



school on wheels inc.
Tutoring Homeless Children Since 1993

“Let us not be content to wait and see what will happen, but give us the determination to make the right things happen.” Horace Mann (US educator, first American advocate of public education (1796-1859))

Dear Friends,

School on Wheels recognizes the economic struggle of our times as each day we witness a growing number of homeless children and teens. We continue to value you who consistently help in small and large ways, creative ways and traditional ways. We continue to take pride in the fact that, in a world of divisions, our donors and volunteers have left their differences at the door of School on Wheels and have come together to help a child, to help a teen who bravely struggles just to go to school and learn.

Thank you for leading the way in doing the right thing for the most vulnerable children in our country: the homeless children and teens. This includes a dramatic increase of homeless children, kindergarten through 12th grade, living in shelters, motels, cars and on the streets, as well as our homeless children in foster residential homes

School on Wheels recognizes the concerns of the rest of the country as to their own future and maintaining their way of life. So out of respect for the times, I am reaching out to everyone to help us meet our 2009 challenge to recruit 5,000 new donors to join with you and follow your lead.

I am asking for help in finding 5,000 new donors who can contribute \$100 during the year 2009. If you are not able to contribute \$100, maybe you can find a way to raise \$100 to help our educational work with our students. The challenge seems huge, but that has never stopped the hugeness of the heart of any one connected with School on Wheels. You have never forgotten the value of education which you give to children for a lifetime.

I am so proud to have each of you as a partner in our work. As we do this together, we need to reach out to new people so the burden is lighter on all during these times.

Warm regards,

Founder & Executive Director

Our Mission

The enhancement of educational opportunities for homeless children, from kindergarten through the twelfth grade.

Our goal is to shrink the gaps in the education of these children and provide them with the highest education possible.

Wish List

- Gift Cards (Target/Visa/Amex)
- Backpacks
- Three-ring binders (1-2 inch)
- Laptop or desktop computers
- School supplies
- Scientific calculators



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Achievements and Aspirations

It is easy to get discouraged as we look at alarming increases in the number of homeless families and children. [The National Center on Family Homelessness' new report](#), America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness, documents that 1 in 50 children in America are homeless each year. The report, based on data from 2005-2006, estimates that 1.5 million children experienced homelessness at least once that year. In California, over 290,000 children have no roof over their heads at least part of each year. California has more homeless children than any state other than Texas, and it offers fewer helping hands to homeless children than most states, the report says.

In 2009, the situation will surely get worse as the economic recession continues to produce millions of foreclosures and job losses. As we look ahead at a very challenging year, we also want to reflect on what we accomplished in 2008 at School on Wheels.

2008 Achievements

- ✓ In 2008, we served 5,122 homeless students by providing them with their own volunteer tutor, backpacks filled with school supplies, assistance in enrolling in school, bus tokens to get to school and uniforms to stay in school.
- ✓ We had the privilege of 1,015 volunteers who come from all backgrounds and professions with one agenda only: to reach out to a child, to teach, to mentor, and assist in their educational life. In total, our amazing volunteers donated about 70,000 hours in support of homeless children.
- ✓ We raised \$886,403 from our most generous donors. 88% of your donations went to our program, with 4% to fundraising and 8% to general services. We are constantly in awe of the generosity of spirit and love and giving we see every day.
- ✓ We opened a new Learning Center in South Los Angeles, an area second only to Skid Row in its concentration of homeless children in Los Angeles. Having a learning center has helped us reach more children in the area. It allows our students to access homework help when they need it, use computers when they want, find books to read and people to read them with.
- ✓ Our Founder and fearless leader, Agnes Stevens, received an amazing honor. She was one of three laureates nominated throughout the world for the Children's "Nobel Prize" by the World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child. 17 million students at 37,000 schools in 92 countries participated in this process. She received this honor from HM Queen Silvia of Sweden at Gripsholm Castle in Sweden. Two of our homeless children accompanied Agnes to Sweden and had the opportunity to meet and experience children from around the world.

2009 Aspirations

Our 2009 aspirations are simple: we must help more homeless children go to school, stay in school and achieve in school. We will do this by serving 6,000 homeless students, raising \$1 million dollars in funding, recruiting and retaining 1,700 volunteers and providing scholarships to our students. These are ambitious goals. We will not be discouraged. We believe we will achieve them because of people like you - our donors, our volunteers, our team. These statistics are important ways of measuring our achievements. But they are just that - statistics. Just as important is the message we bring to homeless children: they are visible, they are cared about and their education is critically important.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our dedicated team and the thousands of homeless children you have helped, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Catherine Meek
President of the Board



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You can contact us by phone or [email](#) using the information above.

Thank you for your assistance.

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Our Friends



Thank you to all our donors and supporters

for providing the resources that enable School on Wheels to be one of the only organizations working directly with homeless students. If you or your organization contributed to the success of School on Wheels in 2008 your name has been added to our website under the heading, [Our Friends](#).

Thank you to all our tenured volunteers. Our 2008 volunteer list has been updated on our website, under [About Us](#). Check out the 100's of people who are the heart and soul of our organization. We are so honored to have the opportunity to work with you and it is a pleasure to see the students light up when they are with you. A special mention to the following volunteers who have been with School on Wheels for over 6 years— **Andrew Bergman, Patricia Berman, Jerry Buchanan, Valerie Cavanaugh, Robin Cusato, Jack Davis, Andrew Esbenshade, Alison Freebairn-Smith, Theron James, Dwight Liu, Blue Mc Donnell, Catherine Meek, Lynn Schwartz, Lancer Shull and Matthew Solari.**

In order to meet our goals for 2009 we need donations, supplies and volunteer tutors. Please continue to be a friend of School on Wheels. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support. Keep telling your friends and family about School on Wheels, talk to them about the wonderful work you do and how you are helping our students in the most difficult of times.

