



Touching Lives. Reaching Generations.

One in twenty children in Texas is homeless. Please help Arms of Hope make a difference in the lives of those who need us most by helping us bring children in off the street who are fleeing homelessness, poverty, abuse and neglect.

Dear Friend,

How do you spell “H-O-M-E-L-E-S-S”?

It might seem like a strange question to be asking at back to school time, especially when you look at little Abigail.

Can you even imagine her on the street, wondering where she would spend the night ... let alone where she would go to school?

Just three years ago, Abigail really was homeless and the lessons she was learning, as she and her mother fled an abusive relationship with nothing but the clothes on their backs, weren't A-B-C and 1-2-3, but lessons of SURVIVAL.



Now Abigail is a thriving second grader who is looking forward to returning to school where her favorite subjects are reading and math.

This back to school season I hope your children or grandchildren, friends and neighbors will have their new clothes purchased and their school supplies and backpacks ready. The first day of school can be a nervous time for children, but we know the things they'll learn and the friends they'll make, will stay with them forever.

However, you and I also have to remember that there are thousands of children who don't know where their school will be. Approximately one in fifty children in America is homeless and here in Texas some estimate that the number is as high as one child in twenty.

Maybe you don't see homeless children where you live ... many people don't. Just look Abigail in the eye. She has been homeless, frightened and given the daily dangers homeless children often face. Her situation could have even been tragic.

Instead, Abigail is safe here at Arms of Hope, thanks to the kindness and generosity of good and caring friends like you!

Today I'm writing to ask you to please make a special “Back to School” donation to help us continue to give Abigail and other children the urgent help they need.

Of course, when children are homeless their immediate needs are food and shelter, health and safety, but in the long term their educational needs may be just as critical.



Little Abigail was homeless before coming to Arms of Hope when she and her mom were fleeing an abusive relationship with nothing but the clothes on their backs.



Abigail's favorite past time is learning and practicing gymnastics.

supplies, education and training for mothers so they can one day become independent. Sometimes providing a few of those little “extras,” like cheerleading uniforms and gymnastics clothes, so children get to do the activities they love, are an added plus.

We all have many lessons we’ve learned through the years, in school and in life. I think one of the most important is that we all have a duty to look out for the smallest among us.

If that’s a belief you share (and I know it is!), I’d be so grateful for your very generous donation today.

Sincerely,

Troy Robertson
Chief Operations Officer

P.S. Each time Abigail raises her hand in class or hands in her homework, she feels so proud. I’m happy to say those years of fear are fading in her memory, but we cannot afford to forget that other children are still homeless and need us now. Thank you for making your special “Back to School” gift now to Arms of Hope!

Study after study has shown that homeless children miss school more often and have higher dropout rates. They are often held back and are less likely to graduate. Completing homework, getting a bath and a clean change of clothes and even arriving to school on time each day can be difficult.

I’m happy to report that Abigail will not be struggling in school this year! Here at Arms of Hope with her mother Erika, she’s doing great!

Abigail has a bright, bubbly personality. She loves math and reading and enjoys playing with her friends. Of course, like many girls her age, she adores cheerleading and gymnastics.

She also loves her Bible class. I believe it helps children so much when they learn that God loves them and has a plan for them!

Abigail says “Thank you for my many blessings.” She’s so grateful to you for all the kindness you’ve shared. Her mother Erika, who is completing her education so that she can provide for her family one day soon, shares Abigail’s heartfelt gratitude as well.

I know there are still other children who need our help. Our phone rings almost every day and, although I don’t want to think of children like Abigail spending even one night out on the street, we can’t help them unless good folks like you help us.

So, I ask you today to please give your Back to School gift now. Your donation will help pay for residential care and education, funding for our state licensed day-care facilities and teachers, school



Abigail enjoys cheering for all of her older Medina Campus friends who participate in competitive school sports teams.

ArmsofHope.org

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