

*Learn how AKT has been benefitting our community for over 10 years and how your support of the Law Day Run/Walk helps!*

# AKT

## Attorneys and Kids Together

In 2000, AKT became the Erie County Bar Association's signature community project. Its purpose is to support the educational needs of students living in homeless situations.

AKT, generously supported by the ECBA membership, has numerous facets. Read about the individual programs offered by AKT.



### *Kid Konnection*

AKT's short term mentoring-type program. The goal is to provide students with positive role models while engaging in educational and fun activities. An attorney (and often his/her family) is paired with a student from one of Erie's shelters. They, along with other attorney/student pairs, participate in approximately six organized, structured events that take place over a five month period. The local programs are followed by an educational trip to a nearby city (Cleveland, Pittsburgh and others) and a fun back-to-school wrap-up party.



### *Senior Project*

No high school student should miss the many exciting events of his or her senior year. AKT assists eligible seniors with items like the following, if they cannot afford them: cap & gown, yearbook, prom tickets & attire, class trip, graduation announcements, banquet tickets, class ring, etc. In 2009 and 2010, we received monetary applications from seniors in excess of \$5000 and with your support, we were able to fulfill all requests.

### *Book Project*

Shelter representatives periodically visit the ECBA office to select two age-appropriate books for each child currently staying at their shelter. The children keep the books they receive. Books are supplied in part by grants obtained from Books for Kids locally and First Books nationally, as well as a large donation of books from our local Hooked on Books.

### *School Uniforms*

Students who suddenly find themselves in a homeless situation need appropriate clothing for school. Since many schools have dress code requirements, the AKT program helps to supply students with a new uniform - pants, polo shirt and sneakers - that meets the school district's guidelines. For the 2010/2011 school year, we've already provided over 100 children with a new school uniform.



### *Study Rooms*

Develop quiet, functional areas in local shelters for students to study; includes new computers and printers, software, desks, books, etc.

### *Backpacks*

New backpacks are available to any student in a homeless situation who either does not have one or needs a new one. Each backpack is filled with school supplies, courtesy of Feed the Children's education program. This school year, nearly 80 students have already received backpacks, matching our distributions made in both 2008 and 2009.



### *Winter Coats*

New winter coats are available to eligible students who need them. Over the last two years, more than 85 coats have been distributed.

