# **The Hope Chest Virginia**

# A quarterly newsletter from Project-HOPE VA

# November 2022

# **Upcoming Training Events**

* November 9 @ 1 pm; Dec. 13 @ 10 am or Dec. 14 @ 1pm (repeat):
Charlie Check-Ins for M-V Liaisons, to contact us for the registration link, click here: [link](https://education.wm.edu/centers/hope/contactus/index.php).
* November 29 @ 1-3 pm: Annual Regional McKinney-Vento Training (virtual)
Register by clicking here: link**.**
* March 6 - 8, 2023: Save the Date! Project HOPE-VA State Conference, Staunton, VA

For more information on upcoming training and professional development opportunities, click [**here**](https://education.wm.edu/centers/hope/professionaldev/index.php).

# **Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week**

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week is November 12-20, 2022. Spread awareness in your area by holding educational, service, fundraising, and advocacy events. Click the following link for more information and suggested events: [Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (hhweek.org)](https://hhweek.org/)

# **ARP-HCY Activities**

## Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

ARP-HCY funds provide a historic opportunity to create new activities that support the identification, enrollment and success of students experiencing homelessness in your LEA. Below are some ideas for ways to help your students and families get the support they need.

**Transportation** - Hire part time transportation coordinator to allow for more time to focus on other responsibilities in supporting McKinney-Vento students. Click [**here**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GZMLp3_5eUWIm1NVlDoAJnh4CZSu8VHUGSATofXTP0E/edit) for more transportation ideas.
**Family Engagement** - Host family fun nights for McKinney-Vento Families in order to build family-school connection.
**Student Achievement** -Begin planning for summer enrichment programs, including transportation; seek out private programs as needed.

For more ideas on innovative ways to plan ARP-HCY activities in your LEA, click [**here**](https://schoolhouseconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Using-ARP-HCY-Funds-to-Meet-Students-Needs.pdf).

# **Underserved Populations**

This is a spotlight on LBGTQ+ youth.

**LGBTQ+ youth are 2.18 times more likely to experience homelessness compared to heterosexual high school students\*.**

**Transgender students are 9.22 times more likely to experience homelessness**
**than non-transgender students\*.**

To gain a better understanding of the unique vulnerabilities that LGBTQ+ youth are facing and how you can better support them through the work that you do, check out this link:
[10 Ways School Staff Can Support LGBTQ Youth Experiencing Homelessness](https://www.glsen.org/blog/10-ways-school-staff-can-support-lgbtq-youth-experiencing-homelessness).

\*\*https://schoolhouseconnection.org

# Hope Hero: Michelle Patton Swisher

Social Worker and McKinney-Vento Liaison, Michelle Patton Swisher recently sat down with us to talk about “Rock Out, Knock Out Homelessness,” an outreach and fundraising event she has been organizing in Spotsylvania for over 10 years. Click below to watch our interview with Michelle. You can also click here to see some of Michelle’s event outreach materials: [link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17mZLwuuG_XnHViqHBv7eNaD-ctWXhiFB?usp=sharing). Here is a link to a video of our interview: [video link](https://youtu.be/BmhCppl4AxE).

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Project HOPE-Virginia is Virginia’s Program for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. The College of William and Mary administers the program for the Virginia Department of Education. Funding is authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act (P.L. 107- 110). The purpose of Project HOPE-Virginia is to ensure the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school.