

# The 2009 Annual McKinney-Vento Workshops

## Workshops in New York City

March 2, 2009

### MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

#### **Aruna Sukhu**

Children are the "unseen" faces of homelessness in the United States. It is estimated that there are up to 1.4 to 2.8 million runaway and homeless youth each year. Unfortunately, due to the economic crisis, this estimate is only getting bigger.

Aruna Sukhu will speak about some of the harsh realities of being homeless and the difficulties a child faces when she isn't able to live in a stable home. Aruna and her two brothers were forced to leave their home in 2004 after a domestic violence dispute between her mother and her brothers' father. Transitioning into the shelter system was not easy for Aruna or her two young siblings, especially because their mother became abusive. Aruna struggled to obtain an education in the midst of poverty, homelessness, social isolation, and alienation. To the amazement of all, save maybe herself, Aruna graduated at the top of her high school class. Currently, she is working on her Bachelors Degree in Comparative Literature from Queens College of CUNY. Aruna will share her experience as a homeless youth and her perspective on how the educational and social service systems can be more responsive to the needs of homeless youth. Additionally, Aruna will discuss the key role that education must play in combating the ravenous cycles of poverty and homelessness.

### WORKSHOP SPEAKERS (In alphabetical order)

**Sarah Benjamin** (Serving the Youngest Homeless with the Parent-Child Home Program)  
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**Robyn Causey** (You Think You Know? An Inside Look at Domestic Violence and Vulnerable Youth)  
Runaway and Homeless Youth Coordinator,  
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**Barbara Duffield** (Head Start Reauthorization: Improving Access to Head Start for Young Children in Temporary Housing)  
Policy Director, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
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**Andre Eaton** (Serving the Youngest Homeless with the Parent-Child Home Program)  
LCSW, Parent-Child Home Program  
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**Michelle Frank** (“McKinney-Vento: Introduction to the Educational Rights of Students in Temporary Housing”)  
Assistant Director, NYS-TEACHS  
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**Wayne Harris** (Engaging the Hard to Engage: A Program that Works for Students in Temporary Housing)  
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**Carolyn Jarvis** (Head Start Reauthorization: Improving Access to Head Start for Young Children in Temporary Housing)  
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**Jeanne Kennedy** (The Southern Westchester BOCES Homeless Student Program – Building Effective Partnerships)  
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**Maria McGinty** (The Southern Westchester BOCES Homeless Student Program – Building Effective Partnerships)  
Coordinator of Homeless Students  
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**Patricia McGuirk** (“McKinney-Vento: Questions and Answers for the Experienced”)  
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**Jennifer Pringle** (“McKinney-Vento: Questions and Answers for the Experienced”)  
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**Ann Rouchaud** (The Southern Westchester BOCES Homeless Student Program – Building Effective Partnerships)  
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**Susana Vilardell** (NYC Department of Education Track: Introduction to McKinney-Vento for School-Based Liaisons)  
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