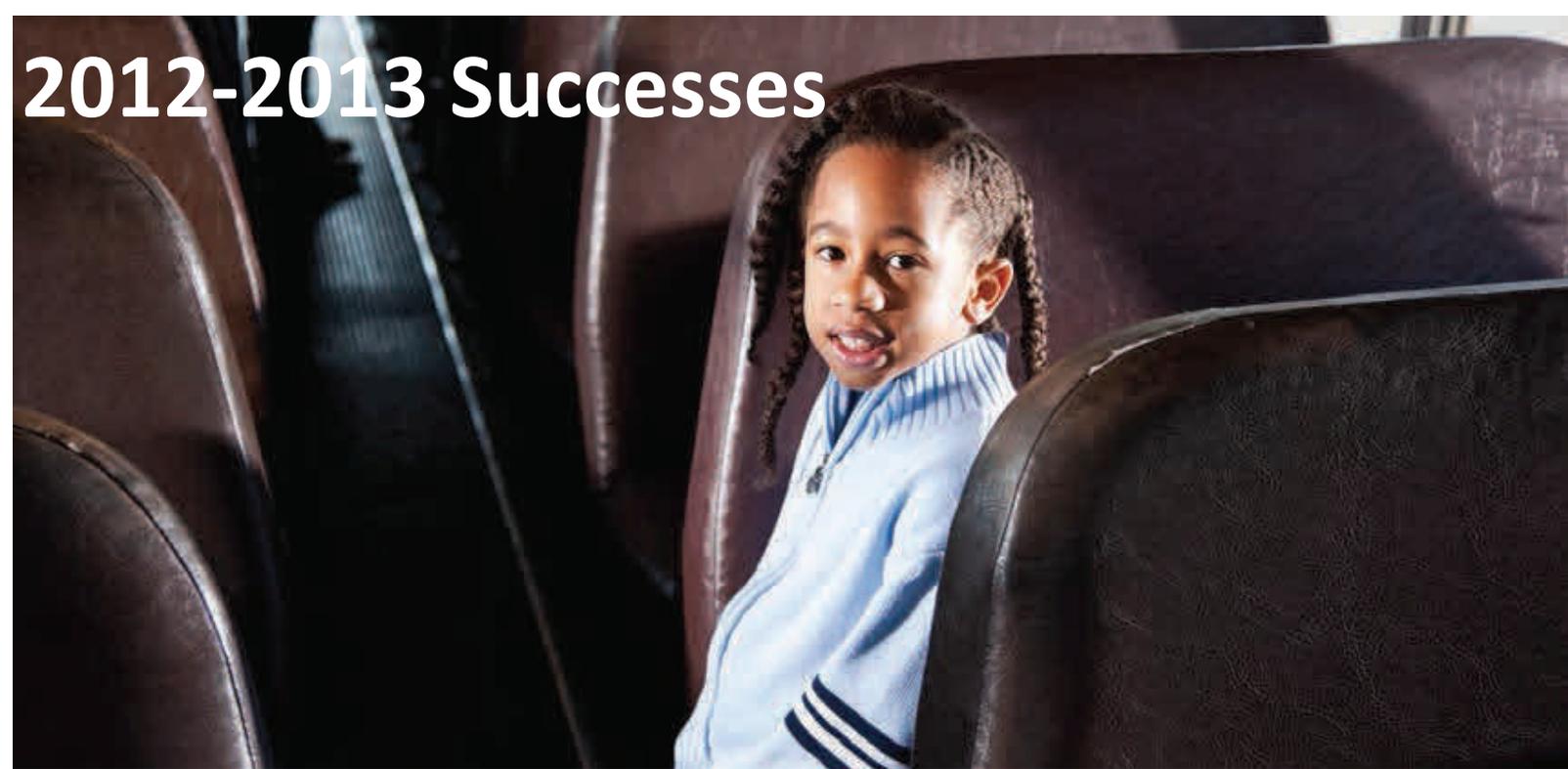
**Patricia Julianelle**

*Legal Director*

**Hilary Whyte**

*LeTendre Events Coordinator*

# 2012-2013 Successes



## Legislation & Policy

- NAEHCY provided ongoing monitoring of and input to federal level legislation to strengthen the McKinney-Vento Act, promoting the proposed provisions that it developed from ongoing constituent input; legislation including most of NAEHCY's proposed provisions passed out of the House education committee in March 2012, and out of the Senate education committee in June 2013.
- In June, NAEHCY organized a Congressional listening session with 13 NAEHCY LeTendre scholarship recipients who shared first hand experiences with homelessness and education; the well-attended session was a bipartisan event sponsored by six members of Congress.
- In June, NAEHCY prepared recommendations for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act to increase access to financial aid for unaccompanied homeless youth, based on a nationwide survey of liaisons and others that NAEHCY conducted.
- In January 2013, NAEHCY in partnership with The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, provided a memo to and attended a meeting with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) about the barriers that unaccompanied homeless youth face to accessing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); in May, USDA issued a policy clarification that will help homeless youth to access food assistance.
- In spring 2013, NAEHCY provided input on federal child care legislation based on a survey of liaisons and early care providers. In September 2013, a bipartisan bill passed the Senate education committee containing many of these recommendations.



# 2012-2013 Successes

## 24th Annual Conference

- NAEHCY hosted its annual conference in Albuquerque, NM, with over 900 participants.
- The conference offered 85 breakout sessions on topics including effective programs, unaccompanied homeless youth, preschool-aged homeless children, research, and McKinney-Vento implementation.
- The preconference provided 11 half-day intensive learning opportunities.
- Highlights of the conference included interactive keynotes, a showing of the Oscar award winning documentary *Innocente*, a reception for LeTendre scholars, a service project in which attendees donated books to local shelters, and awards for exemplary efforts in serving homeless children and youth.

## LeTendre Scholarship

- NAEHCY conducted a scholarship application process and received 140 submissions.
- NAEHCY awarded scholarships of \$2,000 to 15 young men and women who were experiencing or had experienced homelessness.
- In June, NAEHCY hosted a scholar summit in Washington, D.C., in which scholars met with U.S. Department of Education officials and Congressional staff to increase awareness of the educational challenges unaccompanied homeless youth face.
- In its effort to provide ongoing support to current and former LeTendre scholars, NAEHCY provided assistance, ranging from housing to academic support, to 73 scholars.



# 2012-2013 Successes

## Local Youth Task Force Initiative

- NAEHCY continued with its initiative launched in 2011 to cultivate grassroots movements to increase young people's safety, stability, and success in local communities; areas of focus included housing, nutrition, health care, employment, education, and policy.
- The NAEHCY Youth Task Force Initiative
  - Established the North East Unaccompanied Children and Youth (NEUCY) partnership that involves the local child welfare agency, social work department at East Tennessee State University, and the Johnson City Housing Authority in east Tennessee to provide case management, counseling, supportive services, and housing to unaccompanied homeless youth not being served by child welfare;
  - Established a partnership with Elon Law School in Greensboro, North Carolina to offer free legal clinics for youth;
  - Created a pilot scholarship program with Good Careers Academy in San Antonio, Texas, allowing two unaccompanied homeless youth to obtain a Certified Nursing Assistant certificate and subsequent employment;
  - Provided 50 bikes to homeless youth in Sacramento, California, to provide transportation to work and college;
  - Provided rent deposits for homeless youth in Laramie County, WY, through a partnership with the local school district and Comea House shelter;
  - Sponsored successful legislation in Texas that allows unaccompanied homeless youth 16 and older, as well as pregnant and parenting teens, to enter transitional living programs without parental consent; and
  - Sponsored 5 successful pieces of legislation in California, including laws that: allow unaccompanied homeless youth to access and share their school records; eliminate barriers to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits; ensure immediate participation in school sports for homeless students; and clarify that unaccompanied youth must not be reported to child welfare absent specific abuse or neglect allegations.

# 2012-2013 Successes



## Higher Education

- NAEHCY launched a higher education initiative with a full-time contractor to provide trainings, respond to a Helpline, and facilitate statewide networks to ensure that homeless youth have access to and services in postsecondary education.
- NAEHCY conducted over 30 trainings to increase awareness of the laws that enable unaccompanied homeless youth to access federal financial aid as independent students.
- NAEHCY responded to 209 Helpline calls primarily from homeless youth, financial aid administrators, and local liaisons to provide assistance in linking youth with federal financial aid and other higher education services.
- NAEHCY assisted the development of 6 statewide networks in Massachusetts, Michigan, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, and Oklahoma, which were convened to provide a coordinated approach to supporting the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth wishing to pursue postsecondary education.
- NAEHCY developed a comprehensive toolkit to guide local liaisons, school counselors and higher education administrators in assisting homeless youth in enrolling in higher education.
- The higher education committee conducted a nationwide survey to gather information on the degree to which homeless youth were able to access federal financial aid. Data from the 956 respondents are currently being compiled into a report designed to inform policy and practice. The report should be released in early 2014.

# 2012-2013 Successes



## Early Childhood

- The newly formed Early Childhood committee conducted a nationwide survey of preschool providers, local liaisons, and other homeless providers to assess the early childhood education needs of homeless preschoolers, including challenges with accessing preschool programs. The committee compiled information from the 954 respondents into a report that will be utilized to impact policy and practice.
- The committee provided input on policy recommendations for the federal childcare subsidy program.
- The committee developed a template to guide school districts in planning services for preschool-aged homeless children.
- NAEHCY collaborated with the National Center for Homeless education on a policy brief that details federal requirements for states and school districts in serving preschool-aged homeless children.



# 2012-2013 Successes

## Public Awareness

- NAEHCY assisted with three Congressional briefings on Capital Hill.
- NAEHCY began using a new online advocacy and organizing tool, Salsa. As a result, our email distribution for legislative updates increased by over 400%.
- NAEHCY's Board members or contractors were quoted in at least 20 mass media venues, such as newspaper articles or radio and television interviews.
- NAEHCY contractors presented at 25 national, state, and local conferences.
- NAEHCY completed a redesign of its website increasing average monthly visits by 45% from 7,571 (2011-2012) to 13,833 (2012-2013).
- NAEHCY's exposure through Facebook increased by 31 percent for the number of "Likes" totaling over 1,450, and by 50 percent in the number of followers on Twitter totaling 278.

# Financials (un-Audited)

