

Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation

The trustees of the Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation are honored to support the vital work of the *Campaign to End Child Homelessness*. Our foundation has been focused on improving the lives of vulnerable families and children since we began our work. We have worked closely over the years with the National Center on Family Homelessness (NCFH) on both a retrospective and longitudinal study on family homelessness.

Knowing our commitment to alleviating homelessness as well as our interest in children, NCFH approached us about *America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness*. I quickly realized that this was the perfect opportunity for our foundation to have a real impact. The results that NCFH have uncovered are unconscionable. Not only are the figures staggering, but the way in which they are presented is clear and concise.

With the current economic crisis, high rates of home foreclosures, and the change in administration, the time felt right to launch a national public education and advocacy campaign around child homelessness. Children are the hidden victims of this tragedy. The long term impact of homelessness on children is devastating. If people were aware of how often innocent children lived in such frightening, unhealthy, and damaging circumstances they would surely act.

For all of these reasons, we at the Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation decided to engage in this critical work. We agree with NCFH that "it is unacceptable for one child in the United States to be homeless for even one day." With this report and the work of all involved in this project, we hope to raise awareness around this national travesty and change systems so that no more children suffer homelessness.

Please join us in the *Campaign to End Child Homelessness*.

Sincerely,

Elenore Garton

Trustee

Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation

The Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation is a family foundation based in Rochester, New York that was begun in 1963 by Joseph C. Wilson, founder, and then Chair of the Board of Xerox Corporation, and his wife, Peggy. Its mission is to improve the quality of life through initiating and supporting projects that measurably demonstrate a means of creating a sense of belonging within the family and the community.

The Foundation's priority with helping struggling families achieve sustainability led to the initiation and development of a transformational housing program, Wilson Commencement Park, in the early 1990's. That commitment continues as the Foundation is involved in a strategic initiative to study what mix of housing programs and services work best for different kinds of families who are experiencing, or are at risk of, homelessness.

For more information on this initiative and the Rochester-based programs visit: www.mcjwilsonfoundation.org.