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PCGF NEWS | SPRING 2019

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Study Examines Housing Insecurity Among Area College Students

In an effort to learn more about housing and basic financial stability among college students, Point Park University's Department of Community Engagement recently surveyed students and administrators at nine local colleges and universities. The 1,806 students completing the survey represented 3.5% of the total student population at participating schools.

The findings revealed:

- **12.2% of students lacked a fixed, regular overnight residence;**
- **10.2% of students reported couch-surfing in the past 12 months;**
- **37.5% of students reported taking out credit card debt to pay for housing.**

Major hurdles to addressing student needs include gaps in institutional structure, lack of formal processes/policies and the need for training for students/staff/faculty.

Focus groups held with administrators recommended creating a student assistance program; training students and faculty regarding student housing insecurity; and developing campus and community partnerships to help address housing insecurity. ■

» **Read the report on our website**



PCGF Grant Application Available Online

The PCGF Board has agreed to continue through 2019 dedicating its resources to mitigating the circumstances of families with children experiencing homelessness. The Foundation will begin accepting Letters of Intent on June 1, 2019.

PCGF has introduced a new element to the grant application that emphasizes outcomes over outputs and will help to identify ways to create systemic change. The new documentation will be used for both the application and the final report (should a grant be awarded). ■

» **Learn more**

Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh Offers Free Dental Clinic in July

In July, Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh will provide a free, two-day dental clinic for under-served people living in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area. Services are available for children ages 2 to 17 as well as adults, and there are no eligibility or income requirements. Treatments will include diagnosis by a dentist, minor restorative fillings, extractions and cleanings. ALL services will be provided FREE of charge by local dental professionals, assisted by a host of volunteers.

The event will take place on Friday, July 26, and Saturday, July 27, at PPG Paints Arena. Doors will open at 6 a.m. and the clinic will open at 7 a.m. Enter through the Highmark Gate located on Centre Avenue next to Epiphany Catholic Church near the Mario Lemieux statue. ■

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BigBurgh Produces Informational Video

The City of Pittsburgh's Department of Innovation and Performance collaborated with BigBurgh to produce an informational video about the mobile-friendly website that provides real-time information to those experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. The brief video will be screened on the Allegheny County Jail in-house television system website as well as other city and county websites.

Organizations serving the homeless are welcome to post the video (available in both English and Spanish) on their websites.

Homelessness and the risk of homelessness disproportionately affect the formerly incarcerated since individuals released from jail often have difficulty finding housing. BigBurgh provides up-to-date information regarding shelters, food, clothing, healthcare and other resources. ■



Sister Janice Vanderneck with Javier Ruiz during the video recording.

Opportunity for Youth to “Learn & Earn”

Youth can build skills and a professional network while learning about careers this summer through “Learn & Earn,” a six-week employment program for teens and young adults ages 14 to 21 in the Pittsburgh region. Partner4Work collaborates with Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh to offer the Learn & Earn Summer Youth Employment Program. Visit www.jobs4summer.org for details. ■

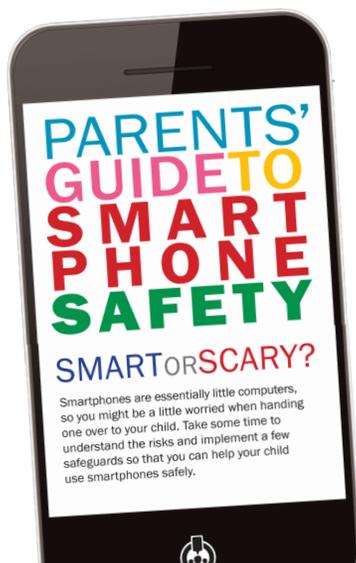
Smartphone Tips for Parents from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Whether your child has a device of his/her own or has access to your device, it's important to make sure your child is educated on how to stay safe. According to a 2015 study from the Pew Research Center, 73%

of teenagers ages 13 to 17 have access to a cell phone. Risks associated with unsupervised smartphone use include cyberbullying, geolocation, inappropriate content, sexting and viruses/malware.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children provides five tips for parents whose children have access to smartphones:

1. establish clear guidelines and maintain open communication;
2. enable password-protection on the phone;
3. keep the operating system updated;
4. review new apps and capabilities before they are downloaded;
5. turn off location-tagging on social media and other apps when not in use. ■



County Executive Launches Children's Fund Working Group

In March, Allegheny County Executive **Rich Fitzgerald** convened a 26-member working group to review current resources and efforts for children living in the county and to recommend ideas for the development of a children's fund earmarked for early childhood education and out-of-school programs.

The committee will conduct focus groups, host roundtable discussions and review current state and federal policies to understand the gaps in children's services across the county. The working group is co-chaired by **Trisha Gadson, Ph.D.** of Macedonia FACE and **Michelle Figlar** of The Heinz Endowments. Later this year, the group will deliver a report to the County Executive and include potential budget/operations proposals ranging from \$5 million to \$20 million per year.

The goal of the working group is to design a program that will improve the lives of thousands of children across Allegheny County while gaining public support for such a fund. ■

WQED Screens *Serving Time, Too*

On Thursday, May 23, WQED will host a free screening of *Serving Time, Too*, a 30-minute documentary spotlighting children of incarcerated parents. The video will be followed by a discussion led by KDKA-TV's **Lisa Washington**. 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.

For more than a decade, PCGF focused its efforts on an initiative to address 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. The Foundation's website offers several reports and resources on the subject. PCGF provides copies of its "Family Ties" DVD, a candid conversation with six fathers incarcerated in the Allegheny County Jail who reflect on their love for their children and how their behaviors have impacted their most cherished relationships.



On May 23, WQED-TV will air *Serving Time, Too* at 8 p.m. followed by *Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Community Forum* at 8:30 p.m.

Family Ties Video Available

In conjunction with the initiative to focus on children of the incarcerated, PCGF collaborated with Argentine Productions to produce a video on the importance of enabling inmates to maintain strong connections to their families while incarcerated in order to make reintegration easier upon release. For the past several years "Family Ties" has been distributed to jails, detention centers and support groups across the country.

Recently, a counselor from a California-based detention center called to request a replacement copy of "Family Ties" because her original video was worn out from use. She explained that she used it in parenting classes and that "it is a wonderful conversation starter."

While for the past five years the Foundation has focused its resources on families with children experiencing homelessness, the issues of incarceration, homelessness, mental health/wellness, under education and under employment are inextricably intertwined. ■

May is National Mental Health Month

Mental Health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being. Mental illnesses are common and treatable. Now in its 70th year, Mental Health America's awareness campaign seeks to erase the stigma by fostering understanding and compassion about mental health and the various ways in which it can be treated and encourages those who need help to seek it. To learn about the #4Mind4Body awareness campaign, visit www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may. ■

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.