

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #182 (98-99) January 11, 1999

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: CATHY THERRIEN, ABC'S OF HOMELESSNESS: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

PERTINENT FACTS:

Cathy Therrien, mother of two Willowcrest Elementary School students, has more than survived homelessness; she has taken on the role of spokesperson for other homeless parents within and outside of the Anchorage School District.

Cathy and her children became homeless late in the summer of 1997. In the following year, she spoke at District schools, PTA meetings, Title I Central Parent Advisory Council, and was interviewed in print, on radio and TV. After having had to search out resources for herself and her children while homeless, Cathy has created "The ABC's of Homelessness: A Guide for Parents," a just-published wallet-size guide. This past November, Cathy was keynote speaker at the annual conference of the National Association of State Coordinators for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.

Cathy's contribution is to all of us, not solely to homeless families. She reminds all of us of our common vulnerability and capacity.

It is requested that the School Board recognize Cathy Therrien for her contribution to homeless families in Anchorage and for her courage and generosity in representing homeless families locally and nationally.

BC/TG/KW

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