



MCKINNEY-VENTO AND FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

OVESC FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

McKinney-Vento

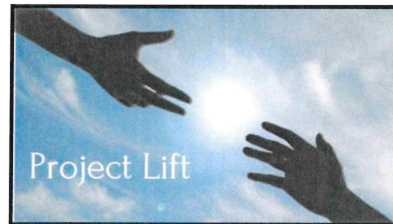
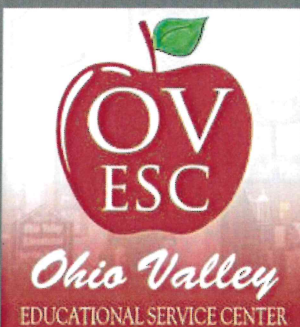
Penny Boggs
Jacque Prichard

Family and Community Partnership Engagement

Jenny Maze
Tonya Buchanan

DISTRICTS WE SERVE

Belpre City
Crooksville EV
Fort Frye Local
Frontier Local
Marietta City
Morgan Local
Switzerland of Ohio
Warren Local
Wolf Creek Local
Mid-East CTC
Washington CCC



Our mission is to lift students and families by helping meet academic, emotional, and physical needs through McKinney-Vento and Family and Community Partnership supports and services.

Switzerland of Ohio Social Emotional Supports

LISA CARPENTER, BA, OCPSA, INTERVENTION CASE MANAGER, GMN TRI COUNTY CAC, INC., WOODSFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our organization, GMN Tri County CAC, Inc, more specifically Monroe Project Partnership, was blessed beyond measure when Tonya Buchanan of the Ohio Valley Educational Service Center (OVESC) approached us like a genie from a bottle; asking each of us intervention case managers to make a wish list. We enlisted the help of our in-school Southeast therapist and eagerly tackled the task at hand. I believe I can speak for us all when I say that we felt like little kids making a Christmas list; circling all that we desire in the Toys R Us Christmas ad!

Monroe Project Partnership (MPP) has had dedicated intervention case managers in each elementary school within the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District (SOLSD) for more than 20 years. Our mission is to promote student success and parent involvement for Pre K through 8th grade students, serving as a liaison between the classroom and the home setting. We are here to assist families with services to improve the educational, social and emotional growth of their children and work in conjunction with parents, teachers and staff to increase student success.

Being a non-profit organization, we are most often working on a shoe-string budget, so when Tonya approached us we were beyond elated and quick to respond with our wish lists. Tonya worked diligently to process our request and before we knew it, she was delivering our gifts – minus the velvet red suit and reindeer-drawn sleigh – of books, paints, beads, sketch pads, pencils, journals, etc. The list goes on and on, as well as our appreciation.

Let me just say, the impact of gift-giving where student well-being is concerned is multifaceted and profound! It goes beyond the material aspect, touching on psychological, social and educational opportunities. The OVESC's gifts will make differences in the lives of SOLSD students! Each intervention case manager works with children/youth both individually and in small groups focusing on the presented needs. These gifts will provide opportunities to connect, respond and build strong foundations where discovery and healing can begin. These gifts are contributing to our students' personal growth, happiness and success!

Books are Fundamental!

In December 2023, students identified as homeless in grades K-5 received 6 free books for winter break reading through the Kids Read Now program, and in May they received 8 books for summer reading. It's all about bridging the gap during the times when school is not in session. Why these students? Many don't have parental support at home. Many are behind academically due to frequent moves and lack of a good, consistent study environment at home. It has been so rewarding to tell the students that they would be receiving free books that they didn't have to return, but would be their very own, and to see their faces light up. Not only do they get to keep them, but they get to choose them as well, making the books truly their own.

Tonya Buchanan, Parent Mentor, coordinated with teachers and librarians to compile a list of books for summer reading that would be appropriate for 6-8th grade students. She also worked with our preschool staff to choose books for children in our Bright Beginnings Preschool.

SHOUT OUT!!! To building principals, teachers, and secretaries who paved the way for us to meet with students to choose their KRN books, and distributed books and science kits to the students when they were delivered. They went above and beyond their already full plates!

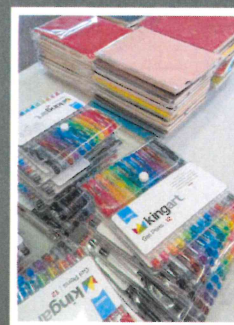
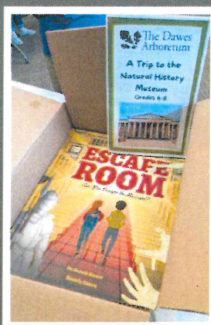
Awesome Hands-On Science with The Dawes Arboretum

For the past several years we have offered a small-group counseling curriculum to our young ladies at When housing is insecure and other life essentials may be in short supply, extras aren't always possible for students outside of school. Twice a year, in December and May, we provided our K-8 students with science kits that include 5 hands-on activities with all the materials necessary to do them, and some fun extras.

SHOUT OUT: To Nancy Gregory and the staff at The Dawes Arboretum for all of their hard work researching activities, purchasing supplies, packing the kits, and loading them!



The staff at the Dawes Arboretum and part of our 244 summer science kits!



Care Closets

In rural areas of southeastern Ohio there is a desperate need for hygiene items, clothing, and shoes for our students and families. Using McKinney-Vento, ARP-HCY I, and Family and Community grant funds, we have purchased clothing and hygiene products to be distributed to schools to help set up Care Closets. ARP-HCY I funds were also used to purchase clothing racks and other storage items for the Fort Frye Cadet Closet. Tonya Buchanan worked closely with the staff at the Swiss Ohio Career Center and other schools in the district to locate and deliver needed items. Jenny Maze assisted districts in the Washington County area.

SHOUT OUT!!! To our community partners, Harvest House in Cambridge, Harp Mission in Caldwell, and Belpre Area Ministries have been tremendous contributors to the items we can provide at no cost.

Open House

MIKE SEEBAUGH, BELPRE MCKINNEY-VENTO LIAISON

On May 16, the Family Support Team held an Open House at our Marietta office and invited all of the district McKinney-Vento liaisons to attend our final meeting of the year and then to go "shopping." School supplies, extra science kits, hygiene items, shoes, clothing, laundry detergent and more were organized and ready for them to take back to their districts. The few items that remained, were donated back to the Belpre Area Ministries.



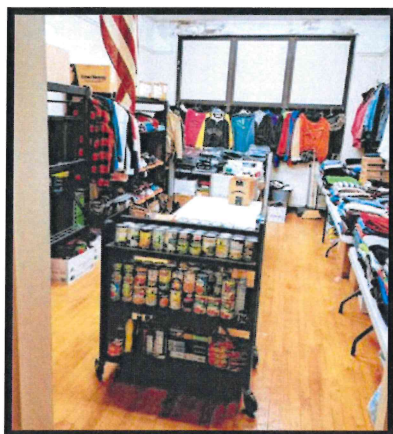
Jenny Maze at Belpre Area Ministries.



SHOUT OUT!!! To Tonya Buchanan, Wanda Hockenberry, Jessica Dean, Arianna Dean, Ariston Dean, Axton Dean, and Dave Hire who donated time and energy to unload science kits from the van and load it again with everything going to the open house!

The Eagle "Clawset"

MICHAEL W. SEEBAUGH, M.A. ED., LSW AND SAMANTHA KNUCHEL, MSW, LSW



During the 2023-2024 school year, the Eagle "Clawset" became a staple of daily life for many of our students! From emergency food supplies for a family who were burned out of their apartment, to gifts of non-perishable food supplies delivered to families who found they had "too much month for the money", to daily needs for sanitary, hygiene, school supplies and clothing, the Eagle Clawset stood tall!

A project like this requires the generosity of a community of folks who are aware of the need and are willing to do something about it. Belpre is very fortunate to have access to "BAM" (Belpre Area Ministries), the Rockland Church, Belpre Women's Club, the Ohio Valley Educational Service Center, and all the other organizations and kind-hearted individuals who are not too busy to inquire, organize, donate, and even deliver!

We, the staff and students of Belpre City Schools are very grateful for the kindness and compassion shown throughout the school year by everyone who contributed. This year was certainly unique, in that the key to the Eagle Clawset traveled through the hallways and up and down the steps of the Lawton Building on a near-continual basis!

The Eagle "Clawset" (Continued)

We are thankful for the efforts of Penny Boggs, Stephanie Collinsworth, and Jenny Maze of the OVESC for meetings, newsletters, information and advice to support our efforts throughout the year. They facilitated the Kids Read Now program, delivered the Dawes Science Kits, and maintained a consistent exchange relationship with Belpre Area Ministries in support of our students. Thank you Penny and crew!

We must also acknowledge the assistance provided by the StuCo (Student Council), who held food and toy drives this year through the RAC (Random Acts of Kindness) subcommittee. Your efforts led to major donations to the area's largest homeless shelter!

Finally, thank you to our administration team, especially the building administrators, staff, and teachers at BHS and BES who work so hard every day to keep us apprised of the ever-changing needs of our students' families. Thank you for your compassion, awareness, and support!

As you can see, providing for the short-term emergency needs for a school community requires the team effort of a whole lot of folks! Thankfully, Belpre is blessed with many of just those kinds of people!

Special Purchases

Because ARP- HCY I funds had more flexibility in the allowable uses, we were able to purchase washer/dryer sets for Powhatan Elementary and Skyvue Elementary in the Switzerland of Ohio district. Students identified as eligible for homeless services often come to school in unwashed clothing, so school staff are able to give them something from the Cares Closet to wear during the day while their clothing is being laundered. What a difference clean clothes can make to a good learning day!

The OVESC's Opportunity School provides not only academic support, but also behavioral and life skills supports. Students at the school may come from a poor environment with limited resources and little or no parental involvement. Because there are students represented in several of the groups designated under the grant, Jennifer Maze, Family and Community Engagement Liaison, spent time working with students, particularly those identified as homeless. In addition, using ARP-HCY I funds, we were able to purchase kitchen supplies to allow the students to practice math, learn about nutrition, and practice life skills including meal planning and preparation.

Rent Smart



Jenny Maze preparing to present at the OVESC conference.

Rent Smart is a 6 module educational course developed by the University of Wisconsin Extension office, with an intended audience of potential renters, especially those with no/poor rental history and/or no/poor credit history. The modules focus on budgeting and credit, how to find appropriate and affordable housing, developing a relationship with the landlord, legal documents and much more. Jenny Maze and Penny Boggs are trained Rent Smart facilitators, and presented the program at the OVESC Common PD Day, Warren Local High School, and the Ohio Educational Service Centers Association conference this year. While community participation hasn't been what we anticipated, we are hoping the program will be integrated into Financial Literacy courses in high schools and career centers.

In Recognition of Our District McKinney-Vento Liaisons

All of the local McKinney-Vento liaisons wear multiple hats and still do a fantastic job providing services to students identified as homeless and working with the OVESC staff. Thank you for all you do!

Belpre City: Mike Seebaugh

Crooksville Exempted Village: Caitlin Sjostrand-Barrett

Fort Frye Local: Erin Lockhart

Frontier Local: Beth Brown

Morgan Local: Anita Eldridge-Metz

Switzerland of Ohio Local: Curtis Wisvari

Warren Local: Ann Sufca

Wolf Creek: Doug Baldwin

MidEast CTC: Jeremy Beardmore

WCCC: Ben Schenkel

A Special Thank You...

Well deserved thank you's to Tonya Buchanan, OVESC Parent Mentor and Family and Community Engagement Liaison, and Jennifer Maze, Family and Community Engagement Liaison, for all of their hard work serving students identified as homeless in the OVESC service area. Everything that they did, from researching costs and preparing requisitions, to picking up and delivering to schools, to working with the Kids Read Now program, to working with community partners, and most importantly to establishing relationships with school staff, students and families was valuable and didn't go unnoticed. Project Lift wouldn't have been possible without their efforts!



**Here's to
those who
inspire and
don't even
know it.**