

HIGH IMPACT TUTORING

Flash cards, puzzles, workbooks, games, paper and pencil exercises are all part of every tutor's tool kit. The most important tool for tutoring children that are homeless is the ability to immediately connect in a positive way and let them know that you care about them very much. A smile, a hug, a friendly voice and lots of patience go a long way in making children who have not had a lot of adult support, accept the help being offered so they can succeed at school and in life.

At the Homeless Family Center there is a great need for tutors of both children and adults. Genevieve Intocoiso, a former elementary school teacher, works with two children once a week to help them in reading and math. They are under performing and on the edge of not getting promoted to the next class level. Genevieve works with them for about two hours, in the cramped office of the Children's Program Director. All the other spaces are occupied for other children and adult classes and programs.

The specific tutoring is laid out by the Children's Program director who observes the children each day, sees their report cards and knows their strengths and development needs. Carol Narozanick, the Program Director develops the needed the curriculum and finds the volunteer tutor who can instruct and guide the children.

The volunteer tutor has to understand that the clients come and go at the center. When they start with a student there is no guarantee that he or she will be there next month or even next week. The parents are free to go at any time. Sometimes they leave because they have a housing or job opportunity. Other times they leave because they can't live within the rules of the Center. For a volunteer this is sometimes a tough reality to accept.

If you have a burning desire to be a tutor and make a difference in a child's or adult's life contact Jodi Simon the Administrative Assistant at 772-567-5537 she will walk you through the volunteer "sign up" process. Then Carol will match you to the right resident student.

The Homeless Family Center provides opportunities for homeless families to end homelessness by achieving self-sufficiency through education, living wages and permanent housing. For more information or a tour of the Homeless Family Center call 772-567-5537 or check out the HFC website at www.homelessfamilycenter.com so you can see the faces and read the stories of the people you will be helping.

