



# McKINNEY-VENTO NAVIGATOR

A Pickaway County ESC newsletter



## Charity helps give kids reason to smile

By Dawn Whiteside  
McKinney-Vento liaison

In my role as the McKinney-Vento liaison, I am often speechless by the generosity of people and organizations in the county.

A recent example was getting to work with Anne's Smiles to help a family in the Westfall school district who lost everything in a house fire. The family includes four children, three of whom have special needs.

With the help of generous donors, Anne's Smiles provided each of the four students with two pairs of shoes, socks, a bookbag, a coat and sweatshirt, and other necessary clothing items that were needed in this emergency situation.

Marisha Eveland founded Anne's Smiles in December. It partners with school counselors,

social workers and other community leaders to provide shoes, hygiene products, emergency clothing and other needed items to fulfill its mission of providing dignity, joy and a smile to children of all ages.

"We started with just shoes and then added socks with each pair of shoes. School counselors requested hygiene products be made available, so we began offering full size hygiene products in a toiletry bag as well," Marisha said.

She emphasized that the charity provides new, quality, trendy shoes.

"It's very important to give students the feeling of dignity and pride," Marisha said, adding that by providing quality footwear it is likely to be passed down to a sibling.

As costs rise and temperatures drop, Mari-



Marisha Evelin, left, and volunteer Kim Maler, right, provided clothes, shoes and toys for four children whose home was destroyed in a fire.

sha anticipates more need in the community.

"We accept donations and are working to be eligible to apply for grants, she said.

To learn more, go to [www.annessmiles.org](http://www.annessmiles.org).

## Be proactive in seeking help

By Dawn Whiteside  
McKinney-Vento liaison

Temperatures are starting to drop and soon we'll be enjoying the changing colors of leaves as fall arrives.

As we prepare for the colder months, here are some ideas to help build up resource closets.

Ask people to bring a gently used pair of shoes/clothing item/jacket. To thank them, provide them with a ticket to a football/sporting event or allow them to wear a hat or pajamas to school or work.

You can do the same thing with food drives/hygiene items/hat and gloves/etc.

If you have additional ideas that have been successful, e-mail me ([dawn.whiteside@pickawayesc.org](mailto:dawn.whiteside@pickawayesc.org)) and I will share them.

If you have an abundance of clothes and shoes that you need to re-home, I can help.



COOHIO and more than 230 companies and organizations are asking Gov. Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly to make a significant one-time investment of Ohio's American Rescue Plan Act funds in affordable housing.

The response has been promising, but there is still no commitment. We recently had to make some difficult decisions about how to scale down

### What is *homeless*?

If you lost your home or had to leave your home and you are now staying with someone temporarily because you do not have anywhere else to go, you meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. This can include a variety of specific situations, but it comes down to this: If you are staying with someone temporarily, and that person could ask you to leave at any time, your living situation likely meets the definition of homelessness. (<https://tinyurl.com/vjreywvy>)

the original proposal, and now we have to make sure our plan gets implemented.

Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/42cfmtyf>.



Don't forget a variety of resources can be accessed through an online county directory, available by scanning the code at right.



## GET TO KNOW...

### Haven House

Haven House of Pickaway County is a domestic violence and homeless shelter.

Staff members strive to empower survivors of domestic violence by providing advocacy, shelter, support and safety planning. Haven

House also provides shelter for women and children who are homeless.

Other services provided include:

- crisis intervention
- case management
- legal advocacy
- referrals
- support groups
- individual counseling

All services are free and confidential. Haven House can be reached at (740) 477-9113 seven days a week, 24-hours a day.

Learn more at [www.havenhouse1180.com](http://www.havenhouse1180.com).

