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**PCGF NEWS | SUMMER 2018**

## Call for Proposals: PCGF invites agencies addressing homelessness to submit proposals

The Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation invites Allegheny County nonprofit organizations that support families with children experiencing homelessness to apply for a grant.

The Foundation seeks to work with community organizations of every kind, including faith-based and grassroots groups. PCGF is particularly interested in learning about and supporting

innovative programs/practices and research projects that encourage improvements to service delivery and/or policies.

**Submit your request by Friday, October 12, 2018.**

For more information on submitting a grant application, visit our website or call 412-434-1665 for assistance. ■



[CLICK FOR DETAILS »](#)

## Support “Drive to Work” Legislation

A bill pending in the Pennsylvania Legislature seeks to change how the state handles driver’s license suspensions for individuals convicted of non-driving offenses. The PA State Senate is considering HB 163 (“drive to work”) that would enable formerly incarcerated individuals (non-violent offenders) to regain their driver’s licenses.



Voice your support of this important change. Don’t wait — contact your state senator to encourage passage of HB 163 during this current legislative session.

“In many cases involving license suspensions for non-driving offenses, the inability for an offender to drive takes away their livelihood, their ability to provide for their families, and their ability to be a

productive member of society,” according to **Rep. Rick Saccone**, R-Elizabeth, who sponsored the PA House bill that passed earlier in the year. ■

[CLICK HERE »  
for PA Senate directory](#)

**PITTSBURGH CHILD GUIDANCE FOUNDATION 2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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# Presentations Focus on Helping Homeless Individuals

In June, three presentations addressed various issues concerning people experiencing homelessness.

RAND Pittsburgh hosted a community discussion of research and strategies to prevent homelessness among youth, families and military veterans.

**Dr. Natasha Slesnick** of Ohio State University, **Dr. Ann Elizabeth Montgomery** of the University of Alabama, Birmingham, and **Deborah Linhart**, CEO of Bethlehem Haven, took part in the conversation.

The June PCGF Board meeting featured two presentations. **Dr. Karen Shephard**, Executive Director of PACE School, and **Abby Horn**, Senior Advisor for the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, addressed the Board of Trustees and Advisory Committee concerning Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma informed care and Allegheny County's plan to make homelessness a rare and brief occurrence and non-reoccurring by 2022.

- **ESSA Designation** - Partnering with schools to support the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) enables children who are homeless to receive protection of federal law.

- **Medical Care** - Bethlehem Haven developed a two-year pilot with Allegheny Health Network to house individuals who need medical care. Through this medical respite program, 85% of participants were able to fully complete their course of medical treatment. Bethlehem Haven has recently opened a 29-bed program to continue these efforts.

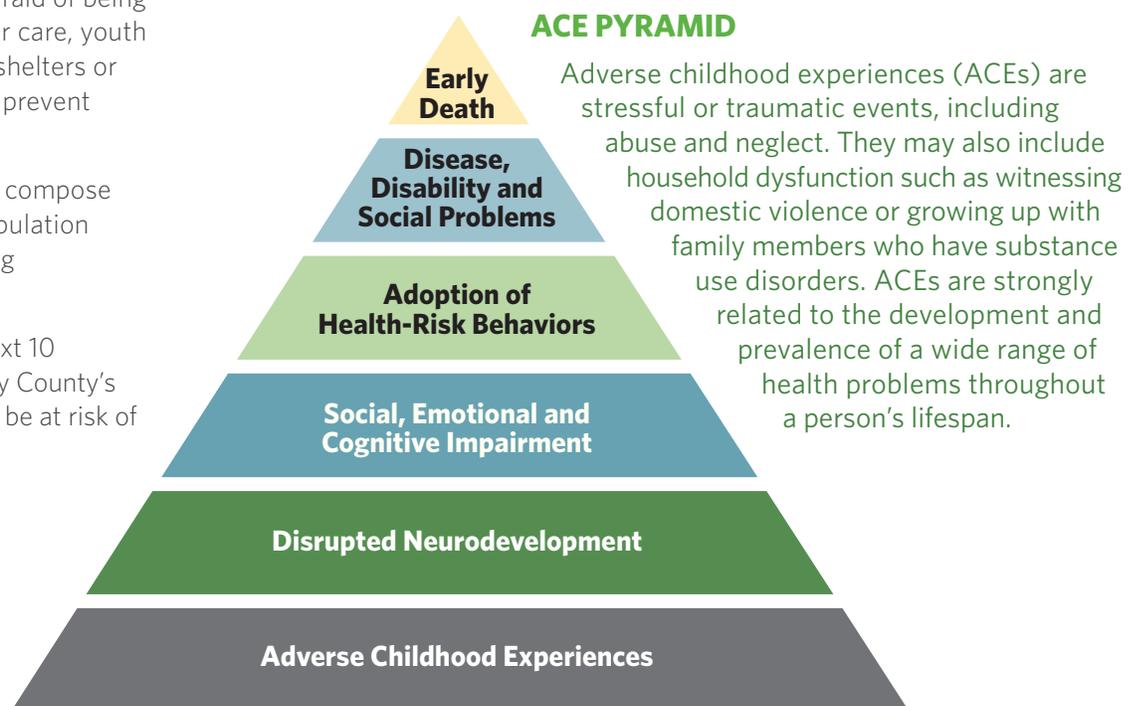
As is well-documented, the root causes of homelessness are varied and often layered. Content shared during the three June presentations included:

- **Runaways** - Many homeless youth begin as runaways.
- **Abandoned Structure "Homes"** - Only 10% of youth experiencing homelessness access services designed to help them; most live on their own in abandoned structures.
- **Shelter Avoidance** - Afraid of being sent home or into foster care, youth refrain from accessing shelters or other services that can prevent chronic homelessness.
- **Female Vets** - Females compose the fastest-growing population of veterans experiencing homelessness.
- **Seniors** - Within the next 10 years, 30% of Allegheny County's population age 65+ will be at risk of homelessness.

Information pertaining to prevention and intervention initiatives included:

- **Trauma Informed Care** - Hallmarks of this approach include safety, transparency and trustworthiness, empowerment, choice, peer support and mutual self-help.
- **Blended Services** - A combination of school-based prevention, family-based services and a continuum of care can help prevent chronic homelessness in youth.

As well, National Network for Youth (NN4Y) is urging Congress to reauthorize \$85 million for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, which removes barriers to enrollment, attendance and opportunity for success for homeless children and youth. ■





# Community Connections

## HCEF'S BIERHAUS: AN INDOOR BIERGARTEN EVENT

benefits Homeless Children's Education Fund

**Thursday, September 13**

HCEF is turning Spirit in Lawrenceville into an indoor beer garden for the evening. Help the mission of HCEF by indulging in a buffet of Spirit's famous pizza, sipping drinks and enjoying live music. Bring a few friends or make some new ones, and join HCEF at this fun, casual event.

[More Information](#)

## THE ART OF WINE & FOOD

benefits HEARTH (Homelessness Ends with Advocacy, Resources, Training, and Housing)

**Thursday, September 20**

This event has been drawing guests from all parts of the Pittsburgh region for almost two decades. Enjoy tasting various foods and wine while talking with friends, bidding on silent auction items and "playing" with exhibits at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

[More Information](#)

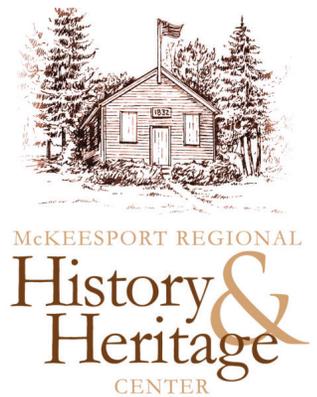
## CASA SAN JOSE SERIES

PCGF Board member Sister Janice Vanderneck extends an invitation to Case San Jose's upcoming discussions on community safety that encourage neighbors to look out for one another. The meetings will take place at the Casa San Jose office in Beechview. To learn dates and details, call Casa San Jose at 412-343-3111.



## Kudos to...

PCGF Board member **Judge David Spurgeon** on his recent appointment to the Board of Directors of the McKeesport Regional History & Heritage Center, a venue dedicated to preserving the history of McKeesport and the Mon Valley region. The center is a museum and research facility featuring exhibitions, membership programs and public education programs.



## Mark Your Calendars

We ask Trustees to make every effort to attend these 2018 meetings:

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 11  
4 - 5:30 p.m.

### Grant Proposal Deadline

Friday, Oct. 12

» [Click for guidelines](#)

### Board Meeting/ Annual Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 13  
4 - 5 p.m. meeting  
5 p.m. reception

All meetings will be held at the Foundation Office.