



Project Connect Gazette

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Pack your bags for summer fun!



For the ninth year in a row, Project Connect will offer a full day summer program to children experiencing homelessness. The summer camp offers local children a chance to keep up with their education while having fun at the same time. This summer, all of the activities, lessons and field trips have been planned around the theme, "Tour Around the World." Stay tuned for more information about the places we go and the adventures we have!

Packing Wish List

- ◇ Snacks and juice boxes/bottled water (65 - 80 campers each day)
- ◇ Churches, organizations, coworkers, or groups of friends to **prepare and serve lunch** for the campers. Come experience the fun for yourself.
- ◇ New swimsuits, towels and flip flops (all children sizes needed)
- ◇ Ideas and/or resources for the "Tour Around the World" theme

Call the PC office at 363-1060 to make a donation or for more info.



Erica Murdock, Crochet Networks, presents a check for \$2,500 on behalf of **Daryl Turner**, USBank to PCHCF Vice President **Jeff Kellerman** and President **Bryan Foltz**.



Lynda and Bob Dann are pictured here with **Bryan Foltz**. Both have done NCAA brackets/parties for the last several years. This year, over \$1,300 was raised through their efforts!

Psychologist Improves Access to Special Services

Audrey Coaston-Shelton, PC Psychologist

As a School Psychologist my primary focus is to help students succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. This is accomplished through collaboration with educators, parents, and other key stakeholders in order to create a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment. My assignment with Project Connect is much the same as in other school buildings, however, my work is also guided by the McKinney-Vento Act. This Act provides for the education of students experiencing homeless. Students who are experiencing homeless and are eligible to receive special education services have specific rights under the McKinney-Vento Act.

My role is to assist in those cases where the students have been receiving special education services or who have special needs gain access to the services they need. I work closely with the PC staff and district personnel to obtain records from previous schools and to gather information so that appropriate services can be provided. When there are no records and the parents/guardians have indicated that their child has been identified with a disability, I expedite MFEs (Multi Factored Evaluations). Expedition of the process is important because many students experiencing homeless who are in need of special education services move before they can be evaluated by their school. I also participate in intervention meetings with school teams, help teams develop IEPs (Individualized Education Plans), and provide other educational services.

Another component of my job is to provide counseling services and consult with teachers and parents on matters related to behavioral and academic concerns. I also advocate for students experiencing homelessness to receive services so that they can be fully engaged in the education process. Through all of my duties with PC, I strive to address and remove the barriers for students experiencing homelessness so that they can receive the educational and/or special education services to which they are entitled.

“My role is to assist in those cases where the students have been receiving special education services or who have special needs gain access to the services they need.”

Locker Opens for Business



David Pollack's Empower Foundation has partnered with Project Connect through the creation of David's Locker. The first locker was opened at Oylar School on April 11th. The locker is stocked with items that the children desperately need. **David Pollack** and his wife **Lindsey** were in attendance to mark the locker's opening. Several lucky Project Connect students were invited to join in on the festivities. Here the students are pictured in front of the locker with Project Connect Site Manager **Shelley Werner**.

Wee, Wee, Wee!

Project Connect supporters hit the streets in full force on Saturday, May 6th for the Flying Pig 10K. All of the Project Connect participants wore shirts that said, "Will Work for Homeless Children" on the front and had PC statistics printed on the back. The weather could not have been better for the walk through downtown Cincinnati, Covington and Newport, and the months of preparation really paid off! All of the participants had a wonderful time while simultaneously raising awareness about Project Connect and children and youth experiencing homelessness. Thanks to everyone who walked, ran, and trudged their way through the 10K. Let's do the half marathon next year!

PC Piggy Participants:

Joanie Abbott, Diana Brake, Autumn Englert, Bryan Foltz, Trish Fries, Bill Hutchinson, Rhonda Lewis, Helen O'Rourke, Mary Jane Quick, Debbie Reinhart, Chris Werner and Shelley Werner





And This One Belongs to the Kids!

Debbie Reinhart, Executive Director

Plan now to go to bat for children experiencing homelessness! Get ready for the 9th annual "Children's Faces Without Places Benefit." This year's benefit, **Greater Cincinnati All Stars Going to Bat for Kids**, will be held November 3, 2006 at the **Great American Ball Park**. Be an MVP like **Kim Klosterman** who sold candy bars to purchase a \$1500 sponsorship, or follow the lead of MVP **Debbie Jacobs** and team at **CompManagement** who hold mini-fundraisers all year long at work to pay for their \$1500 sponsorship. Please join in the fun, get creative, and decide to be an MVP sponsor. MVP sponsors will celebrate in style with 10 of their closest fans at the benefit. It's all for a great cause. . . supporting the educational needs of local children and youth experiencing homelessness. With everyone's help we can pull off a major victory for the thousands of local children who experience homelessness each year!

PC Happenings



Betty Book-In a Box brings joy to Oyler students

Eight weeks equals eight books for our 2nd-5th graders at Oyler school who participated in the after-school program, Betty Book-In-A-Box. Betty, AKA, **Wini Bruening**, carefully planned fun educational activities around each weeks featured book. One week, the children traveled around the world investigating each continent. Another week, the children read the book Shape Up and then carved their cheese sandwiches in to polygons and used their pretzel sticks to form right angles and isosceles triangles. At the end of each class, the children neatly wrote their name in their book and carefully placed it in their bag. Betty ended the eight week session with an activity featuring **Bi-Okoto Drum and Dance Theatre**, an African dance group. The children are still asking when Betty will return with more books!

Save the date and join us for C.A.K.E.

Join us on Thursday, June 1st to see what the Project Connect Crew has been up to in the **Club C.A.K.E. After School Program**. Stop in anytime from 6:00 - 8:30 pm at The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center in Covington, KY. There will be an art exhibit, poetry reading, video screening, cake and refreshments, drop-in workshops, games, and activities for all ages. Donations will be joyously accepted. Participating organizations include: **Ink Tank, Happen, Inc., Women Writing for a Change, The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center** and more. With generous funding from **Impact 100**, these organizations have been assisting Lighthouse youth in finding their voices. We hope you can join us to hear what they have to say. See you there!

Community rallies to support local family

Once again, friends of PC came through for a local family in need. The family (mom and five children) moved to Cincinnati from out of state because of domestic violence. The family came to Cincinnati with only the clothes that they were wearing. The family stayed at a shelter and then doubled-up with relatives. The family moved into their own apartment in April. Two of the children attend Rockdale Academy and work with Site Manager, Helen O'Rourke. It was during a home visit that Helen discovered the family's need.

An email was sent out detailing the family's information and listing the needed items. Within 24 hours, all of the items on the initial list had been accounted for. In the end, the family received more than they could have imagined. Special thanks to **Brynn Fossett** and her family, friends, and supporters from **Cincinnati Country Day** and **Seven Hills Schools, Jenny Baker, Patty Cochran, Christine Foster, Jeff Kellerman** and family, **Christa Kramer, Liz Huseman, Bill Hutchinson, Melissa Jackson, Shirley McMurray** and family, **Zell Schulman, Al Teixeira** from **Lakeshore Learning, Veronica Wilder**, and all the others who directly or indirectly participated in this effort. Thanks for helping this family in need.



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Thank you

Gracias

Merci

Spasibo

Asante

Over the years, Project Connect staff have worked with children from around the globe including children from **Afghanistan, Eritrea, Guatemala, Liberia** and **Mexico**. PC also works with children who have relocated to Cincinnati from other states because of a natural disaster, domestic violence or other crisis. So, on behalf of **all** children experiencing homelessness, Project Connect would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support.

- * **Baskets of li.f.e.** provided Easter baskets for PC students at Oyler, Rockdale and the Lighthouse Youth Crisis Center (LYCC).
- * **Sandy Knight** and the **Landmark Temple Youth Group** held an Easter Party at Oyler.
- * **River City Correctional Center** donated a compete dollhouse and school supplies.
- * For the third year in a row, **Bryan Foltz** hosted an NCAA party which raised \$500 for PC.

- * For the fourth year in a row, **Bob** and **Lynda Dann** spearheaded the NCAA final four fundraiser for PC. This year, \$838 was raised. The winners were: **John Gunning, Jackson Hoynacki** and **Charlie Bedinghaus**.
- * **Leslie Ackerson** with help from **Tracy Eads, Julia Wallner, Angela Buschmann** and **Suzanne Short** hosted a Derby Party at Garfield Suites Hotel. The party generated \$1,100 for PC! Special thanks to **Ryan Terry** from Garfield Suites Hotel. He truly went out of his way to make the event a success.
- * **Debbie** and **Ray Reinhart** donated the split the pot proceeds from their Derby Day Party.

