

MCKINNEY-VENTO BEST PRACTICES



ERIN KEATING, CHIEF OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS,
SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT, SCRANTON, PA



KATIE REIFF, HOME/SCHOOL VISITOR, CONESTOGA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT,
LANCASTER, PA



DR. KERRI RUCK, PRINCIPAL-STUDENT REGISTRATION, STROUDSBURG AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT, STROUDSBURG, PA

ERIN KEATING, SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ❖ Role: Chief of Leadership Development and School Operations
- ❖ District Size: 10,200 (11 Elementary Schools, 3 Middle Schools, 2 High Schools, 1 Center-Based Program for Special Education and AEDY)
- ❖ Free and Reduced Lunch Percentage: All Students District-Wide Receive Free Breakfast and Lunch through Community Eligibility Program
- ❖ Poverty Level: 85%
- ❖ Number of Homeless 2017-2018 SY: 250
- ❖ Brief Description of our Structure (Related to Homeless Staff)
 - Homeless Liaison (Just one part of job description)
 - Truancy Officer
 - Liaison's Clerk



KATIE REIFF, CONESTOGA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ❖ Role: Home School Visitor/School Social Worker
- ❖ District Size: 4,330 Students, 6 Buildings (4 Elementary Schools, 1 Middle School, and 1 High School)
- ❖ Free and Reduced Lunch Percentage: 44.25%
- ❖ Number of Homeless 2017-2018 SY: 145
- ❖ Brief Description of our Structure (Related to Homeless Staff)
 - ❖ 2 Social Workers
 - ❖ 1 School Counselor at each Elementary School, 2 School Counselors at Middle School and 4 at High School
 - ❖ 2 Administrative Assistants for Student Services (F/R Lunch, SIS, PIMS, Billing)
 - ❖ Child Accounting and Data Specialist (Enrollment)
 - ❖ Transportation Coordinator



DR. KERRI RUCK, STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ❖ Role: Principal-Student Registration
- ❖ District Size: 5163 students, 7 buildings (4 Elementary Schools, 1 Middle School, 1 Junior High School, 1 Senior High School)
- ❖ Free and Reduced Lunch Percentage: 48%
- ❖ Number of Homeless 2017-2018 SY: 56
- ❖ Brief Description of our Structure (Related to Homeless Staff)
 - As one of the many roles I serve, I work in the Student Registration Office. If I need to meet with the families or students as they are registering, I can meet with them in my office in Registration to set up services or to answer questions.
 - I also am responsible for the SIS for the district. My office also updates the program membership information for the students eligible for McKinney Vento services and I also am the PIMS coordinator who uploads the information to PDE.





BEST PRACTICES OF IDENTIFYING HOMELESS STUDENTS AND NOTIFYING ESSENTIAL STAFF

SIMILARITIES ACROSS OUR DISTRICTS

- ❖ Identification most often takes place at point of registration at Student/Central Registration at our Administration Buildings
- ❖ School Counselors, Social Workers, Principals and Nurses are also sources of identification throughout the year. They help get paperwork completed as needed and turn it in to the Homeless Liaison
- ❖ Office of Youth and Family Services in contact with Liaison and Central Registration when families are identified under their auspice. Referrals also come from local support agencies when they encounter someone that needs to be identified.
- ❖ Homeless Liaison's contact information displayed on the district webpage
- ❖ Seeing a rise in 17 and 18 year olds self-identifying and being identified as "unaccompanied youth"
 - Lack of resources for this population
 - Sometimes challenging to identify "Unaccompanied Youth" at the high school

INTAKE (FORM EXAMPLE I)

❖ Form is used electronically

STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MCKINNEY VENTO IDENTIFICATION FORM

Name of Student:

Student ID:

Date of Birth:

Grade:

Parent/Guardian:

Other Children/Student(s) in the Household:

Last Known District Address:

Current Nighttime Residence Address:

Current Nighttime Residence Status: Choose one

Phone Contacts:

Is the student living in the physical custody of at least one parent or legal guardian? Yes ☐ No ☐
(Unaccompanied/Accompanied Youth)

Date of Identification:

Method of Identification: Choose one

Precipitating Event: Choose one

Is the student in need of district transportation? Yes ☐ No ☐

12* GRADE STUDENTS ONLY: Post Secondary Plans: Choose one

Any additional comments:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Student PA Secure ID:

Transportation:

STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT CAREGIVER FORM

Instructions: Please complete this form for a child or youth enrolling in school while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

- To authorize the enrollment in school of a minor; complete items 1 through 4 and sign and date the form.
- To authorize the enrollment and school-related medical care of a minor; complete all items and sign and date the form.

I am 18 years of age and older and have agreed to fulfill the role of caregiver for the minor named below.

Name of minor:

Minor's date of birth:

My name (adult giving authorization):

My home address:

Check one or both (for example, if one parent was advised and the other could not be located):

☐ I have advised the parent(s) or other person(s) having legal custody of the minor as to my intent to authorize medical care and have received no objection.

☐ I am unable to contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) at this time to notify them of my intent to authorize medical care.

My date of birth:

My state driver's license or state identification card number:

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of this state that the foregoing information is true and correct.

Signature: Date:

HOW STUDENTS ARE BEING IDENTIFIED

- ❖ Office of Youth and Family Services (OYFS) is in contact with the Homeless Liaison and Central Registration when families are identified under their auspice.
- ❖ Local support agencies are also in touch with the Homeless Liaison for identification

INTAKE (FORM EXAMPLE 2)

ECYEH Intake Form



This form is intended to address the McKinney-Vento Act 42 U.S.C. 11435. The confidential information in this form will determine the services that the student may be eligible to receive.

Student/Contact Information

Student's Last Name	First	M.I.
Temporary Address	Phone Number	Alt Phone Number
Date of Birth	Gender	Grade Level
School District/Building	Parent/Guardian Enrolling Student	Relationship to Student

Precipitating Event

Place an **X** indicating the appropriate precipitating event resulting in loss of housing

Abandonment	Left Home	
Act of Nature	Parent/Guardian Hospitalized	
Death of Parent/Guardian	Parent/Guardian Incarcerated	
Domestic Violence	Parental Job Loss/Loss of Income	
Eviction	Other Poverty-related Situation	
Fire	Other	

Living Arrangement

Place an **X** in the box indicating the appropriate living arrangements

Shelter	
Transitional Housing	
Hotel/Motel	
Unsheltered (Campgrounds, car, abandoned building, park, temporary trailer, street)	
Doubled-up (living with another family)	

Name of Shelter, Transitional Housing or Hotel/Motel (if applicable)

I, _____ affirm that the information is true and accurate.
(Parent/Guardian's Name)

I, _____ have been advised of my rights and child's rights
under the McKinney-Vento Federal Homeless
Assistance Act.

(Signature of Parent/Guardian) (Student's Name) (Date)

(District Personnel Receiving Form) (Title) (Date)

District and Liaison
Information

Jeff Zimmerman
PA ECYEH Region 7 Coordinator
Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18
368 Tioga Avenue
Kingston, PA 18704
570-718-4613
570-287-5721 (fax)
<http://www.liu18.org/index.php/ecyeh>

HOW STUDENTS ARE BEING IDENTIFIED

- ❖ At point of enrollment, homeless vs. multiple occupancy
- ❖ School counselors identify students who are not living with their parents

NOTIFYING ESSENTIAL STAFF & DATA INPUT

- ❖ Once a student/family is identified by a Homeless Liaison, who are the “essential staff” that need to be notified?
 - Guidance Counselors, PIMS Person, Principals, Transportation, Business Office, Nurses and Secretaries
- ❖ Notification process is established in each district but look differently. The notification process triggers:
 - Transportation to be arranged
 - Homeless Liaisons, depending on their role, input data into the PIMS system, Student Information System and the Statewide Database.
- ❖ Process and forms are reviewed annually

NOTIFICATION OF STAFF (MEMO)

- ❖ Memos are given to all essential staff regarding the procedures for students covered under McKinney-Vento.
- ❖ These are reviewed at meetings with principals, registration clerks, guidance, nurses and other support staff annually.



Scranton School District

425 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

Ms. Erin Keating
Chief of Leadership Development
and School Operations

Phone: 570-348-3429
Fax: 570-348-2929
Email: erin.keating@ssdedu.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Principals, School Counselors, Secretaries, Nurses, & Homeless Service Providers
FROM: Erin Keating, Chief of Leadership Development and School Operations
DATE: August 1, 2018

SUBJECT: HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ACT

The Scranton School District recognizes the multiplicity of challenges most homeless, displaced, and doubled-up families encounter, and understand our responsibility to resolve some of the issues they face. The District also realizes the availability of resources in any emergency may make the difference between success and failure in school. The attached memorandums are designed to help personnel access the services provided for all homeless students. Please disseminate the information to all concerned staff.

BEC 42 U.S.C. & 11301 outlines procedures for deciding school placement, enrolling students, and determining fiscal responsibility. Federal and state laws make our accountability clear. We must provide appropriate academic support and services. Please familiarize yourself and your staff, including counselors, nurses, teachers, secretaries, and others with the procedures in the attached memorandums.

- ADMISSION/TRANSFER POLICY FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS
 - BEC Attached
- TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS
 - Form Attached- COLTS Pass
- UNIFORM ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS
 - Form Attached
- FREE & REDUCED MEALS FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS
- HOMELESS IDENTIFICATION FORM
 - Intake Form Attached
- TITLE I AND SUPPORT SERVICES
- DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Contact Erin Keating in district @ 570-348-3429, e-mail erin.keating@ssdedu.org, or Jeff Zimmerman, Regional Coordinator, with any questions or concerns you may have @ (570-718-4613), e-mail: jjzimmerman@liu18.org

NOTIFICATION OF STAFF (MEMO CON'T)

- ❖ Memos exist with directions for the following areas:
 - ADMISSION/TRANSFER POLICY FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS
 - BEC Attached
 - TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS
 - Form Attached - COLTS Pass
 - UNIFORM ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS
 - Form Attached
 - FREE & REDUCED MEALS FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS
 - HOMELESS IDENTIFICATION FORM
 - Intake Form Attached
 - TITLE I AND SUPPORT SERVICES
 - DISPUTE RESOLUTION
 - BUILDING LEVEL RESOURCES

FORMS!



Scranton School District

425 N. Washington Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503

Telephone: 570-348-3408

Fax: 570-348-2929

Email: erin.keating@ssdedu.org

Education of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness – Uniform Assistance

Doubled-up/Displaced and Unaccompanied Youth are eligible for Uniform Assistance

Directions:

1. Print all info and fax to 570-348-2929, ATTN: Erin Keating (erin.keating@ssdedu.org)
2. Be sure to **attach a residency letter for students residing in Emergency/Transitional Housing facilities.**
3. Have the counselor keep a copy of the completed file.



Date:	___/___/20__			Grade:	
School:			Loc #:		
Student Name:	Last:	First:	ID#:		
Student Address:					
Parent/Guardian: (PRINT)					
Living Status:	The above named student is temporarily (MARK the appropriate selections):				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Displaced/Doubled Up	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain):			
Signature Parent/Guardian, Unaccompanied Youth	X _____				

SCHOOL DISTRICT USE ONLY

Special Education: Does the student receive special education services? Yes No
Evaluation: Does the student require an expedited evaluation (circle one) Yes No

Principal Signature:	
Counselor Signature:	

Voucher #: _____



Scranton School District

425 N. Washington Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503

Telephone: 570-348-3408

Fax: 570-348-2929

Email: erin.keating@ssdedu.org

Education of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness – Public Transportation Form

Doubled-up/Displaced and Unaccompanied Youth are eligible for transportation to and from school. Students have the right to continue attending their school of origin, or enroll in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the same attendance area are eligible to attend, according to the student's best interest. Eligible students will be given a pre-paid COLTS bus pass.

Directions:

1. Print all info and fax to 570-348-2929, ATTN: Erin Keating (erin.keating@ssdedu.org)
2. Be sure to **attach a residency letter for students residing in Emergency/Transitional Housing facilities.**
3. Have the counselor keep a copy of the completed file.

Date:	___/___/20__			Grade:	
School:			Loc #:		
Student Name:	Last:	First:	ID#:		
Student Address:					
Parent/Guardian: (PRINT)					
Living Status:	The above named student is temporarily (MARK the appropriate selections):				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Displaced/Doubled Up	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain):			
Signature Parent/Guardian, Unaccompanied Youth	X _____				

SCHOOL DISTRICT USE ONLY

Principal Signature:	
Counselor Signature:	

Voucher #: _____

NOTIFICATION OF STAFF (EMAIL)

- ❖ Verbal conversation with every family, gather important information and ask about any needs.
- ❖ For every family identified, this email is sent to the people who need to do follow up (transportation, F/R Lunch, billing)
- ❖ We send the same form when a student is identified “no longer homeless”

Untitled - Message (HTML)

File Message Insert Options Format Text Review Tell me what you want to do...

Paste 11 A A Basic Text Address Book Names Attach File Attach Item Signature Assign Policy Follow Up High Importance Low Importance View Templates

To... PIMS/F&R Lunch Person, Special Education Secretary, Transportation Coordinator

Cc...

Bcc...

Subject Newly ID'd Homeless: Student Name

Student #1 Name:		School:		Grade:		DOB:	
Change Affects:							
Parent Name:							
Parent Contact Number:							
Former Address:							
Current Address:							
Hotels/Motels (H) Doubled Up (D) Shelter (S) Transitional Housing (S) Unsheltered (U)							
Date Designated Homeless:							
Date No Longer Homeless:							
Notes:							

NOTIFICATION OF STAFF

❖ Weekly Updates

- Share updates with each school counselor about referrals or changes for any of their students
- Homeless List
- “Katie’s Korner”
 - Resources for school counselor
 - Announcements

RE: Weekly Update-BT - Message (HTML)

File Message Tell me what you want to do...

Ignore Delete Reply Reply All Forward Move Assign Policy Mark Unread Categorize Translate Zoom

Regional Homeless To Manager Team Email Quick Steps Move Tags Editing Zoom

Mon 10/1/2018 9:10 AM
Katharine Reiff
RE: Weekly Update-BT

To

Subject: Weekly Update-BT

Weekly Updates

H : Dad's girlfriend is going back and forth between . She's been the main caretaker for ile. Dad has 9 open cases pending on him legally and is having some mental health concerns. It is highly likely that he will be going to prison at some point during this school year. We are waiting to make any decisions formalized on HH's guardianship until we know more about how long her father will be away.

Homeless

Referral Type	Year	Month	Day	School	Family Name	Student Last Name	Student First Name	Grade	Stu Co
ID Homeless	2018	August	17	Brownstown				3	
ID Homeless	2018	August	29	Brownstown				4	
ID Homeless	2018	August	30	Brownstown				K	

Katie's Korner

- Just in case you're interested. Attached is the most recent report for the breakdown of free and reduced lunch numbers in each building.
- CYA Updates

will be filling in for Rimi as the school liaison i took a new position with Juvenile Probation and they are



ENSURING SERVICES AND NEEDS FOR
OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ARE MET

SIMILARITIES ACROSS OUR DISTRICTS

- ❖ We provide on-going services throughout the year as needs arise
 - Stroudsburg has an identified person at each building (school counselor) who notifies liaison of changes and maintains regular contact with identified students
- ❖ Backpack, school supplies, uniform vouchers, etc. are provided to the students as needed
 - Stroudsburg and Scranton hold these supplies in the Registration Office to be able to provide them to families immediately
 - Conestoga Valley has them at the building level
- ❖ Check in with every family that is still on enrollment lists to ensure they are still living in their same location and have the services they need for the summer months.

SERVICING FAMILIES UTILIZING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- ❖ Family Promise of Monroe County
 - Assist with rent assistance, emergency shelter, transitional shelter (they assign caseworkers)
- ❖ Pocono Area Transitional Housing (PATH)
 - Assist with getting mothers and families back to work and in permanent housing
- ❖ Women's Resources
- ❖ Crossroads (Street2Feet) Homeless Day Center
- ❖ Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church (emergency shelters)
- ❖ Salvation Army (long-term stays) - family units
- ❖ United Way Summer Lunch Program

SERVICING FAMILIES UTILIZING INTERNAL SUPPORT

- ❖ Elementary schools in the district have their own food pantries
 - Stocked by First Harvest Food Bank and other donations
- ❖ Each school houses a “Mountie Closet” and distributes the school clothing items
- ❖ School nurses ensure students receive medical referrals in the community - the nurse department chair networks with the medical community
- ❖ Holiday Assistance (Building based)
 - Schools work with the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Stroud Area Regional Police Department to assist up to 25 local families who are in need every holiday season (food baskets, gifts, monetary donations)

SERVICING FAMILIES UTILIZING INTERNAL SUPPORT

❖ Common Threads

- Student-operated clothing store by students with disabilities.
- They sell street and school clothing and shoes. Homeless students are provided vouchers to use when the weather changes so they can update their clothing.



❖ Mountie Closets

- Clothing bank with items new and donated that students are given when registering and/or identified as having the need



SERVICING FAMILIES UTILIZING INTERNAL SUPPORT

❖ Community Aid Gift Cards

- We let them put a bin on each one of our school properties and get \$1,000 in gift cards quarterly

❖ Modern Eyes

- Vision Exam and Frame partnership providing free services to students
- Many referrals come from nurses after vision screening

❖ Holiday Assistance

- Community wide effort to bring holiday support to our at-risk populations, including homeless, foster care, families living in poverty
- Support comes in the form of:
 - Individually purchased gifts by community donors
 - Stocking stuffers collected by all 6 buildings in our district, a community bank, and a private school
 - Meal provided by local food bank

SERVICING FAMILIES UTILIZING THE FAITH BASED COMMUNITY

❖ CV Ministerium

- They have a fund called the CV Assistance Fund which provides families in need with financial assistance for utility or rental payments, costs of medication, weekly hotel room rentals, and emergency spending of the school social worker
- Limit \$400/family per year
- Liaison attends these meetings
- Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services
- Food bank for only Conestoga Valley residents
- Clothing bank that serves the whole county with referral
- Mentoring program for one elementary school

❖ Love, INC (Homes-of-Hope)

- Homes of Hope provides a transitional house for families living in homelessness
- The family pays a monthly program fee of \$250/month to reside in the house (standard stay is 4-6 months)
- Liaison attends these meetings

ONGOING

- ❖ Principals work with the Homeless Liaison to ensure students are receiving the services needed
 - Within each building the hierarchy is established for reporting concerns with ECYEH
 - Not all building resources are the same
- ❖ Students are monitored using the SAP process, via district procedure

SERVICING FAMILIES UTILIZING INTERNAL SUPPORT

- ❖ All buildings must turn in a list of their building resources.
 - This allows Homeless Liaison to know what is specifically offered in that building
- ❖ Offerings vary from building to building
- ❖ Building resources include:
 - Uniform Assistance
 - Winter Coat Assistance
 - Before and After School Tutoring
 - After-School Programs
 - Arts Engaged, Yoga, Karate, Sports, Extra-Curricular Activities
 - School-Based Behavioral Health Teams
 - Licensed Social Workers
 - School-Based Health Centers
 - Daycare Transportation

SERVICING FAMILIES UTILIZING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- ❖ Office of Youth and Family Services
 - Family Support
 - Independent Living - anyone who was in the system/foster
- ❖ United Neighborhoods
- ❖ Community Intervention Center
- ❖ Catholic Social Services
- ❖ Women's Resource Center
- ❖ McCawley House

SERVICING FAMILIES UTILIZING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- ❖ Regional Coordinator - Always my first “go to”
- ❖ Title I Supports
- ❖ NEPA Youth Shelter
 - After-school drop in center (no overnights)
 - Meals and clothing
- ❖ Valley Youth House (Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties)
 - Only option for overnight
- ❖ Scranton Primary Health Care Center and The Wright Center
 - Medical and Dental Services
 - School-Based Health Centers

SERVICING FAMILIES UTILIZING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- ❖ Weinberg Food Pantry(s)
- ❖ Summer Feeding Program
- ❖ Scranton Fireman Coat Drive
- ❖ Backpacks and School Supplies
 - Lackawanna College and local Businesses
 - 2000 bags this year for Back to School Fairs
- ❖ Serve on or speak to various homeless initiatives in the city and the county
- ❖ Work with local religious organizations supporting the homeless
- ❖ Refer for intake for coordinated services when necessary
 - Work with HUD/Scranton Housing Authority
 - Attend their meetings and workshops when invited



HOW HOMELESS LIAISONS DO COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

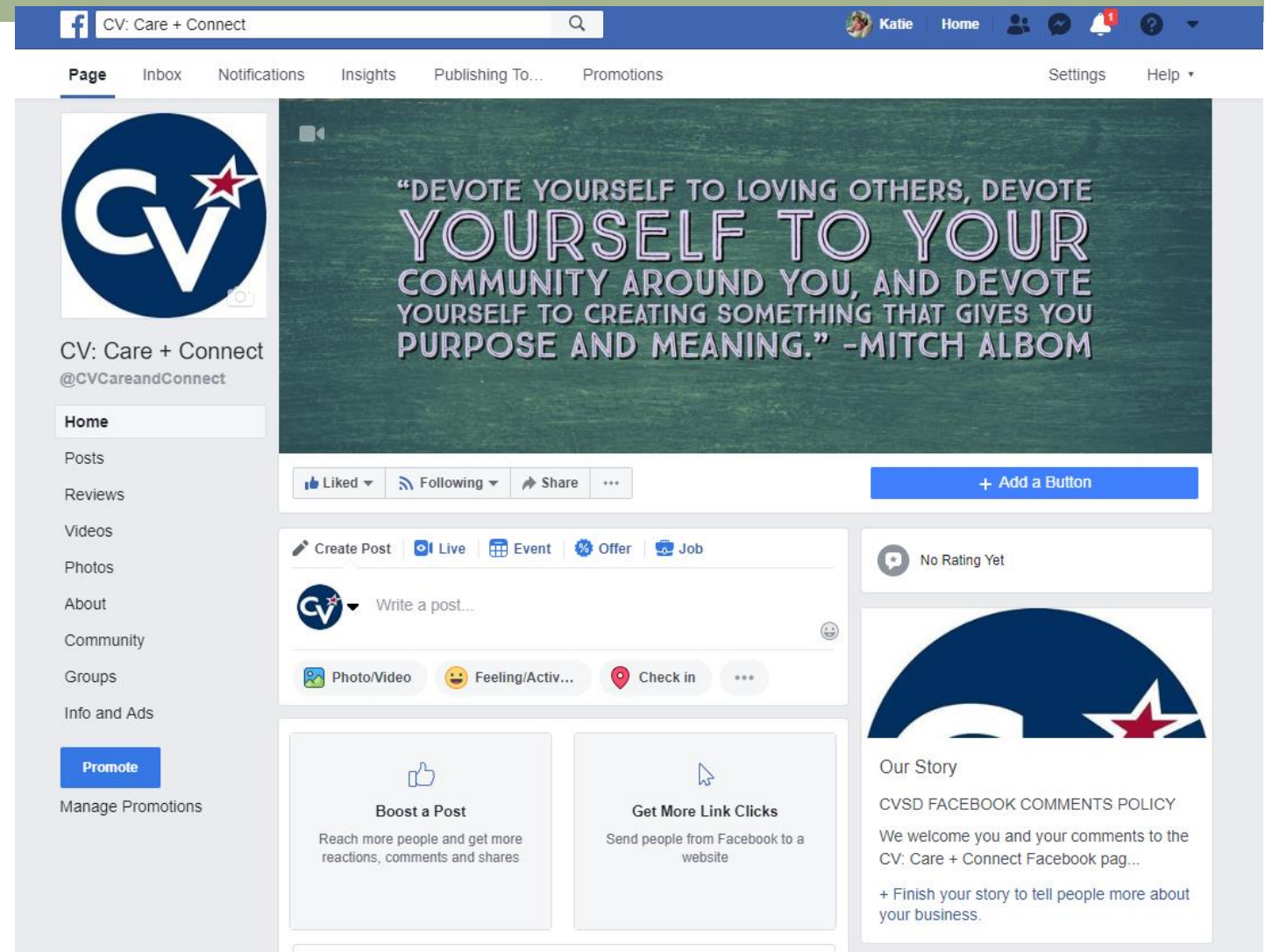
- ❖ District advertises the “Stand Up and be Counted,” moment in time survey
 - Homeless liaison attends the county data and breakdown meeting on this information and offers statistical information from the district perspective
- ❖ Homeless Liaison serves on OYFS *Systems of Care* Committee
 - Countywide committee with representatives from government, school, social service agencies, mental health, addiction and recovery, healthcare and other support services
- ❖ Liaison serves on local task force to assist with homeless needs
- ❖ Working relationships with medical providers for the under and uninsured
- ❖ Works with adult homeless shelters, food providers and resource centers

SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ❖ Advertise where to go if experiencing homelessness
 - Often a person who is not in the schools
- ❖ Volunteer for committees
 - It is through outreach in other parts of my job that I have made valuable connections to assist homeless students
 - Outreach (Formerly EOTC)
 - United Way
 - Opioid Coalition
 - County CASSP (Child and Adolescent Service System Program) Coordinators/Children's Behavioral Health Contact Person
 - Philanthropic Groups

CONESTOGA VALLEY (SOCIAL MEDIA)

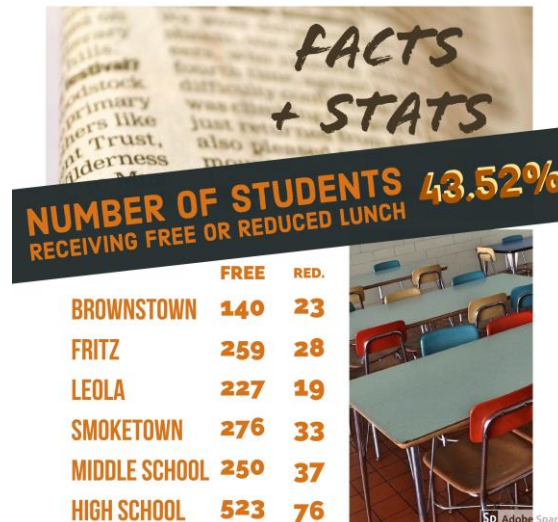
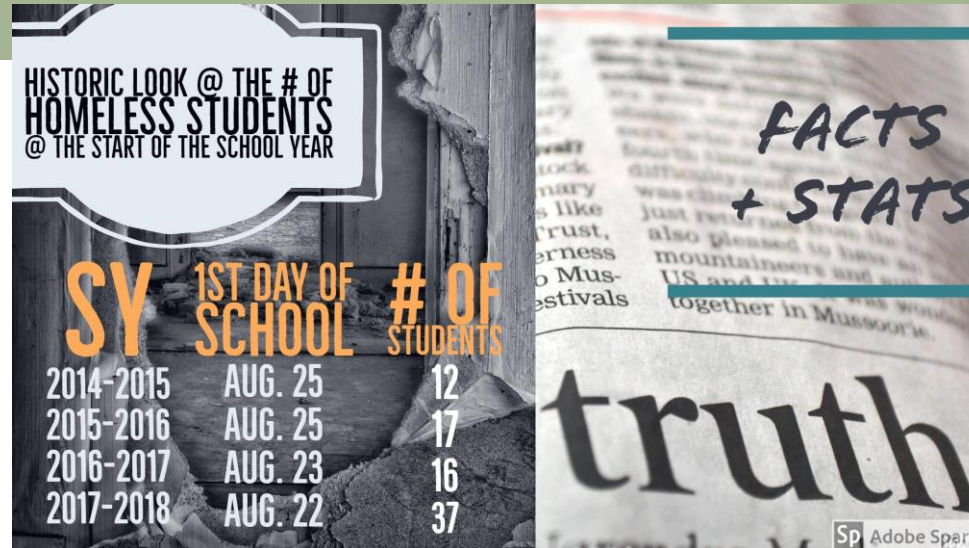
- ❖ Use social media to your advantage
- ❖ An outlet to share resources, needs, and facts with our community that they wouldn't normally know
- ❖ Needs are anonymous, but permission from family is requested prior to posting the need
- ❖ Easy way to communicate out to large number of people



CONESTOGA VALLEY (SOCIAL MEDIA CON'T)

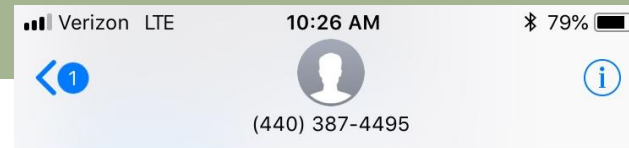
**531 CV
CHILDREN
SERVED**
230 CV FAMILIES SERVED
112 DONOR SPONSORS
1 AMAZING COMMUNITY

HOLIDAY 2017 STATS



CONESTOGA VALLEY (TEXT MESSAGING)

- ❖ You can schedule text messages ahead of time
- ❖ It's on the person receiving the messages to sign-up
- ❖ I send out list of free and low-cost family activities in our area
- ❖ I find resources by searching county calendars, Facebook Events, and looking at our district calendar



Fri, Sep 21, 2:29 PM

CV Things To Do: FREE on SEP. 22. Classic Movie Night @ Broad Street Park, Ephrata. Movie is Bedknobs and Broomsticks. Movie Starts at 7:45/8:00ish.

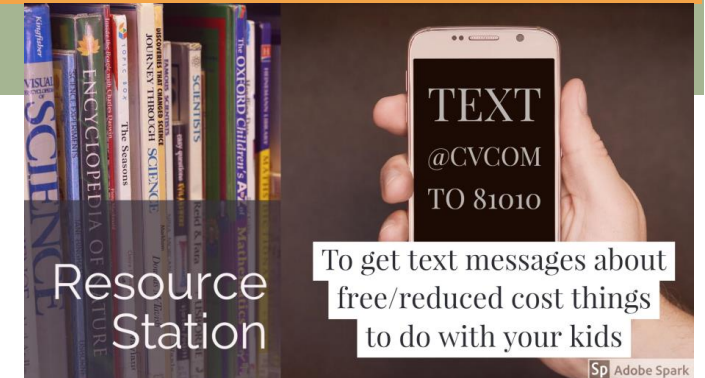
Fri, Sep 21, 7:10 PM

CV Things To Do: FREE Fall Festival @ Stauffer's. Sept. 22, 23, 29 & 30. See Attachment for More Info, Times & Location. rmd.me/dh3dNQSYftt

Mon, Sep 24, 11:35 AM

CV Things To Do: SEPT. 25-29 Ephrata Fair, located at South State Street, Ephrata. For A Complete List of Events & More info at: rmd.me/GG78i4smB1i

Tue, Sep 25, 12:26 PM



Thursday 11:05 AM

CV Things To Do: SEP. 30 3-7pm. FREE Food, Games, Inflatables, & More. 230 Clay School Rd, Ephrata, Spon. by Ephrata Com. Church. rmd.me/cJehu2mH2cG

CV Things To Do: FREE Parenting Workshop. Building Emotional Intelligence @ Fritz Elementary. Oct. 1 @ 9:15 or Oct. 4 @ 6pm. RSVP to Candi Oster @ [399-1545](tel:399-1545)

Yesterday 11:06 AM

CV Things To Do: Homecoming Bonfire @ CVHS. Oct. 3 @ 6:30-9. Food, Performances, Games, Fireworks. See CVSD website for more info.



STROUDSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

❖ Monroe County Homeless Advisory Board (Monthly)

- All of the homeless shelter representatives from the county and other “outreach” networks, including the state representative’s office, to meet and discuss any changes, updates or ideas for the county - including land grants similar to Habitat for Humanity and other items that affect all of the county population

❖ Pocono Alliance

- Sharing updated county resources including meals and other timely information with our building level designees and administrators



GROWING PROFESSIONALLY AND EDUCATING OTHERS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

HOW DO WE AS LIAISONS ENGAGE IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

- ❖ The Regional Coordinator is your best friend
 - We are all in continuous communication with our coordinators
- ❖ Always attend the Regional Workshops
- ❖ Attend the Annual State Conference
- ❖ Use the webinars to your advantage to limit travel
- ❖ Attend the important sessions through PATTAN

EDUCATING OUR STAFF IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ All staff trained at the opening day teacher meetings on homeless issues, policies and procedures

EDUCATING OUR STAFF IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ I train all of the district staff who have contact with students on McKinney Vento.
- ❖ All Administrators are trained during our administrative meeting sessions
- ❖ Faculty and paraprofessionals are trained during scheduled faculty meetings throughout the school year
- ❖ Secretaries are trained during one of two sessions scheduled during the summer or during parent/teacher conferences
- ❖ Nurses, Guidance Counselors, and any other staff are trained during Act 80 day sessions


EDUCATING OUR STAFF IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Educate our staff on an annual basis on McKinney-Vento
 - All staff are trained annually during a faculty meeting
 - All bus drivers are trained annually during one of their safety meetings
- ❖ Newsletters go out to all staff, both employed by Conestoga Valley and our partnership with SOSL (who employs custodians, cafeteria staff, maintenance and aids)
- ❖ Provide professional development to staff two times/year
 - Not mandatory
 - Switch it up every 3 years to provide variety and to get people coming back

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (NEWSLETTERS)

- ❖ Sent out quarterly to all staff district-wide
- ❖ Provide education on law changes, hot topics (mostly related to social work, and year-to-date statistics)
- ❖ Last newsletter of the year gives an overview of the year, whether in statistics or stories that were uncovered

EXAMPLES...



Conestoga Valley
SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOMELESSNESS + FOSTER CARE: A Review + New Changes

KATIE'S KORNER

Issue 8
2016-2017
Quarter 1

The McKinney-Vento Act, a federal act that protects the rights of homeless students, classifies families as homeless if they have a precipitating event [Abandonment, Act of Nature/Natural Disaster, Death of Parent/Guardian, Domestic Violence, Eviction, Fire, Hospitalization of Parent/Guardian, Incarceration of Parent/Guardian, Left Home, Military, Parental Job Loss/Loss of Income, Parent Divorce/Separation, Separated from Family, Other Poverty-related Situation, Other, and Unknown]. Along with the precipitating event, the family also must be experiencing one of the following.

- Sharing the house of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason, called "doubled up"
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or campgrounds to due lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings

If a CV student meets the criteria, they are provided district transportation and automatically qualify for free lunch status. However, there have been a few changes to the law, effective October 1, 2016, which will impact our students and their rights.

- Previously, if a homeless student's family found permanent housing outside of CV, they could finish the school year at CV; but the expense of transportation was on the family. Now, CV is responsible for the child's transportation through the end of the school year.
- Although "awaiting foster care placement" has been removed from the McKinney-Vento definition, the Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care Act (effective December 10, 2016) extends the same right to permanently placed foster children as homeless children; CV will provide transportation for these students to and from their permanent placement, even if placed outside of CV.

It is important to remember that the law does not define how far away a district must transport students or for what length of time; Homelessness can last for years. You might ask, "Katie, isn't that a great financial toll on our district?". Yes—it certainly is, but think of it being the only consistent environment for OUR students who are experiencing major life changing events. In making determinations for transportation, we do thoroughly look at what is in the best interest of the student, and we do consider the age and length of time that student may be on the bus.

Year to Date

Total # of Families Assisted: 84	# of Homeless Families Identified: 29
# of Food Referrals: 34	# of CV Homeless Students: 37
# of Clothing Referrals: 52	# of Medical Referrals: 11

I was asked many times over by a single mom of three for help finding a vehicle for her family. She was offered many jobs in home health care (to which she had to decline due to her inability to attend trainings outside Lancaster) and was starting her CNA certificate through the Spanish American Spanish Association. I told her it was very unlikely I would be able to find a donated vehicle for her family, but committed to looking. 3 days following her regular check-in with me regarding the car, a community member called me. She [community member] recently had lost her husband and wanted to do something in his honor; she had a car to donate. The car was almost donated to another organization but she thought she would check to see if there were any families in CV in need of a car first. I almost broke down in tears as I listened to her message on the phone as she explained what she wanted to do. I connected the two women and the very next day, 6 months of insurance was bought by the donor and the title was transferred. In my 8 years of working in social work, I have never had a car donated before; it was an honor to be able to connect these women and see a physical need and an emotional need be satisfied by two women, turned friends.

Meeting a Need through Tragedy

[August 2016]



Conestoga Valley
SCHOOL DISTRICT

KATIE'S KORNER

KATIE'S KORNER

Quarter 4
2017-2018
Issue 14

Looking Back @ 2017-2018

*ALONE we can do so LITTLE;
TOGETHER we can do so MUCH*
-THEY SAY

\$5,638	CV Ministerium Payments for Rental Assistance, Utilities, Etc. to CV Families
\$1,269	Social Worker Reimbursements from CV Ministerium for Purchases Made
536	Weekend Blessings Bags Distributed Monthly to Students in Need
531	Children Served for Holiday Support for Christmas 2017
369	Followers on CV: Care + Connect, Facebook Page
183	Families Assisted this School Year
156	Parents Received Text Messages about Free/Low Cost Things To Do with their Family
134	Students Identified as Homeless this School Year
128	Clothing Referrals (CVCCS, Community Aid or Fashion Cents Gift Cards)
105	Food Referrals (Food Stamps, CVCCS, Gift Cards)
22	Students Identified as Foster Care Children this School Year
17	Students Transferred to CV as a Result of the Hurricanes in Florida/Puerto Rico
13	Students Served in Rooted, A Mentoring Program Run by CVCCS
13	Families Who Experienced a Death of a Parent/Guardian this School Year
7	Uninsured Students Received Vision Vouchers for Modern Eyes
1	Family Utilized Homes-Of-Hope Program (We are Down to One Home in CV)
1	Student Accepted into Milton Hershey School

PLUG FOR AUGUST PD

I will be running *Snapshots of CV* at our next PD day in August. The focus of the PD is to expose its participants to real stories of CV families in the format of role play, interviews, and story telling. This session is very different than the previous sessions I've run with a focus on poverty and homelessness.

Another year has come and gone—it was a busy one for sure! As I reflect back on this year, I think the greatest success story in my mind was one that also included a lot of heartbreak. A CV family faced many barriers: medical issues of parents, truancy concerns, legal issues, eviction, financial struggles, death of a parent, school communication avoidance, etc. I felt like we had lost the family completely (especially for the remainder of the year) until I had the unique opportunity to join with the family as a partner at a family conference, supported by both Children and Youth and It Takes a Village. Through family support, I got to witness the family come together in support of the children. It was determined that 2 out of 3 of the kids would return to their brick-and-mortar buildings and the third would finish out the year strong in CVVA. I am thrilled to report that the kids finished the year successfully, having no communication or truancy concerns for the last month and a half of school. The kids have been enrolled in extracurricular activities and they are all planning on starting fresh in an other school district next year. They know that I consider them to be a success story of the year and I remind them how proud of them that I am because it's an important message for them to hear.



Katie's Summer Reading List

1. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond
2. *The Deepest Well: Health the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Adversity* by Nadine Burke Harris
3. *\$2.00 a Day* by Katherine Erin and Luke Shaeffer

I hope you all have an enjoyable and restful summer and I look forward to working alongside of you again in the 2018-2019 school year!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (STORIES)

- ❖ *Snapshots of CV* is provided during district-wide professional development days.
- ❖ Bringing student and family stories to the people serving them anonymously.
- ❖ Use photos, think-pair-share, role play and interviews (audio and in-person) to share stories.



SNAPSHOTS OF CV:
DIGGING DEEPER INTO WHO WE SERVE

KATIE REIFF, MSW, LSW, HSV
SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (STORIES CON'T)

DISABILITY

lack of income

LONG-TERM

TRUANCY

Was 2 School Districts

Educational Opportunities



STORY #1: LONG TERM STAY

PHOTOS & AUDIO INTERVIEW



Child's Voice
Explaining What Their
Favorite Meal Is and
How It Is Prepared

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (STORIES CON'T)

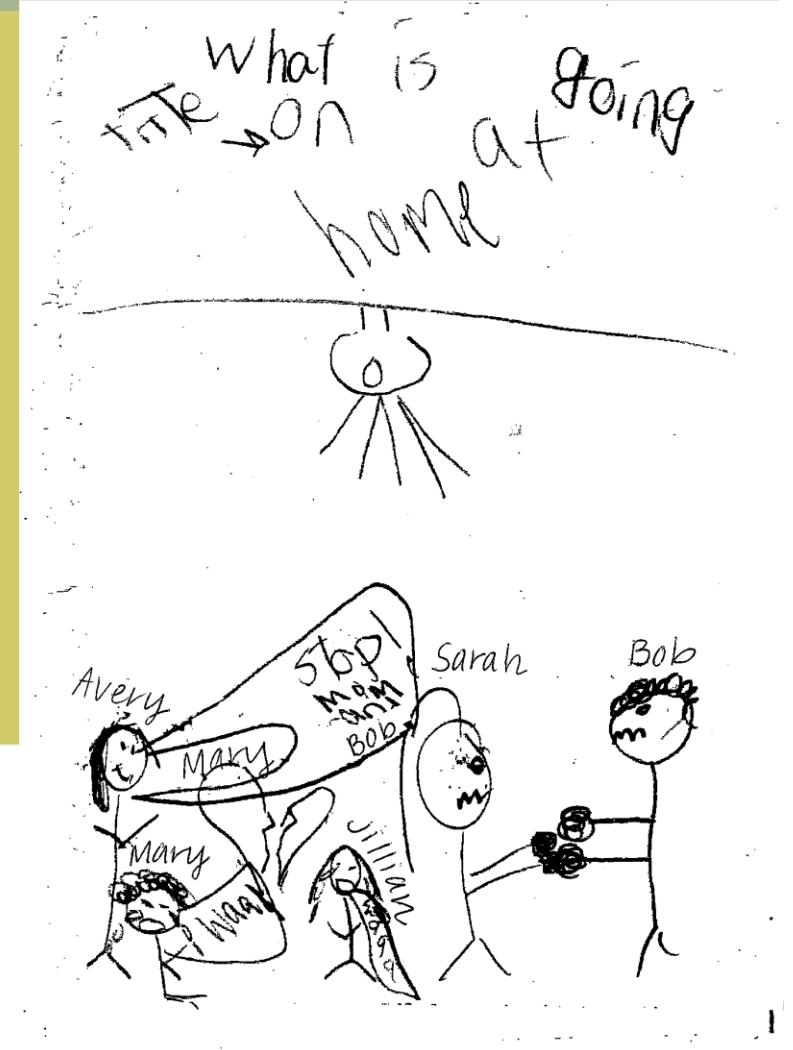
THINK-PAIR-SHARE

Q1: What is my emotional response/thoughts about the picture?

Q2: What are your thoughts on the artist? How old is she? What “baggage” is she carrying with her into school every day?

A PEEK INTO THE
LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS

ACTIVITY





WHAT QUESTIONS CAN
WE ANSWER FOR YOU?