



THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

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Pittsburgh PHA Offers Job Training through Neighborhood Networks Center, Partnerships



With the national unemployment rate remaining at just under ten percent, getting a job continues to be a struggle for many people across the country. Fortunately for public housing tenants of Pittsburgh's Bedford Dwellings, resources for finding employment are now closer to home. Since January of this year, job training and application services have been available for residents through the Bedford HOPE VI Neighborhood Networks Center.

The Bedford HOPE VI Neighborhood Networks Center has a 15-computer adult technology lab and a six-computer youth technology lab. Both labs are open each weekday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offer a variety of computer skills classes. The center

also partners with local organizations to provide job training services to residents. According to technology coordinator, Byron Wright, the partnership with the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) is one of the center's most successful.

"We partner with CCAC to offer three training programs," said Wright. "One program prepares residents to pursue green jobs. The green movement is generating a variety of jobs, such as installing energy-efficient equipment and solar panels. We wanted to provide training that allows residents to take advantage of these employment opportunities that are more plentiful."

The center also works with its residents to prepare and apply for CCAC's weatherization program. "[This] program teaches individuals how to make homes more energy efficient," said Wright. To make sure the residents succeed in the program, the center helps residents refresh their math skills or get their GED.

Lastly, the center offers a program under the partnership which trains the Bedford residents to become home health aides. Residents can learn about providing care and helping people with daily activities through a 40-hour course, conducted at the center.

"Whether a resident comes to the center and masters how to use e-mail or comes and takes one of our training programs and lands a job, every resident who comes through our doors is a success," said Wright. "Just coming into the center shows a level of motivation and initiative, and when you have those, you can achieve anything."

More information on the Bedford HOPE VI Neighborhood Networks Center and the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh can be found at: <http://www.hacp.org>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- » **NAHRO 2011 National Conference & Exhibition**
October 23-25, 2011
St. Louis, MO
<http://bit.ly/rgrDqn>

NGO's Nationwide Program Helps Kids Get School Supplies

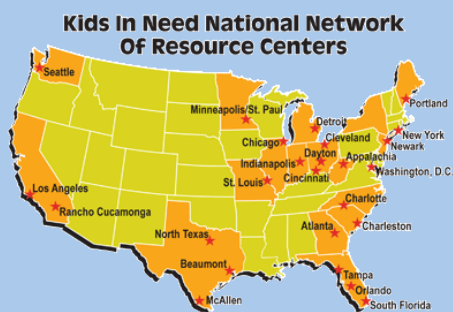


As the school year begins, some children may already be having a hard time in school because they do not have the school supplies they need. The Kids in Need Foundation works to make sure that every child is ready to learn by providing free school supplies through a national network of resource centers.

The Kids in Need National Network includes 25 Resource Centers that have assisted more than 1.6 million children and 100,000 teachers. Teachers from pre-qualified schools may shop for school supplies for free at the Resource Centers. To be prequalified, the schools must have at least 70% of their student body enrolled in the federal free and reduced lunch program. The Centers reliably offer basic school supplies such as pencils, paper, crayons, and glue sticks. However, selection depends on what has been donated at the time. The centers may also offer educational toys and crafts, children's books and art supplies.

For schools and children not located near the Resource Centers, the foundation began the School Box program. This program provides completely assembled school supply kits to elementary and middle school children who would otherwise have to do without the basic tools for learning. School Box supply kits are available in three sets designed to meet the general needs of students in kindergarten through eighth grade. As an added bonus, the kit also serves as a storage box for the students' supplies and work during the school year. Information on the Kids in Need Foundation programs can be found at:

<http://www.kinf.org>



Kids in Need National Network
Of Resource Centers

TIPS

Protect Your Children from Tip-Over Hazards

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is asking parents and care-givers of children to take a few minutes to check and secure TVs, furniture and appliances to stop needless and preventable injuries to their children.

According to the CPSC, more than 18,000 children under 6 years old have been treated in emergency rooms due to Injuries caused by TVs, furniture and appliances tipping-over. Nearly 200 tip-over related deaths involving children eight years old and younger were reported to CPSC staff between 2000 and 2008.

These injuries and deaths are caused by children climbing onto or pulling themselves up on TV stands, bookcases, shelving units, dressers, chests and appliances. TVs placed on top of furniture can cause stable furniture to become top-heavy and a tip-over hazard. Below are a few safety tips from the CPSC that will help prevent tip-over hazards:

- Make sure furniture is stable when standing on its own. For added stability and security; anchor chests, dressers, TV stands, bookcases and entertainment units to the floor or attach them to a wall.
- Place TVs on a sturdy, low-rise base. Avoid flimsy shelves.
- Push the TV as far back on its stand as possible.
- Place electrical cords out of a child's reach and teach kids not to play with them.
- Keep remote controls and other attractive items off then TV stand so kids won't be tempted to grab for them and risk knocking the TV over.
- Make sure free-standing ranges and stoves are installed with anti-tip brackets.

"Large TVs and unstable furniture can be a deadly combination. Taking simple, low-cost steps to secure furniture and TVs can save lives," said CPSC Chairman Inez Tenenbaum. "Parents need to know about his hidden danger and take action now."

Residents can prevent disaster by taking a few minutes to inspect the TVs, furniture and appliances that are reachable to children and anchoring or attaching them to the floor or walls. CPSC has created a video on the subject that can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/rgoldR> and an informative poster is available at: <http://1.usa.gov/nrVlne>.

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HELP CORNER

Back to School Safety Checklist

Now that your children are spending most of their time at school, protecting them from hidden hazards is as important as ever. The school's playground equipment must be inspected, maintained and have shock absorbing material on the ground under the equipment. The school's soccer goals must be securely anchored during use. Avoid choking hazards by making sure there are no drawstrings at the hood or neck of your child's outerwear. If your child rides a bike or scooter to and from school, make sure they wear a properly fitting helmet every time they ride. Avoid all recalled products by checking your school purchases on the CPSC website at www.cpsc.gov.