



McKINNEY-VENTO NAVIGATOR

A Pickaway County ESC newsletter



Tips can aid kids, build relationships

By Dawn Whiteside
McKinney-Vento liaison



It is great to be a part of the Pickaway ESC team and get to go to school opening sessions for many of the districts we serve. I enjoyed seeing familiar faces and meeting new staff members. I am sure that students are excited for a new school year.

As the school year begins, I wanted to share some ideas for removing barriers and boosting the academic success of children and youth experiencing homelessness that can help us respond effectively and respectfully.

- Know the possible signs of homelessness.
- Understand the definition of homelessness. (See box at right.)
- Become familiar with the location of local shelters.

About McKinney-Vento

The McKinney-Vento Act provides rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness. This includes those who are sharing housing with others because of loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason; staying in motels, trailer parks or campgrounds because of lack of an adequate alternative; staying in shelters or transitional housing; or sleeping in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing or similar settings. (From <https://tinyurl.com/4xzb-zx9z>)

- Learn about homeless issues in the community.
- Provide homeless students access to washers, dryers and showers before or

after the school day.

- Inform your McKinney-Vento liaison of concerns or needs you observe that need to be met for homeless children.
- Adopt a family during the winter break. Remember: Homelessness can happen to anyone.

Go to www.pickawayesc.org/page/mckinney-vento for resources.



Please welcome Lisa Heins as the Family and Community Partnership liaison. The Family and Community Partnership Liaison program is designed to meet the increased needs of vulnerable youth by connecting schools, families and students to community resources and local systems of care.



You can call Lisa at (740) 474-7529 or e-mail lisa.heins@pickawayesc.org.

Be the lifeline.



Suicide-prevention goal of new national hotline

People facing a mental health crisis have a new number to call or text for help. Modeled after 911, the new 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is designed to be a memorable and quick number that connects people to a trained mental-health professional.

The hotline fills a gap in mental-health crisis care, as most people experiencing a mental health emergency end up calling 911 despite its low capacity for addressing mental-health needs.

Take steps to ensure school staff and students are aware of this valuable mental-health resource. More information can be found at www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988.

Resources key to helping

By Dawn Whiteside
McKinney-Vento liaison

Each month I try to focus on a new resource in the county to spotlight.

If you have a resource you would like to see featured, please send suggestions to dawn.whiteside@pickawayesc.org.



The next Continuum of Care meeting will be from 8:30-10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7. Meetings are held at PICCA, 469 E. Ohio St.

The mission for the Pickaway County Continuum of Care is to reduce chronic homelessness through collaboration of services with other agencies, programs and faith-based organizations to provide outreach, shelter, training and other resources to the homeless and at-risk-home-

less population of Pickaway County.



The Pickaway County Resource Directory is updated each month. It can be found at www.pickawayesc.org/page/mckinney-vento.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Ohio Christian University is hosting a Community Fun Day from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28.

The free event features a motorcycle stunt show, car cruise-in and music by the Jeff Polen Band. More information can be found at www.ohiochristian.edu/event/community-fun-day.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." ~ Nelson Mandela