



The Report Card

Keeping Children Connected through Education

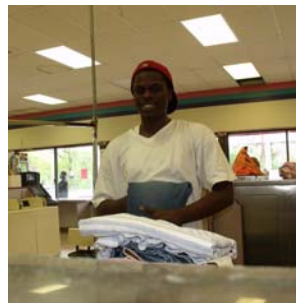


A Newsletter by **Project Connect** - The Homeless Education Program for Cincinnati Public Schools

Laundry Day a Success for Avondale Residents!

If you watch the news in Cincinnati, you probably saw the story about the Avondale residents living for a week without electricity or water because of their landlord's negligence. What you may not know is that these families became eligible for services under McKinney Vento Legislation because they are living in inadequate housing. Director, **Karen Fessler**, jumped into motion on April 14 taking two staff members to the scene to see how Project Connect could help. She discovered many families missing school because they were unable to

clean their clothes. She organized a laundry day for those residents and on Friday, April 16, our staff and volunteers were at the Su-



per Suds Laundromat helping families. An anonymous donor provided \$200 in quarters and Faces without

Places provided an additional \$200. Many Cincinnati Public School employees from the central office donated detergent, fabric softener, and bleach. This truly has been a team effort! In addition to helping with laundry, PC staff members are helping students enroll in school and supplying them with other services. A special thank you to Super Suds Laundromat for donating their dryers as well as the management team of Super Suds. In total, 187 loads of laundry were completed.

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Aiken Student Shines with Scholarship

Branden Nelson, a graduating senior at Aiken High School, recently became involved with Project Connect. Overcoming a number of adversary conditions, dating back to residence in a Women's Shelter in Atlanta Georgia, and a recent eviction, Branden has excelled both academically and athletically graduating this year with a 3.0 GPA.



Branden has also been awarded the PRIDE grant, the Anthony Munoz grant and a scholarship through the National Football Foundation. When asked what his biggest barrier has been, Brandon replied, "staying focused during all of life's distractions has been challenging, but as a friend of mine told me, barriers don't really exist, only if you allow them to." Best of luck to Branden in his coming endeavors!

Coaston-Shelton An Added Bonus at Project Connect

For the past 5 years, **Dr. Audrey Coaston-Shelton** has been a part of the Project Connect team. Because our families move around so frequently, children are often not enrolled in a school long enough to be tested for a disability. Audrey is the best person to handle this and make things happen. According to Karen Fessler, "Audrey is an integral part of the Project Connect team. Her services enable CPS to achieve the highest level of compli-

ance with McKinney-Vento. She is able to expedite records, transfers and evaluations for students experiencing homelessness



who have special education needs. She is truly an outstanding advocate for our children." In addition, Aud-

rey is available to provide valuable support to the Psychologists at all CPS schools by assisting them and working collaboratively to meet compliance goals for homeless special education students. As if that wasn't enough, Audrey bakes "Brownies from the Heart" and donates the proceeds to Faces without Places. When not helping others, Audrey loves traveling, spending time with family and shopping!