



435 Stanley Avenue  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

### **Homeless Matters is a New Community and District Initiative**

Homeless Matters is an initiative that partners community members and school district employees in an effort to better serve those students who lack a permanent home.

"Committee members want to work together to address the most urgent and crucial needs of our homeless student population in grades K -12. Those needs include hunger, as well as the inability to purchase school supplies or the proper school apparel," said Kristin Carroll, Director of Pupil Services.

Community organizations that have partnered with the school district to date include Maranatha Ministries, United Way, and the YMCA.

Our mission is to ease some of the burdens that homeless students experience and to give them the opportunity to be successful in their academic endeavors, even in the face of much personal hardship, explained Ms. Carroll.

According to the Department of Education, homeless students experience significant academic, social, and socio-emotional challenges, and often experience lower school achievement and are at increased risk of dropping out of school.

"Our homeless population has grown. In the 2012 – 2013 school year, we identified 70 students; last year that number was 120. We have followed guidelines mandated by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2001 which requires 'that schools ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same, free, appropriate public education, including a preschool education as provided to other children in youths,'" said Ms. Carroll.

"It is difficult to identify these students. Students with insecure housing don't always live in shelters. Many live in obscure areas, in parks, in vehicles, abandoned houses or they simply don't want to be discovered," according to Ms. Carroll.

"Thus far the committee has established a food pantry, collected and distributed backpacks and school supplies and has initiated plans for a clothes closet," Ms. Carroll noted. "We would appreciate any

monetary donations. Our current vendor provides pallets of food at discounted rates, so the contribution will be put to great use!”

If you are interested in making a monetary donation to Homeless Matters, it can be mailed to Homeless Matters, District Administration Building, 435 Stanley Avenue, Chambersburg, PA 17201, Attn: Melissa Stevens.



***The first delivery to the newly created Homeless Matters food pantry arrived recently at the district’s Administration Building.***

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