



## INFORMATION FOR YOUTH

- **Have you run away from home because of an unsafe environment?**
- **Are you couch surfing at different friends' houses because of problems at home?**
- **Are you alone in a shelter and have nowhere else to go ?**

**If so, the PCPS HEARTH Project is here to help. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children and unaccompanied youth in housing transition have certain rights that allow you to keep attending school and have the same access to school activities as housed students.**

### **The McKinney-Vento Act covers students**

#### **living under these conditions:**

- Doubled up with friends or relatives because they cannot find or afford housing
- Motel, vehicle or campground due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- In a shelter
- In an abandoned building, inadequate trailer or similar accommodations
- On the street

#### **Under this act, you have the right to:**

- Go to school
- Attend either the local zoned school in your current location or the school of origin (the school you went to before losing housing)
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin (only if you live over 2 miles from the school)
- Enroll in school immediately, even if your parents aren't present to enroll you and if you don't have the required documents (birth certificate, immunization forms, etc.)
- Attend classes and participate in school activities just like any other student
- Have access to educational services and free meals

### **Call or e-mail us for help!**

We can help you enroll in school or continue attending your old school. In addition, we also provide:

- Backpacks, school supplies, hygiene products and clothing
- Funding for school related fees and expenses such as required uniforms, field trips and specific class required items
- Bus or gas vouchers to obtain enrollment documents and support attendance in the school of while transportation route is being arranged.
- Referrals to appropriate community agencies to meet basic needs
- Assistance with college financial aid verification letters.
- Assistance applying for Food Stamps and Medicaid benefits.

**Hearth School Social Worker: Nakita W. Scott**

**Phone: 863-534-0202**

**Email: [nakita.scott@polk-fl.net](mailto:nakita.scott@polk-fl.net)**