



FACES WITHOUT PLACES GAZETTE

MAY 2007

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Family Ally

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Sandra Pierce
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Marsha Steed

HOT OFF THE PRESS

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?

THERE'S A NEW NAME AROUND TOWN!

Leslie Ackerson, Board Member

Project Connect Homeless Children's fund (PCHCF) has been generating awareness and funds to support the services provided by Project Connect in Greater Cincinnati for the past ten years. Unfortunately, children continue to account for the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Our dream is to have an organization like PCHCF working with homeless education programs, such as Project Connect, throughout the entire country! With an expansion

committee in place, already planning, networking and generating a buzz, we are excited to announce that PCHCF is expanding! As part of this expansion, Project Connect Homeless Children's Fund had a *face* lift of sorts and bears a new name and logo: **FACES without PLACES**. FACES without PLACES will still be affiliated with Project Connect in Cincinnati. We will continue to provide the same services and support to Project Connect in

conjunction with the Cincinnati Public School System. This initiative will only enhance support for our local children and youth experiencing homelessness through increased awareness. Now we will also be able to work with homeless education programs throughout the nation, advocating and providing specialized educational services to meet the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness who need and want to attend school.

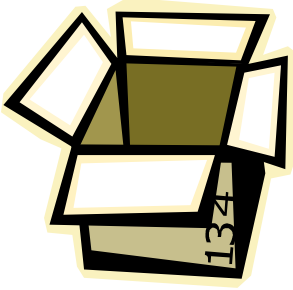
MAIFEST – COVINGTON MAINSTRASSE

Were you able to visit this year's MainStrasse Village Maifest presented by Huntington Bank in Covington's Historic MainStrasse on May 18-20, 2007? The FACES without PLACES (FWP) board members, Project Connect staff and friends of Project Connect were pouring beer to help support the many wonderful programs offered through Project Connect.



CONGRATULATIONS

Karen Fessler, Adolescent Manager, Project Connect was awarded the COHIO Youth Empowerment Program 2007 Champion for Youth Award!! Karen accepted the award at their annual conference on April 23, 2007. The inscription reads, "Thank You for Making a Difference in the Lives of Homeless Youth". Everyone is very proud of Karen's dedication and hard work.



Are you moving, updating, remodeling or want to get rid of furniture and household items that are still in great condition? Project Connect and families experiencing homelessness could use your help. This year, 67 students and their families have been referred to the **Feast of Love** furniture program. This program is essential to families who are moving out of shelters and doubled-up situations into their own homes. To find out more about donating furniture or household items, please contact Karen Lane at 513-541-5676, X:3. Thanks for your generous support!



Dear Friends of FACES without PLACES:

Take a moment and think back to your childhood. Remember saving a seat for your best friend on the school bus, learning the multiplication tables, taking educational field trips and even the extra-curricular activities you participated in? You may recall a carefree life of fun and learning. Now imagine the lives of Abby and Emily*.

After living in a home of violence and neglect, their mother decided to leave her unhealthy marriage and seek a better life for herself and her two girls, ages 6 and 8. She thought she would be able to find a place to live but quickly realized her ex-husband's bad credit history followed her. Her only option was to stay temporarily with family and friends, moving every 3-4 days between four different homes. The girls were lacking a stable home environment and were missing school due to the lack of transportation and falling behind in their studies because of it. That's when Project Connect got involved.

Project Connect Staff members were able to step in to determine the immediate needs of the girls. With the support of FACES without PLACES, Project Connect was able to supply bus tokens to transport the girls to school, were given vouchers for school uniforms, backpacks with school supplies and were able to participate in the after school program while their mother worked to save money for a home of their own. As a result, the girls successfully finished the school year and participated in last year's summer program. Finally, they were able to have an apartment of their own and Project Connect Staff members were once again able to assist by helping them qualify for a furniture voucher to buy the necessities.

Empowering children such as Abby and Emily is what Project Connect and FACES without PLACES is all about. While families and shelters work to fulfill the basic human needs – food, clothing and shelter, the educational needs of children experiencing homelessness are often pushed aside. Believing that education is the key to breaking the cycle of homelessness, Project Connect employees and volunteers have and will go to great lengths to reach out to each individual homeless child to meet this goal. FACES without PLACES helps children to succeed in their education by providing special needs education, summer reading programs, school supplies, uniforms, books and transportation to and from school. Your generosity has allowed Project Connect to identify 2,109 homeless children in 180 different schools since July 1, 2006 alone. **Your continued support will help to strengthen our programs and reach more children.**

Thanks for Your Support,

FACES without PLACES

AKA Project Connect Homeless Children's Fund

P.S. **Any contribution amount is appreciated.** Your tax-deductible contributions will enrich the lives of many children like Abby and Emily by providing the educational tools needed to ensure a bright future.

PALOMINO'S HAPPY HOUR SUCCESS

On Friday March 23rd, board members Allegra Nicodemus and Sandra Pierce organized a great fundraising event to benefit **FACES without PLACES**. The festivities was held during happy hour at Palomino's downtown. The event offered drink specials and appetizers to participants for a ten dollar donation. The event raised four hundred dollars for **FACES without PLACES**! Thank you so much for your support! It is the efforts like these that not only support the foundation, but raise awareness about children experiencing homelessness in our local community.





THE LEGAL CORNER

• A CALL TO ACTION

As you may remember, on Monday, January 22 the “*FAFSA Fix for Homeless Kids Act*”, H.R.601 was introduced in Congress. This legislation would amend the Higher Education Act to expand the definition of independent student to include unaccompanied homeless youth. H.R. 601 would address the barriers to higher education by allowing unaccompanied homeless youth to be considered independent students upon verification of their living situation by a McKinney-Vento Act school district liaison, shelter direc-

tor, transitional shelter or financial aid administrator. As of May 3, only 27 Members of Congress have signed on to H.R. 601 as co-sponsors. To find out if your Member of Congress has signed the bill, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

W E N E E D Y O U .

The more co-sponsors who join, the better the chances of the legislation passing this year! Please contact your U.S. Representative and urge him or her to support H.R. 601. Phone numbers and fax numbers for U.S. Representatives can be found at <http://house.gov>.

JOIN US FOR A PARTY!!

A Happy Hour will be on June 21 , 2007 from 5-7:30 PM at Universal Grille, 909 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH.

Happy Hour drink prices & **FREE** appetizers.

A \$10 donation benefits **FACES** without **PLACES** .

Join us for a great cause.

EASTER BASKETS FOR PC CHILDREN

Crystal Alexander, PC Staff



Project Connect received a total of 170 baskets from the Baskets of l.i.f.e (little inspirations for Easter) March 30th. The baskets were full of candy, stuffed animals, toys and more. We have a total of forty-three families who were able to receive one basket for each of their children. The families are from Rockdale, Whittier, George W.

Hays, Oylar, Quebec Heights, Chase, Carson, Winton Hills, and Central Fairmont. The families picked up the baskets at our Hays office between April 2nd & April 5th .

Everyone at Project Connect would like to extend their gratitude for the baskets. Baskets of l.i.f.e. provides Easter baskets overflowing with toys, candy, stuffed animals, books and more to homeless, abused, neglected, orphaned, or fostered children in Cincinnati and its surrounding areas.



**PROJECT CONNECT HOMELESS
CHILDREN'S FUND**

940 Poplar Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214
Phone: (513) 363-1060

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THANK YOU –THANK YOU

To everyone who attended River Downs for The K.I.S.S. Derby Day Party. Debbie



Reinhart was a wonderful hostess for the many **FACES** without **PLACES** supporters. Plans are already underway for next year's

Derby Party. With all of the generous donations, a grand total of **\$175.00** was raised for the children served by Project Connect.

**NCAA FINAL FOUR
WINNERS**

The Bob and Lynda Dann donated the proceeds from their Annual Final Four Bracket **\$ 6 9 2 . 0 0** Beth Ried and Edna Taylor were the first and second place winners on the board. Congratulations and thanks to everyone that donated money and picked their favorite teams.

SUMMER PROGRAM NEEDS

Bottled Water

Juice Boxes

Individually Wrapped Snacks/Chips

King's Island passes (we are in need of 50 additional passes for the summer program)

For more information about exact number needed, please call our main office at (513) 363-1060.



Funded by THE CITY OF CINCINNATI