



## Connections give families resources

By Dawn Whiteside  
McKinney-Vento liaison

It is hard to believe that April is upon us and another school year is near its end.



We have continued to help families who are experiencing homelessness by providing them with supplies, hotel stays, gas cards and food. Making

connections to local resources helps families more than we can imagine. What seems simple to us, such as a phone call, can open a door for them.

In the next couple of months I will be passing along information about local and national resources from which you can gain information to help families.

The SchoolHouse Connection is one such resource. According to its Web site, the national non-profit organization works to end home-

lessness through education.

Check out its Web site at <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/> for resources.

Save the Dream Ohio program was introduced recently and is available to homeowners.

The income guideline is \$147,600 for a family of four; have been affected with a hardship because of COVID; and owe less than \$548,250 on their mortgage. Families can call (888) 404-4674 or go to [ohiohome.org](http://ohiohome.org).

### RESOURCE LIBRARY

Help build a resource library by sharing with me the Web sites of organizations you find helpful. We will include them in a resource guide that is being created for the 2022-23 school year.

Send links via e-mail to [dawn.whiteside@cvcsd.com](mailto:dawn.whiteside@cvcsd.com) or call (740) 474-7529 (ESC) or (740) 542-0797 (cell).

### GET TO KNOW...

## PICCA Ashville Neighborhood Center

PICCA Ashville Neighborhood Center, 97 Miller Ave., operates from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. It is one of nine PICCA locations.

The Neighborhood Center offers the same services provided at PICCA's main office in Circleville while increasing accessibility to residents in the northern part of Pickaway County. All are welcome, regardless of address.

PICCA Ashville Neighborhood Center is here to provide the community with kindness, support and the assistance needed to regain self-sufficiency. It offers several types of assistance options including help with rent and mortgage payments, property taxes, utility bills, home repairs, vehicle purchase and repairs, public transportation, early childhood education, adult education and training, and obtaining fresh food.

Call PICCA Ashville Neighborhood Center at (740) 983-2530 for more information.



Alexis Goode, left, and Shari Dixon are center coordinator and Head Start coordinator, respectively, at the PICCA Ashville Neighborhood Center.

## Initiatives in county to be aided by grants

By Ty Ankrom  
ESC superintendent

A push by the ESC to apply for grants is paying off for the county with \$443,000 from multiple grants earmarked for student wellness and homelessness.

Homelessness is a big issue in Pickaway County, said Lisa Heins, ESC director of related services. Part of that grant money will be used to "increase attendance for homeless kids and also educating the county about homelessness."

In addition, about \$61,000 is being used in the four county districts to pay for support services for students who are experiencing homelessness.

Lisa said a hurdle for schools is indicating which students have no fixed address. Reporting accurate numbers to the state can result in more money to help students.

"We are trying to work on that with the schools. That's one of our goals and then also professional development to help teachers understand kids with homelessness and poverty," Lisa said.

### ADDITIONAL AREA RESOURCES

- Pickaway County Community Action (PICCA)  
469 East Ohio St., Circleville | (740) 477-1655
- Pickaway County Family YMCA  
440 Nicholas Drive, Circleville | (740) 477-1661
- Pickaway County Job & Family Services  
1005 S. Pickaway St., Circleville | (740) 474-7588
- Emergency Clearinghouse Food Pantry  
722 Clinton St., Circleville | (740) 412-1538