

The 2009 Annual McKinney-Vento Workshops

Workshops in Albany

March 27, 2009

MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Aruna Sukhu

Children are the "unseen" faces of homelessness in the United States. It is estimated that there are up to 1.4 to 2.8 million runaway and homeless youth each year. Unfortunately, due to the economic crisis, this estimate is only getting bigger.

Aruna Sukhu will speak about some of the harsh realities of being homeless and the difficulties a child faces when she isn't able to live in a stable home. Aruna and her two brothers were forced to leave their home in 2004 after a domestic violence dispute between her mother and her brothers' father. Transitioning into the shelter system was not easy for Aruna or her two young siblings, especially because their mother became abusive. Aruna struggled to obtain an education in the midst of poverty, homelessness, social isolation, and alienation. To the amazement of all, save maybe herself, Aruna graduated at the top of her high school class. In 2006, in recognition of her academic accomplishments, the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth awarded Aruna a college scholarship. Currently, she is working on her Bachelors Degree in Comparative Literature from Queens College of CUNY.

Aruna will share her experience as a homeless youth and her perspective on how the educational and social service systems can be more responsive to the needs of homeless youth. Additionally, Aruna will discuss the key role that education must play in combating the ravenous cycles of poverty and homelessness.

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

Lindsay Case ("Legal Help for Low-Income New Yorkers with "LawHelp.org/NY")
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Michelle Cooper ("No Direction Home: Transportation Challenges and Solutions for Serving Students in Temporary Housing")
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Sherri Demers (“No Direction Home: Transportation Challenges and Solutions for Serving Students in Temporary Housing”)
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Barbara Duffield (Head Start Reauthorization: Improving Access to Head Start for Young Children in Temporary Housing)
Policy Director, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
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Andre Eaton (“Serving the Youngest Homeless with the Parent-Child Home Program”)
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Michelle Frank (“McKinney-Vento: Introduction to the Educational Rights of Students in Temporary Housing”)
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Dawn Howk (“No Direction Home: Transportation Challenges and Solutions for Serving Students in Temporary Housing”)
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Carolyn Jarvis (“Head Start Reauthorization: Improving Access to Head Start for Young Children in Temporary Housing”)
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Jeanne Kennedy (The Southern Westchester BOCES Homeless Student Program – Building Effective Partnerships)
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Tom Kroll (“McKinney-Vento and FERPA: The Intersection between Records, Privacy, and Seamless School Services,” and “McKinney-Vento and Establishing Credibility with Schools and Communities”)
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Patricia McGuirk (“McKinney-Vento: Questions and Answers for the Experienced”)
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David Pace (“McKinney-Vento and Establishing Credibility with Schools and Communities”)
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