

Families in Transition

Erlanger Elsmere Schools 2020-21 Annual Report



"Embrace and attend to the individual needs of our students, regardless of the obstacles."

One Student's Story: "Hunter", Bartlett Grad, March 2021

When I was 14 my mom left my dad. The arguing had been going on for years but in the months leading up to our leaving my dad for good, the fights became physical. At first we stayed with a relative. With the addition of my mom, me and my four siblings, the two bedroom house felt overcrowded and chaotic and we were soon asked to leave.

We then moved into a hotel. **At first it felt like an adventure but that feeling soon faded as once again the confinements of the space created an atmosphere that was loud, disorganized and lacking basic privacy.** This would be the first of many hotel stays, friend's and relative's houses and even a short stay in Florida with my mom's boyfriend. Years later, I began to realize we would never again live with my father together as a family.

Though school was always important to me, there were many days I didn't attend. My siblings would oversleep, our car wouldn't start or we didn't have money to put gas in the car, our clothes weren't clean or we couldn't find something needed for that day at school; slowly this continued struggle began to affect each of us. My mom would often escape for hours leaving me in charge. My siblings would show their frustrations by fighting, crying or withdrawing by not speaking.

One day, while at a friend's house, I shared my living situation with my friend's mom; she quickly asked me to come stay with them. My mom agreed and that is the day I began to feel hopeful. Though I missed my family, life was easier. With the help of my teachers and counselors, I focused on my school work. I had fallen so far behind, it was recommended I attend Bartlett. With this change, I began to see graduation as a possibility. Within 18 months and during a Pandemic, I graduated high school two months early. Without a job and still living at my friend's house, my counselor called one day to check on me. He invited me to join NaviGo, a program to assist recent graduates who had not decided on a career path. With their help, I secured a job and am now in a managerial position. I am currently attending classes at Gateway, working on getting my drivers license and saving for my own place to live. I am thankful to my friend's family for taking me in and grateful for the support provided to me by the EES and NaviGo staff. My hope is to apply to the Police Academy once I turn 21.

National Homelessness and Hunger Awareness Week 2021 ~ November 13th - 21st.

"Home is where children find safety and security, where we find our identities, where citizenship starts. Housing is absolutely essential to human flourishing. Without stable housing, everything else falls apart."

Matthew Desmond
Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the America City

With the generous support of our community partners, EES provided school stability for 83 children by **Preventing or Ending Homelessness** for 31 families

Greatest Risk Factors of Becoming Homeless as a Young Adult, 18-24 years old

In no state does working 40 hours a week for minimum wage enable a person to rent a median two-bedroom apartment

National Low Income Housing Coalition, July 2021

Number of Adverse Childhood Experiences

Homelessness Experienced in Childhood

Individual Yearly Income Under \$24,000

Lack of a High School Diploma

Birth of a Child

Effects of a Pandemic: Addressing the Needs of Our Students

Nationally, an estimated **1.4 million fewer students** were identified as experiencing homelessness in 20-21

"Students were learning from home, schools were closed, shelters were at a lower capacity with less turn over.

Social distancing protocols further reduced opportunities for noticing signs of homelessness and having confidential conversations about living circumstances.

High mobility made it very difficult for educators to stay in touch. Both students and parents became disengaged." Lost in the Masked Shuffle and Virtual Void

Enhancing Our Efforts to Identify & Serve

- ✓ Increased Trainings
- ✓ Increased Outreach
- ✓ FiT Web Presence on Main EES Home Page & School Sites
- ✓ Self-referral Form Added to FiT Web Site
- ✓ Additional Enrollment Protocols
- ✓ Increased Coordination of Services Between EES Support Staff and Community Partners
- ✓ Created On-line Pandemic Specific Resource Guide

Please take the time to inform your family members, fellow parishioners, friends, local government officials and others on the importance of identifying and supporting children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Northern Kentucky Homeless Education Collaborative

