

**HERO Pantry Partner**

**The Homeless Education Resource Office (HERO) for Families in Transition** identifies and supports students within Metro Nashville Public Schools who are experiencing homelessness. Supporting HERO students at the school level **ensures near-immediate access of supplies and assistance on a day-to-day basis and helps to reinforce school as a safe and supportive hub for the family.**

**WHO:**  The HERO program serves about **3,500 children or youth who lack a fixed,**  **regular, and adequate nighttime residence each year.**

**WHERE:** Team HERO recently moved into a new, larger space at Buena Vista Elementary School, allowing for expanded services, including a long-desired **HERO Pantry!**

**WHAT:** **the HERO Pantry will be stocked each month by community partners with**  **food to be distributed to families in the program by the HERO team or by social**  **workers or other support staff who work directly with students and families.**

* A member of our HERO team will come to speak to your group as you prepare to collect items, to ensure a well-rounded understanding of the critical needs being filled within the public school community
* HERO will provide a handy list of grocery items that help our families most
* Depending on chosen level of involvement, the project can come full circle as you visit our facility to see and learn more about what we do and deliver items. A more extended project can include stocking the shelves and pre-packing boxes or bags of grocery items for ease of delivery throughout the month.
* Once collected and stocked, items will be delivered primarily to families who are “doubled-up” with another family or living in hotels, both situations where it’s often very difficult to cook adequate meals for families due to both logistics and budget.
* Weekends and any school holidays (even a long weekend) often mean a critical meal shortage for students. The HERO pantry will fill in those gaps for families outside of school.

**Be our HERO Pantry HEROS for a month this school year! Contact Jami Oakley:** [**jami.oakley@mnps.org**](mailto:jami.oakley@mnps.org) **or 713.301.7815**