

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the fifth annual Homeless Children's Awareness Week will be observed the week of October 18, 2015; this observance serves to bring attention to the struggles and hardships children experiencing homelessness face throughout Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states that children are homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; children of all ages are negatively impacted by homelessness in the areas of physical health, emotional and behavioral development, and academic success; and

WHEREAS, during the 2013-2014 school year, the school districts of Allegheny County identified over 2,900 children who experienced homelessness at some point; the County works closely with the Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF) which has set up Learning Centers and Resource Libraries within county homeless housing facilities, equipped with computers, printers, scanners, art supplies, and maps, to allow children the same educational tools as their classmates; and

WHEREAS, for more than 16 years, the HCEF has a mission to provide advocacy, community engagement, and direct service programs that support the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County; throughout the week, the HCEF is hosting various events in support of their mission including an intimate storytelling event, performance art installations, and a 5K & 10K run/walk to raise awareness about children experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is proud to support the efforts of the HCEF and we will continue to do our part in bringing awareness to the challenges children experiencing homelessness are confronted with daily.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, along with Council Member Amanda Green Hawkins, by virtue of the authority vested in us, do hereby proclaim the week of October 18-24, 2015 as "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in Allegheny County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 18th day of October, 2015.

Rich Fitzgerald

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