



Greetings!

It's time to remember our homeless students and families again. As we kickoff our recognition of **Homeless Awareness Month in Georgia**, the Homeless Education Department (HED) will also resume its **Holiday Sponsorship Project** this year. The **green ribbons** distributed throughout the district represent our commitment to serve students experiencing homelessness. The Holiday Sponsorship Project presents an opportunity to assist a family with reserving their resources toward housing while still providing a wonderful holiday gift experience for their students.

The Homeless Education Department identifies, verifies, and screens families of students in homeless situations and solicits community members to sponsor students or families based on the gift preference of the student. In past years, the department has served more than seventy families, (a little more than two hundred students), with support from school district and community members as well as local agencies who agreed to purchase Christmas gifts.

Gift selections focus on three areas:

- **Personal fitness**
- **Physical fitness**
- **Academic fitness**

It should be noted that while many families have access to free Wi-Fi connections, their students have no device to complete homework assignments. This holiday HED is working hard to connect students with affordable or free devices to assist them with the use of technology in education outside of the classroom. In addition, HED informs parents of safe practices for using the internet.

Please consider sponsoring a family, a child or donating your resources to help make this project a success. If you individually or your office collectively wish to sponsor a student or family, please call 770-473-3250 or email Sonia.davis@clayton.k12.ga.us.

It is asked that all accepted sponsor donations be submitted to the HED department by the end of the day on **December 8th** as the department will conduct its Annual Holiday Sponsorship Distribution Event on **December 16, 2017**.