



Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation

PCGF NEWS | WINTER 2019

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County Receives \$18 Million from HUD

Allegeny County Executive **Rich Fitzgerald** recently announced that the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) has awarded an \$18.3 million Continuum of Care grant to the county's Department of Human Services (DHS) to assist in its efforts to reduce homelessness.

The 62 projects funded by the grant will represent 20 different agencies that provide housing and vital services



to homeless individuals and families throughout Allegheny County. DHS will administer the grant funds to the agencies, provide fiscal and operational oversight, and monitor service provision through regular site visits.

» **HUD 2018 Supportive Housing Program PA-600 HUD Continuum of Care Renewal Award Summary**

Directly download the full list of projects by clicking the link above to the AlleghenyCounty.us site and scroll down to the first link in the "Reports" section. ■

Two Appointed to BigBurgh Advisory Council

Allegeny County Deputy Manager **Andrea Stanford** and cybersecurity expert/entrepreneur **Mike Gaultieri** have been appointed to the BigBurgh Advisory Council, a 15-member community that guides the mission of the technology-based app (*BigBurgh.com*) designed to provide real-time, relevant help to people experiencing homelessness or those who are at-risk. Ms. Stanford's areas of expertise include digital marketing, public relations and community engagement. Mr. Gaultieri is president of software development for Savio Information Security, a company he founded. He is also an instructor in the Information Services Department at the University of Pittsburgh. ■

WQED to Air Special on Incarceration

In May, a WQED-TV documentary titled "Serving Time, Too" will address topics that impact children whose parents are incarcerated. Nationwide, two million American children have become invisible victims — facing emotional and physical turmoil and financial hardships.

WQED's multi-platform project sheds light on this often ignored topic that impacts thousands of children and ultimately the entire community. The documentary will explore local organizations and new programs that are working to implement change in Allegheny County, where an estimated 8,500 children have incarcerated parents. The project also includes educational resources, digital assets and community engagement.

For many years PCGF focused on the needs of children whose parents were incarcerated. In addition to providing the seed money to establish Amachi Pittsburgh, the Foundation continues to address this issue by partnering with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services and other grantmakers. ■

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OUR MISSION: Improve the emotional health and well-being of children and youth living in Allegheny County by providing grants and collaborating with public and private organizations to implement innovative policies, practices and programs.

PCGF at Work in the Community

In the fall of 2017, the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation awarded grants to community partners addressing the issues of homelessness and housing insecurity. PCGF's grantmaking efforts seek to mitigate the circumstances of those experiencing homelessness, support programs that intervene before an issue escalates, and research best practices to understand the most effective means of intervening and supporting those in fragile housing situations. Equally as important, we appreciate when our partners share lessons learned from strategies that didn't work as well as planned.

Highlights from programs implemented in 2018 with PCGF support included:

ACTION-Housing served

27 young adult parents who were experiencing homelessness or were at risk of homelessness. A new Parenting Life Skills program promoted self-sufficiency, housing stability and healthy relationships. PCGF funding provided furniture, clothing, diapers and other baby supplies to new parents as they transitioned to permanent housing. ACTION-Housing also connected parents to other community resources (WIC, Planned Parenthood, etc.).

Allegheny Valley Association of Churches

completed a two-year renovation of its day center for families with children who are experiencing homelessness. Over a nine-month period, the center **served 25 families, for a total of 100 people, 66 of whom were children**. Renovation of the new day center made space available for other community services, increasing client comfort in a less crowded atmosphere.

Angels' Place served 120 clients in 30+ Pittsburgh and neighboring communities.

Families received referrals for financial/legal/mental health counseling, transportation and domestic violence support. A total of 98% of

parents in the program are now in a higher income bracket than when they enrolled. Angels' Place provided education on finances and securing safe housing at six parent meetings. All children enrolled in the program received well-child visits, and 95.6% met developmental milestones in age-appropriate categories.

Auberle's At Home Rapid Rehousing program served

12 clients, two of whom were children. The program began with six clients and can now accommodate 20 clients. The program was ranked as "Exceptional" by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, and 100% of young people enrolled in the At Home program found and maintained permanent, affordable and safe housing.

Beverly's Birthdays

distributed birthday presents to 4,200+ children and hosted 125 group birthday parties. **PCGF funding supported presents for 200 children.** The organization now employs four full-time and two part-time workers and maintains partnerships with 68 non-profit agencies and 73 schools. The new Birthday Boutique — a mobile fashion truck where

youth can "shop" for new items on their birthdays — served 200 children.

Center for Victims created, refined and piloted

programming with families, community members and health professionals for the Healing Rivers Project, an educational and therapeutic center for victims of crime. Although the project encountered an unexpected construction delay, work in the new office facility continues. Programming has been implemented, and the agency is preparing for a grand opening.

East End Cooperative Ministry served 24

young people (all couch surfers, youth in shelters and transient youth) not connected to a family unit). Twelve participated in summer camp and 10 in STREAM (science, technology, reading/writing, engineering, arts and math) educational programming. Youth also participated in recreational programs, positive development programming and anti-drug and alcohol education. All received case management services, and 70% participated in family meetings with service providers.



Familylinks assisted 24

households in obtaining or maintaining safe housing by providing flexible emergency funds for families in crisis, including security deposits/rental fees, furniture/bedding or the expenses of moving to a new home. Familylinks detected unstable housing conditions by reaching out to families in crisis individually to complete needs assessments. PCGF funding covered expenses not typically permitted by other funding sources.

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank,

partnering with nearly 400 programs, **distributed more than 33 million meals in the Greater Pittsburgh area.** Additionally, the Food Bank provided meals for low-income seniors, offered up to 50 pounds of fresh produce directly to families and provided weekend meals for youth.

Homeless Children's Education Fund served

450 children through after-school programming, summer programming and enrichment programming in partnership with shelters and transitional housing organizations. Programming helped students to build relationships and improve

continued

PCGF at Work in the Community

continued

emotional skills. Educational partners reported improved school attendance and academic gains. HCEF also worked with partners to address shelter staff/instructor turnover.

Human Services Integration Fund of Allegheny County (Jail Collaborative) brings together stakeholders to support individuals returning to the community and reduce recidivism. The re-entry program **served 400 medium- to high-risk individuals**. \$2 million in funding from the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge aims to reduce the jail population by 20% by September 2020 and to reduce racial and ethnic disparities within the system.

Jeremiah's Place increased by 30% hours of crisis care provided to young children and families. Utilization of Jeremiah's Place services increased significantly as a result of family engagement dinners, a block party, facility tours and provider programming. Providers representing 23 agencies attended "Lunch and Learn" sessions regarding Jeremiah's Place services and intake procedures. The organization distributed 3,000+ pamphlets to partners, groups and families.

Muslim Women's Association provided temporary safe shelter for eight families, women and children in need. The Guest House in East Hills offers eight beds and does not discriminate based on race, religion or creed.

Operation Safety Net includes a medically-equipped van, a winter weather shelter, drop-in day services, case management, legal assistance and housing. **PCGF funding supported its on-street programs for individuals experiencing homelessness.**

Salvation Army's Family Caring Center provided emergency shelter, food and supportive case-managed services to 64 families. The Center offered meals and snacks, personal hygiene products, licensed counseling, employment training, homework help for children and educational/recreational field trips for children and families. A total of **1,723 cases received case management, and 7,518 referrals were made.**

Sojourner House used PCGF funding to help cover the salary of a Childcare Development Specialist, who oversaw and implemented the Ages and Stages questionnaire and proper referrals to Alliance for Infants and Toddlers and Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The questionnaire enabled staff to screen children for

meeting behavioral/cognitive/social/emotional milestones. A total of **22 children were screened and referred for specialized services.**

South Hills Interfaith Movement hired a Family Service Coordinator who **served 397 individuals, 244 of whom specifically received help concerning homelessness**, and oversaw the Smart Investments program, which allocated \$30,000 to assist families in unexpected crises. The coordinator facilitated relationships with nearby housing, education and financial literacy providers to offer aid to clients who required help beyond the capacity of SHIM's capabilities.

Tickets for Kids provides access to enriching, engaging and enlightening activities for low-income and at-risk children and families. **PCGF funding provided access to arts, cultural, educational and athletic events and activities for those in shelter care.** Tickets for Kids partnered with 380+ local organizations to distribute tickets and provided 71,665 opportunities in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

Women's Center & Shelter used PCGF funding to assist with healing programs for children affected by intimate partner violence by providing counseling, discussion groups, therapeutic activities,



PCGF Grant Used for Volunteer Training

Family Promise used its PCGF grant to produce a series of training programs for volunteers who help families experiencing homelessness. To date, **185 individuals — approximately 25% of volunteers — have participated in the nine-module series** that addresses issues such as client confidentiality, policies/procedures and child safety/protection. Programs are accessible online. Forty churches in the Family Promise network engage and work with approximately 700 volunteers who provide overnight stays in their homes, and several churches opted to combine "thank you" events with training. ■

Mark Your Calendars

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

Board Meeting

Tuesday
June 4
4 – 5:30 p.m.

All meetings will be held at the Foundation Office.

Board Meeting

Tuesday
Sept. 24
4 – 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting / Annual Meeting

Tuesday
Nov. 12
Meeting: 4 – 5 p.m.
Reception: 5 p.m.