

# SCHOOL ON WHEELS



**Location:** Los Angeles, CA

**Issue Areas:** Universal Education

**Points of Interest:** Homelessness, Contact with Project, Volunteer Opportunities with Project

## The Organization

The mission of School on Wheels is to increase educational opportunities for homeless children kindergarten through grade 12. School on Wheels provides students with one-on-one weekly tutoring with a volunteer, school supplies, uniforms, assistance in entering school, and a toll-free number for kids to have constant contact with School on Wheels. Furthermore, the program offers parents guidance in their children's educational needs and assistance in locating vital lost records.

School on Wheels began in 1993 when Agnes Stevens, a retired teacher, read a book that changed her life. The book was about homeless families in the United States. Agnes was shocked to learn that hundreds of thousands of children were homeless and that many of them did not attend school. She began teaching homeless kids in a park in Santa Monica, California encouraging them to stay in school and keep up with their grades and school activities. Today hundreds of volunteers work one-on-one with children whose homelessness prevents them from getting the academic stability and help they so desperately need.

## Why the Need?

The numbers are shocking—1 in 9 homeless people in America live in Los Angeles County. There are currently 290,000 homeless children in California. Over 25,000 homeless children are enrolled in Los Angeles County Schools. Homeless mothers and children are now the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. The percentage of kids who are homeless in the U.S. is greater today than at any point since the Great Depression.

## How Team Efforts Translate to Impact

School on Wheel's goal this year is to give out 10,000 backpacks full of school supplies to students.

Every \$100 can provide a backpack, books, and school supplies

Every \$25 can buy a uniform for a homeless child

## **NGC's Approach to Sustainable Global Change**

NGC and our Global Partners believe that people in communities all over the world are the real experts and know their community and solutions to their problems. We want to advocate and educate others on behalf of this model of sustainable global change. Additionally, we seek to empower our grassroots Global Projects with the financial resources to create change at the grassroots level. 100% of funds your team raises is sent to School on Wheels.

By sending your team's funds directly, your project organization has the power to decide the best way to use the money. Since money will be spent in the community, your funds will also support the local economy.

School on Wheels addresses the particular needs in their community by educating homeless children. Schools on Wheels helps students enroll and stay in school. School supplies are purchased with NGC funds and enable students to participate in school like their peers.

## **Additional Resources**

Project Website: <http://www.schoolonwheels.org>

US Department of Urban Housing and Development::

<http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/topics/homelessness>

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty: <http://www.nlchp.org>

Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness: <http://www.lacehh.org>

Los Angeles Unified School District:: <http://www.lausd.net>

National Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness: <http://www.studentsagainsthunger.org>

**See your team binder for more ways to educate your team about your project.**