

Experience Jefferson County (EJC) Homeless Youth
December 8th, 9:00AM, Windsor Library Meeting Room
www.experiencejeffco.org

This group is helping 15-18 year olds that do not live
with their parents and are still in high school

Attendees:

Gayle Beck, Fox Schools Social Worker
Jennifer Cage, Division of Social Services
Amanda Miller-Fouts, Northwest Schools Social Worker
Linda Hardgrave, Jefferson County P.R.I.D.E.
Katie Muschinske (sub for Chrissy Immken), Windsor Schools Social Worker
Nancy Johnson, Concerned Citizen
Rhonda Mabley, Fox High School Social Worker
Janet McLard, New Hope United Methodist Church member and Concerned Citizen
Mary Beth Ottinger, Jefferson College and EJC Task Force member
Laura Schmidt, Concerned Citizen
Robin Scott, EJC Group Facilitator
Tracy Smith, Executive Director of JCCP

1. Reviewed numbers by school district:

Crystal City - 2	Grandview - 7	Northwest - 46
De Soto - 18-23	Herculaneum - 10	Seckman - 10
Festus - 1	Hillsboro - 37	Windsor - 7
Fox - 23	Jefferson R-7 - 2	TOTAL - 168

2. Amanda and Gayle explained the **McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act** as it applies to transporting children to school. It is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools.

3. Initiatives:

a. Clothing/Coats

- i. LifeChurch, Fenton had successful coat drive; gave 17 coats to the needy and 215 coats to Amanda and EJC. They also gave clothes and shoes. Was well planned and staffed.
- ii. Northwest Valley Middle School, House Springs has *Caring Community Closet* in a large classroom; offers free clothing and toiletries. Contact is Amanda Miller Fouts (work # 636-274-0555 ext. 777; cell # 314-650-6883) for room access.
- iii. No available storage space at Fox High School for clothes closet.
- iv. Any other areas of the county need a clothing closet? Windsor is beginning to setup a clothes closet also supplying household goods too.
- v. Created and distributed resource sheet. [Resource Sheet for Homeless Teens.pdf](#)
- vi. Linda Hardgrave offered to collect old shoes during our meetings and turn them into George the Shoeman.

- b. Christmas Drive
The counselors and social workers submitted **25** youth for Christmas gift adoption. The teens provided three things they would like for Christmas. We collectively provided most of the requested items. In addition to our 42-member EJC homeless youth group, Robin also solicited her friends on Facebook and the group she Jazzercises with to help purchase Christmas gifts. Next year, we need to get into fundraising so that EJC can be self-sustaining.
 - c. Jefferson College – Mary Beth Ottinger
 - i. Jefferson College has foundations that provide scholarships - http://www.jeffco.edu/jeffco/component/option.com_frontpage/Itemid,68/
 - ii. Mary Beth asked the social workers and counselors to identify their homeless seniors so that we may explore grants, loans, scholarships and work study for them. Students have responsibilities too; they must pass with a certain GPA. College staff can advise students on college readiness, application process, etc.
 - iii. Life Skills classes scheduled at Jefferson College Hillsboro – teaches cooking, etc.
 - iv. Housing is available at Jefferson College Hillsboro; students compete for it.
 - d. Youth Response Teams
 - i. Medical and Dental checkups/Physical exams – solicit vouchers for services
 - ii. **School Supplies** – Arnold Food Pantry provides school supplies; New Hope United Methodist Church may help with school supplies (Contact: Janet McLard)
 - e. Marketing
 - i. Create **brochure**, fact sheet, newsletter and blog promoting this group.
 - ii. Write article for Arnold Patch and Big River Current newspapers.
 - iii. Robin is working with webmaster to update the EJC site.
 - iv. Use goals, plans and accomplishments for content.
 - v. Tracy Smith said we need to emphasize public awareness when submitting for JCCP grants.
4. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. **Next EJC Homeless Youth meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, January 4th, 11:00 a.m., Windsor Library meeting room, Barnhart.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Scott