



*Support and advocacy for Washtenaw County students who are homeless or in transition*

## A PROGRAM OF OZONE HOUSE

### WHAT IS THE EDUCATION PROJECT FOR HOMELESS YOUTH (EPHY)?

The Education Project for Homeless Youth, a joint program of the Washtenaw Intermediate School District and Ozone House, works to ensure students in homelessness and temporary living situations enroll, regularly attend and succeed in school.

During the 2014-2015 school year, we served more than 1300 students in Washtenaw County, ages 0-21, from the 10 school districts and nine public school academies in the county. Every single school district in the county is working with students in temporary living situations.

We work closely with all of the shelters in Washtenaw County, but also serve families living in motels or staying with friends and family due to loss of housing in addition to students in temporary foster care placements.

We are funded primarily through the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in January of 2002. The Act guarantees that students who are homeless have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to others. We also rely on private donations and grants to directly meet student needs.

For more information visit <http://washtenawisd.org/services/k-12-student-services>.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Inventory Management: Count, sort and organize school supplies, toiletries, clothing, etc. to be distributed to students and families. Assemble school supply and toiletry kits as needed.
- Distribution of Supplies: Deliver backpacks and other supplies to schools to be given to students.
- Shoppers: We receive donations of gift cards that are used to purchase specific items for students on an as needed basis. Volunteers are needed to shop at Meijer, Wal-Mart, Target, etc. (using the gift cards) for these items.
- Organize a drive for school supplies, socks and underwear or toiletries at your local religious organization, place of work, neighborhood, schools, etc. Contact us for specific needs.
- Join our Extended Family Network. The Education Project's Extended Family is a group of volunteers who give us permission to contact them approximately 1-2x per month when our families have requests that we may not have funding for or for supplies we do not have. Requests are also for items outside the scope of what we normally provide, but may be necessary or helpful for school success or engagement. Items purchased in the past have included special art supplies, camping gear for a school trip, band uniform, a bike to assist in school transportation, etc.
- Make a donation! We are always in need of gift cards (Meijer, Target, Big Lots, etc.), school supplies, toiletries (shampoo, soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, lotion, etc.) and cash to be used to fund special needs of students that may arise during the year (special credit recovery classes, field trip fees, athletic fees, dance tickets, emergency transportation, etc.).

**To get involved, please contact Susan Allison, Volunteer Coordinator at [susanallison1231@att.net](mailto:susanallison1231@att.net) or (678) 576-9832.**

