

# SKID ROW TUTORING CENTER FOR LOS ANGELES' HOMELESS CHILDREN TO EXPAND CENTER

*School on Wheels to Open a Digital Learning Center within its Tutoring Center on National Digital Learning Day, Friday, March 13, 3 p.m.*

**LOS ANGELES** – March 9, 2015 - School on Wheels, a nonprofit that provides educational assistance to homeless children, will host a grand opening of its new digital learning center for Los Angeles' homeless students in Skid Row on Friday, March 13, 3-4 p.m. located at 600 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Los Angeles 90021. The expansion is made possible by a \$50,000 grant by the Gesner Johnson Family Foundation to bolster digital learning opportunities for underserved populations.

School on Wheels embraces technology and sees this as a huge gap in the educational success for homeless students. Underserved students don't have access to the same equipment as their peers and as a result fall behind in school. The new digital center will allow our students to keep up with their peers in school and learn new technologies.

With this funding School on Wheels has been able to expand its reach to connect homeless students with online tutors and bring equipment including laptops, chromebooks and tablets to shelters and group homes throughout Southern California. The grant has made it possible to dedicate a new room at its learning center on skid row, which will be officially open this Friday to coincide with Digital Learning Day, which is a national day to celebrate innovative teaching and learning through digital media and technology. School on Wheels will host a small ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by a tour for children to explore the new equipment.

Agnes Stevens, founder of School on Wheels who died recently after a long illness said this – “I challenge every person to do something in their community until there is no homeless child living on the streets, in a car, in a hotel or in shelters.”

Through new technology and community volunteers, School on Wheels is breaking down the barriers to academic success for our most vulnerable citizens and providing students with the tools they need to succeed in school and in life.

School on Wheels opened its first learning center in Skid Row in 2001. Since then, thousands of homeless students have benefited from the daily after school program, the Saturday program and the summer program at the Skid Row Learning Center. Hundreds of families experience homelessness in this chaotic and sometimes dangerous neighborhood every year. The Skid Row Learning Center provides a safe haven for the children of these families where they can get educational assistance in a structured environment from our team of dedicated staff and volunteers. To learn more about School on Wheels, visit [www.schoolonwheels.org](http://www.schoolonwheels.org) or call (805) 641-1678.

To schedule an interview with Catherine Meek, executive director of School on Wheels, to discuss the positive impact digital learning makes on underserved children, call Sinead Chilton at 213-905-2777 or [schilton@schoolonwheels.org](mailto:schilton@schoolonwheels.org).

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## 2014 Fast Facts

- In 2014 School on Wheels achieved the following:
  - Tutored 3,129 students ages 5 – 18 (average age of School on Wheels student is 8!)
  - Recruited and retained 1,816 volunteers
  - Distributed more than 6,000 backpacks and school supplies as well as school uniforms, bus tokens and computers
  - Awarded 10 scholarships and tutored in six counties in Southern California.
  - School on Wheels raised more \$1,500,000 in donations.

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Volunteer / Donate: [schoolonwheels.org](http://schoolonwheels.org)

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*Tutoring Homeless Children Since 1993*

*School on Wheels was recently featured on NPR - click to listen:*

[Communities Struggle to Reach Homeless Students Living in the Shadows.](#)