



Kieran King-Sellars

Teacher Anthony Cherry **School** Booker T. Washington High School | Tulsa, Oklahoma

Issue My issue is teen homelessness; specifically, the lack of funding for overnight shelters for teens requiring minimum documentation and providing showers, meals, beds, legal assistance, and transportation to public schools.

Project Description During the last year, I participated with my church in preparing and serving meals for homeless families at the Day Center for the Homeless in Tulsa and Trinity Episcopal's Irongate program. My family also supported a homeless teen, his girlfriend and their child, financially and emotionally for six months. As a result of these experiences I met Paula Rule, a Tulsa lawyer, and a director of the church program. She worked with me to understand that the real need in Tulsa was for additional facilities for homeless teens, now reported to be at record numbers. To expand the work of Tulsa Youth Services teen shelter, which now has only twenty beds to serve an estimated 1600 homeless teens, the United States Congress has to pass the revised McKinney Vento Act, which will increase funding for projects such as this in Oklahoma.

Project Outcome My project will have a vote from the U.S. Congressmen from Oklahoma in favor of the McKinney Act. This will result from the National McKinney Call In Week, Sept. 8-12, in which I will participate with other advocates from Tulsa. My efforts will be to support the Tulsa Youth Services in successful grant application for funding under the McKinney Act to add 100 beds and services for homeless teens.

Request Principally, I'd like to know if I have made a convincing argument to support the homeless teens through the McKinney Vento Act.