OUR MISSION
TO OVERCOME HOMELESSNESS THROUGH EDUCATION

OUR VISION
Children and youth experiencing homelessness will have full access to quality learning, birth through higher education, so they will never be homeless as adults, and the next generation will never be homeless.
From birth to higher education, from policy to practice, SchoolHouse Connection (SHC) took major strides to improve educational and life outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness in 2018.

We attribute our success to being grounded in the needs and experiences of homeless children, youth, and families. Every day, SHC staff are in direct contact with local educators, providers, and young people. Whether a question from a school district about a homeless student; a service provider seeking a resource; or a young person in need of help, our direct interactions with those who are closest to child and youth homelessness inform everything we do. We pride ourselves on a grassroots orientation that keeps our policy, practical assistance, and communications responsive to local realities, which in turn drive our national organizational strategy.

In reviewing our 2018 accomplishments, we also are reminded of the power of partnerships. We launched a national campaign, put practical tools in the hands of practitioners, and changed federal and state policies in close collaboration with local, state, and national allies.

Finally, we added two new SHC team members in 2018. We are extremely proud of how our SHC staff has integrated work across subject areas, mirroring the interconnectedness of youth and family homelessness, and demonstrating the collective supports that children, youth, and families need in order to never again experience homelessness.

We close with deep gratitude to our donors, supporters, and partners who have helped us reach so many milestones in such a short period of time.

Thank you.
OUR WORK

1. Policy Advocacy
   - A strong voice for effective and responsive federal and state policies rooted in the realities of local communities
   - Timely updates and analyses

2. Practical Assistance
   - Tools and resources for early care, preK-12, and higher education
   - Weekly newsletter with Q&A and practitioner voices
   - In-person and online training on hot topics featuring national, state, and local presenters

3. Youth Leadership
   - Scholarships and support to youth who have experienced homelessness
   - Full and authentic integration of young people into all areas of our work
2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Raising Awareness, Increasing Support

- Launched Education Leads Home (ELH), a national campaign to improve educational and life outcomes for homeless children and youth. ELH will help us reach new stakeholders to attain three ambitious yet achievable goals: equitable participation in early childhood programs; a 90% high school graduation rate; and a 60% postsecondary attainment rate.
- Partnered with Sesame Street in Communities on the launch of a new homelessness initiative for young children, parents, and providers, bringing unique and unprecedented coverage of early childhood and family homelessness to the public.
- Co-authored and co-branded the fifth edition of Educating Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness with the American Bar Association, the best-selling ABA book on the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Provided visitors to our website the opportunity to hear directly from youth and practitioners through our “Guest Perspective” blog, as well as timely information on policy, practice, and research.
Providing Timely, Responsive, and Practical Help

- We listen closely, then work with practitioners to create tools and resources to meet their needs. In 2018, these partnerships resulted in a checklist for school counseling staff; positive school discipline tips drawing insights from youth and educators; templates for providing verification for financial aid and for participation in extra-curricular activities; and a safety checklist to help “childproof” homeless shelters for young children.
Advancing National and State Policy Reform

Federal Policy Achievements

- Unprecedented funding increases for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program.
- $25 million for schools to support children and youth made homeless by the natural disasters of 2017.
- Provisions for outreach and tailored services for students experiencing homelessness in the Career and Technical Education Act.
- Provisions specifically for homeless youth (including a new school-based grant program) in the national opioid legislation.
- Testified at a Congressional hearing about the need to reform homeless assistance to better serve children, youth, and families.
- Organized and led a broad, diverse coalition of hundreds of local, state, and national groups to help pass the bill through the Financial Services Committee on a bipartisan basis.

State Policy Achievements

- Worked with advocates in Tennessee to secure successful passage of HB 2303, which allows children and youth of any age experiencing homelessness to obtain their birth certificate and state ID.
- Worked with Representative Shawn Thierry on Texas HB 809. HB 809 would provide college students experiencing homelessness with automatic eligibility for housing assistance and priority for student housing, and require colleges and universities to designate a liaison for students experiencing homelessness.
- Prepared policy proposals for the 2019 legislative session in ten additional states, in the areas of child care; higher education; unaccompanied youth access to mental health care, shelter/housing, and health care; employment; vital documents; and high school graduation.
- Trained close to 1,000 advocates in 44 states and DC on the nuts and bolts of policy advocacy, and produced many state advocacy tools.
4. Building Connections Between Early Care, Education, and Homeless and Housing Services

- Served as a steering committee member and policy co-chair for the National Network to End Family Homelessness.
- Organized a comprehensive education track at the National Network for Youth’s National Summit.
- Published tip sheets on early care and education advocacy for housing and homeless assistance providers, as well as strategies to house and support college students experiencing homelessness from entrance through graduation.
- Offered webinars on partnering with housing authorities, housing homeless college students, and drop-in and residential services for pregnant and parenting youth.
- Host an active monthly learning community on early childhood homelessness that brings together Head Start Collaboration offices, Head Start and Child Care National Centers, and others working at the intersection of housing, homelessness, and early childhood.
Integrating Young People into All Areas of Our Work

- Provided direct support to over 100 young adults.
- Engaged our young leaders in the launch of the Education Leads Home campaign, leading SchoolHouse Connection webinars, speaking at state and local conferences, scoring grant proposals, and participating in national research on homelessness and health risks.
- Brought 16 young leaders to Washington DC, where they educated policymakers in a Congressional briefing and met with officials at the U.S. Department of Education.

Number of SHC Young Leaders who graduated college in 2018: 10

Dollar amount of college completion support: $7,000

Number of times we provided emergency assistance: 300
## 2018 Audited Financials

### Revenue & Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Grants</td>
<td>$894,076</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>106,900</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue &amp; Support</strong></td>
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### Programs:

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<th>Program</th>
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<td>Federal and State Policy Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Childhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Leads Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Leadership &amp; Scholarship</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$726,083</strong></td>
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### Support Services:

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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$51,990</strong></td>
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### Change in Net Assets

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$222,903</strong></td>
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### Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year

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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$588,981</strong></td>
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### Net Assets at the End of the Year

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets at the End of the Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$811,884</strong></td>
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</table>
"I am new to this role so I am learning a ton every day and truly appreciate being able to share and talk through a situation, especially when disagreement and misunderstandings are taking place between a school and a family/advocate. Again, I truly appreciate the advocacy, legal work and training that SchoolHouse Connection provides, and specifically your attention to this situation."

- Keri-Ann Henson, Homeless Education Program Administrator, Department of Student Services, Frederick County Public Schools
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