

Thursday, April 28, 2011

Homeless students

Chris Kenning's installment in the "Schools on the Brink" series brought to light an issue that we address each and every day at Volunteers of America's Family Emergency Shelter.

More than 150 homeless children enter our doors every year. They can't focus on school when they don't know where they're sleeping at night and don't have enough to eat. While they are in our care, we address these critical needs in addition to providing the resources that help families find secure safe, affordable housing and life skills to become self-sufficient. The children in these families, as a result, are better equipped when they enter the classroom.

Recently, we served a young man who was struggling both academically and socially. Thanks to one of our case managers, he received a comprehensive assessment, and our staff worked with his mother and teachers to get him the additional academic help he needed. Today, he is in the Advanced Placement program at his middle school and dreams of one day becoming a pediatrician.

We believe that the high-quality, comprehensive services provided by Volunteers of America played a role in his success, and we strive to support Jefferson County Public Schools' efforts to help all homeless kids succeed.

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