

# GASD Social Work Corner

February 2022



The GASD social work department has been active reaching out to students, families, and staff this year. We have served over 118 families throughout the district in our everyday work and continue to develop relationships and collaborate with community partners. A snapshot of what we have accomplished to date:

-Supported student and families with attendance concerns and barriers of need.

- 79 home visits to families

-106 individual counseling sessions with students

-Over 230 student contacts

-Ran 8-week anxiety/coping skills groups at the HS and MS

-Provided intervention and post intervention crisis support

-More than 300 consults with administrators and staff

-Worked with Ruth's Harvest to provide healthy snacks to students in school and boxes of food to families

-Over 250 parent contacts

-Collaboration with community resources such as SCCAP, First 10, Collaboration for Youth, Healthy Adams County, law enforcement, CARES, Effective School Solutions, YWCA, and Children and Youth Services, Salvation Army, and other community providers

-Writing for grant funds to support our students who are experiencing homelessness

-Collected, sorted through and provided coats, clothing, shoes, etc.

-Scheduled time at our local homeless shelters and hotels/motels to be available for families/students

## *Warrior Winter Wishes Program 2021*

The District's Warrior Winter Wishes program, which provides meals and holiday gifts to students and families in need within the district, had its most successful year yet! We are pleased to report that...

- 156 generous donors participated in the program
- 150 holiday meals were provided to families in need
- 380 children were provided with holiday gifts

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this year's program!

# McKinney-Vento Act; What is it and how do we know if a family/student qualifies?

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was created to aid homeless persons. It defines the term "homeless children and youth" as individuals who lack **fixed, regular, and adequate** nighttime residence.

This Basic Education Circular (BEC) explains the categories of children who are "homeless" and entitled to the protections of the federal law. These categories include:

- 1) "Doubled up": children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
  - a) Children/youth who are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals
- 2) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings such as a park, tent, or storage locker, etc.
- 3) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- 4) "migratory children" who qualify as homeless under federal law because the children are living in circumstances described above. The term "migratory children" means children who are (or whose parent(s) or spouse(s) are) migratory agricultural workers and who have moved from one school district to another in the preceding 36 months, in order to obtain temporary or seasonal employment in agricultural or fishing work.
- 5) "Unaccompanied homeless youth" including any child who is "not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian." This includes youth who have run away from home, been thrown out of their home, been abandoned by parents or guardians, or separated from their parents for any other reason. There is not a set age for a child to be considered an unaccompanied youth meaning they could be 5-18 years old.

If you suspect a student may be homeless or have any questions please contact Jennifer Weigle.



## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- \* THE GOOD SAMARITAN MASONIC LODGE #336 FOR THEIR DONATION OF COATS AND CLOTHING
- \* ANONYMOUS DONORS OF GIFT CARDS AND MONETARY DONATIONS
- \* GASD COMMUNITY FOR WINTER COATS AND WARM CLOTHING FOR STUDENTS

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