

# LEADERSHIP 2000 CLASS XXIII

Improving the  
Quality of Life in  
Wyandotte County

As part of Leadership 2000, Class XXIII, we heard from the Advocate for homeless students in Wyandotte County. She and her team of five have identified 1,100 homeless students. Their average age is seven (7) years old. The advocates believe there are many more who they have not yet identified because the shame and stigma of homelessness is so huge that children in school hide their circumstances so they will not be teased or hurt by others. These children need shoes. Shoes which are weather appropriate and shoes which, for most children, they outgrow once or twice a year are needed desperately. She told us stories of taking the children with their own shoe gift certificates and watching them get measured for correctly fitting shoes for the first time in their lives; of being able to pick their own brand new pair and being able to get socks too. Having new shoes is a great social equalizer for children who mostly hide their homeless status.



*Shoes for homeless children*

## **Soles to Soar**

So I am asking each of you to join me and match my \$25 donation to get shoes and socks for every identified homeless student--if each of you would match the gift and then ask five of your friends to match your gift, we could provide gift certificates for every single identified child for the whole school year.

Your gift is 100% tax deductible (we will get you a letter) and your checks can be made out to Leadership 2000--please note 'shoes' in the memo section. Or you could send your matching check directly to me, but made out to Leadership 2000.

The idea of being able to provide for every one of these children seems so doable to me, please consider being one of the people who gets new shoes for homeless students.

Thanks,

Ed Linnebur  
Class XXIII

**LEADERSHIP  
2000**

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Make checks payable to  
**Leadership 2000**, with  
"Shoes" on the memo line.

Contact person: Don Wise  
Executive Director

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