









Homeless Children's Playtime Project

Annual Report 2011

Dear Friend of Children,

I became a parent this year, and suddenly our work took on a whole new meaning for me. The first months and years of a child's life clearly lay the foundation, but it's clear to me that every age group has developmental tasks that deserve equal attention.

While homelessness affects children of all ages differently, older children often bear the deepest scars from their family's journey through this struggle. In this 2011 Annual Report insert, you will learn more about our Teen Program and meet a remarkable sixth grader who describes her experience being teased at school and finding refuge through Teen Night. Our Teen Program flourished this year under the guidance of dedicated staff and volunteers who helped create a safe space for the youth to make connections with each other and the world around them. Young people flocked to Playtime's field trips, Teen Nights, and Tutoring Nights, creating a community of support they could return to after battling the storm of homelessness each day.

In the last five years, family homelessness increased 23% regionally and 74% in the District. We served a record 868 children in our five sites last year, with plans for expansion as HCPP goes deeper:

- Going further into the communities our families come from, we brought our programs to two additional sites in the high-need Ward 8 section of DC in the summer of 2012, Griffin House and Valley Place
- By developing our first-ever Playtime curriculum, we are giving our volunteers tools to create fun ways to learn through play, thereby deepening our impact on learning and child development in each Playtime
- To further increase the quality of service we are able to provide, we hired three Site Manager Fellows to implement our curriculum, supervise each Playtime, increase referrals to services in the community, and manage our programs on site

This growth would not have happened without the unwavering support of our incredible and diverse individual donors, foundation partners, and corporate sponsors. As we prepare to welcome more children and families in the year ahead, and to serve them in more meaningful and impactful ways, we thank you and our volunteers who make Playtime happen more than 500 times each year.



Jamila Larson

Jamila Larson, LICSW Executive Director, Co-founder Homeless Children's Playtime Project

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NEW IN 2011

Patrice, 13 years old

"I'm supposed to be moving soon, I am happy and my mom is too. But I have to say that I will miss teen night a lot...In the liftle time I was here, I have enjoyed it very much. I hope I will have time to say my goodbyes to everyone, but if I don't, "Gloodbye". I hope everyone will miss me too ... I don't know what else to say but thank you."

Isaac, 12 years old

"I like how the adults teach me things I don't know, and I don't like leaving Teen Night because it's fun."

Teen Program and Field Trips!

For the first time this year, we received funding for our Teen Program and Field Trip Programs. What does that mean? It means that 17-yearold Chris can get twice weekly tutoring in calculus to maintain the GPA required for him to retain his full college scholarship. It means 13-year-old Patrice can escape the stigma of homelessness and enjoy a visit to the White House and fancy dinner for the first time in her life. And it means 18-year-old Steven, who dropped out of school, can receive the support and referrals he needs to go back and earn his high school diploma.

Playtime's Teen Program: In response to requests from teens to provide a program specially designed for their needs, Playtime created our pilot Teen Outreach Program in September 2011. Thanks to support from the Herb Block Foundation and the Washington Area Women's Foundation Rainmaker's Giving Circle, as well as our outstanding Teen Program Volunteers and individual donors, the teens at DC General finally have a safe space to call their own! **Teen Program Goals:** Teen Nights seek to provide a welcoming, nurturing, consistent environment each Wednesday night for youth living in the DC General Emergency Family Shelter. The program provides a place where teens can experience consistent relationships with caring adults, the support of other youth, and the positive experiences that help inform future choices.

22 Teens Served in 2011: In addition to Teen Night and monthly field trips, our 2011 pilot was so well received by teens, that in 2012 we expanded to two nights each week to provide homework assistance and tutoring. In 2012, teens are continuing to go on monthly field trips and have a place to meet caring role models, make new friends, get connected to resources in the community and work toward their goals.

100% of teens surveyed say they feel safe, secure, respected, happy, and less stressed as a result of participation in the Playtime Project Teen Program

2011 FIELD TRIPS



Children need opportunities to get out of the shelter and explore their city. The Playtime Project's field trip program organizes group outings every month for teens and every other month for elementary-age children at each of our sites! The trips we took in 2011 include:

- "Slumber Party" at DC General
- NBA Wizards game
- National Zoo
- Children's Defense Fund's Beat the Odds Awards dinner
- Tour of the US Capitol
- International Spy Museum

Thank you to our many generous supporters of the field trip program!

Playtime **Project**

PLAYTIME PROJECT SITES

DC General Emergency Family Shelter (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.)

DC General Teen Program (Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.) **SOME Griffin House** (Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.)

Salvation Army Turning Point Center (Mondays and Thursdays 6:15/45-8:30 p.m.) Valley Place Family Transitional Program (Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.)

New Beginning at Park Road (Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.)

DASH Cornerstone (Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.)

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HCPP SITE MANAGER FELLOWS 2012–2013

Alexis Herman (Park Road and Turning Point) **Danielle Rothman** (DC General) **Selam Kidane** (DASH, Valley Place and Griffin House)

HCPP SITE COORDINATORS 2011–2012

DC General Thursdays Ashley Wiegner Heather Provencher Kathleen Fawcett

DC General Tuesdays Francisco Lopez Grace Lynch Genevieve Fugere Robin Ngo DASH Cornerstone Thursdays Lauren Waterhouse Thalia Bishop

NCFN Mondays Katie Bergfeld Robin Ngo Ari Isaacman NCFN Wednesdays Ashley Carter Kathleen Fawcett Jenna Hubbard

Park Road Wednesdays Haley Adams Stefanie Sprow

Turning Point Mondays

Theo Biney-Amissah Heather Casciato Mary Crom

Turning Point Thursdays Darin Bayley Frances Patton Megan Fletcher Laura Rothenberg IN 2011









KEEP HANDS AND FEET To YOURSELF LISTEN! BE NICE A) CLEAN UP

Playtime Project Makes an Impact

The Playtime Project Served







volunteers were trained and made a commitment to Playtime

Playtime Assembled and Distributed Birthday Gifts, Move-In Packs, Move-Out Bags, Clothing, New Baby Welcome Kits, Including:



65 backpacks 165 spring break backpacks with school supplies, athletic equipment, books, and toys inside

500

gifts, halloween costumes

More than 500 individualized, wrapped, and labeled gifts for the holidays, and 500 Halloween costumes

Client Satisfaction

90% of parents surveyed report that their children are less stressed after Playtime

98% of parents report that their children are happy in Playtime, are treated warmly and affectionately by the volunteers, and learn new skills that help in school and life

Resource Referrals

76 parents received referrals from our social work interns to services like housing, employment, child care, clothing, computers, adult education, transportation, school uniforms, vital records, summer camps, food, and furniture

96% of parents report feeling happier, calmer, and less stressed after Playtime gives them a 2 to 4 hour break each week

97% of parents say their children feel safe and secure in Playtime



Revenue and Financials



"Tyanna" (6th Grade)

Being homeless is a big challenge to me because my family and I do not have any money for us to get on the bus or to get a house. Another reason being homeless is a big challenge is because we have been moving all over the place. For example, my family and I have lived with other people like my aunt and her seven children, my other aunt and her four kids, and my grandmother. Living with other people sometimes made me feel sad because when we lived with other people we had to sleep on the floor. Now we live in a shelter and it took us 10 years to live in a shelter because we have been living with other people. The name of the shelter is called DC General.

DC General is one of the largest shelters in DC. It has five floors and a lot of people. Almost all the rooms are filled. My family lives in one room, my mother, baby sister who is almost two years old, my brother, younger sister and me. It is frustrating living in one room because my brother and my sister are throwing trash by my bed and my mom makes me clean it up. There is no privacy! In DC General we have an activity room and [Playtime has] lots of different activities for us. On Mondays they have tutoring night, on Tuesdays and Thursdays they have Playtime and on Wednesdays they have Teen Night.

Being homeless for me and my family has been a really big struggle. When my brothers and sisters and I come home late we are not able to eat dinner. We have to eat Bowl of Noodles and other instant ramen noodles for dinner. This makes me feel sad because every time we are late we always have to eat noodles and it never fills us up.

When we are at school, people just come up to me and say, "Tyanna, you live in a shelter!" and then I have to respond, "No, and who told you that?" and I have to deal with all the rumors that float around school which is very inappropriate and hard on me and my family. It makes me feel bad because now the whole school knows. It is really embarrassing. They make fun of us real bad. One thing I need is a prayer. We need your support by praying that my mom get a house and she get a job.

Thanking **Our Supporters**

The Playtime Project is grateful for the support of the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations whose generous contributions make our work and play possible. This list reflects all gifts received in 2011.

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"This is something good in our community, that you can put your hands on and be a part of it and you can positively affect children and their families."



-Tosin Ogunyoku, Playtime social work intern

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> "I like the fact that I can have 'me' time and my children learn. Me and my children love Playtime."

> > -Playtime Parent



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THE CATALOGUE FOR PHILANTHROPY: Greater Washington is pleased to recognize the Homeless Children's Playtime Project as "One of the best small charities in the Washington Region" for 2011–2012





"I don't like Playtime, I LOVE it!"

-Kenia, age 9

"Luisa, who used to have a hard time coming to Playtime and would cry, now loves it. Last night as we were walking out she kept saying "GIOODNIGIHT VOLUNTEERS!"

-Playtime Volunteer

"My son was surrounded by the most wonderful people at Playtime. They were nurturing, loving, understanding, and definitely patient. The Playtime Project makes kids feel normal."

The Homeless Children's Playtime Project Homeless Children's Playtime Project 1525 Newton Street NW, Washington, DC 20010 phone: (202) 329-4481 fax: (202) 332-3339 www.playtimeproject.org – Playtime Parent