

The LeTendre Education Fund for Students Experiencing Homelessness

In high school, there was a cost for learning...A cost for every time I arrived to school forty-five minutes late; a cost for every time I did not arrive at school at all; a cost for every time I woke up in a strange bed; a cost for every time I did not go to bed; a cost for the tears, a cost for the worry; a cost for the cravings for normalcy, a cost for the depression, a cost for the secrecy; a cost for the living day-in day-out. A high-school career I have had: a college and future one I am bound to have as well.

- *LeTendre Scholarship Recipient, College Graduate*

The LeTendre Education Fund for Homeless Children was established in 1998 in memory of André E. LeTendre, husband of Mary Jean LeTendre, former Director of Compensatory Education for the U.S. Department of Education. Each year, the Fund awards scholarships to students who have experienced homelessness and who have demonstrated academic achievement. A national advisory board including local, state, and national educators reviews the applications and makes recommendations to the LeTendre family. To date, the Fund has awarded over 100 scholarships.



I was angry at the world. I did not care about nothing or no one. I just wanted to give up on life. I knew without a doubt that I would end up in prison. Deep within me I knew even through the hurt, pain and sense of desperation that I did not want to be another statistic. A Black man, on the streets, without an education, without hope, without a future. Very clearly, I knew the key for my getting out of "this" was going to be an education.

- *LeTendre Scholarship Recipient, College Student*

Children and youth in homeless situations face numerous barriers to educational success. Deep poverty, high mobility, and school requirements often make attending and succeeding in school a challenge. Despite these challenges, many students who experience homelessness not only graduate from high school, but wish to pursue a college education.

You never imagine that someone you know, eat lunch with, and talk to on a daily basis could live with such a stigma. You might never think of that girl sitting beside you in English class. She studies hard to make good grades, she is friendly, and she seems "clean" enough. In actuality, I was that girl.

- *LeTendre Scholarship Recipient, College Student*

**Scholarship Applications
are accepted through
September 12, 2008.**

The LeTendre Fund is administered by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. For more information or to download an application, please visit: http://www.naehcy.org/letendre_ab.html, or contact:

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