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PCGF NEWS | FALL 2017



Holiday Greetings!

May the magic of the holiday season fill your life with an abundance of peace, love and cherished memories. As another year draws to a close and we reflect on our achievements, I extend sincere thanks to all who have joined the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation (PCGF) in serving our community.

Wishing you the joy of family, the gift of friends and the best of everything in 2018.

Pam Golden

HAB Adopts Recommendations

Since 2014, PCGF has dedicated its resources to mitigating the circumstances of families with children experiencing homelessness. Over the years, the Foundation has supported service providers, training programs for shelter care workers, research projects to inform grantmaking and program planners, innovative programs such as BigBurgh that rapidly direct support to those on the streets and intervention and prevention programs.

In July, Allegheny County's Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) adopted recommendations to address the issue. The HAB's goal is to make homelessness rare, brief and non-reoccurring by 2022.

According to the HAB, a gap of 15,000 units for extremely low-income families exists. Steps are being taken to increase the number of permanent supportive housing beds and rapid rehousing beds.

HAB recommendation highlights include:

- Providing year-round access to emergency shelters;
- Establishing centralized rental locator;
- Increasing the supply of and access to affordable housing.

PCGF is fully committed to supporting the HAB recommendations. ■

Thanks and Farewell

As 2017 comes to a close, the Foundation's Board and staff extend a warm thanks to **Bonnie Westbrook VanKirk** for many years of service, first as a Trustee member (beginning in 2005) and then as Board President (2015 to 2017). She will continue her work as a valued community volunteer serving on the boards of Chatham University, Carnegie Science Center and YMCA.



Assuming the position of President of the PCGF Board of Trustees in January will be Linda Krynski (currently Vice President), who was elected during the November meeting. ■

PITTSBURGH CHILD GUIDANCE FOUNDATION 2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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PCGF Supports Human Services Integration Fund

The Human Services Integration Fund (HSIF) — a group of private local foundations — supports initiatives that directly improve the work and efficiency of Allegheny County's Department of Human Services through data collection, improved client services/procedures and streamlining work at partner agencies.

The Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation is a proud partner of the Jail Collaborative, which works to reduce recidivism and improve the re-entry process for formerly incarcerated individuals. While the Foundation's area of emphasis is on mitigating the circumstances of families with

For many individuals, homelessness or incarceration, however brief, can lead to the other and has been described as a "revolving door of risk." Individuals released from incarceration often have difficulty finding reliable housing. Discrimination against the formerly incarcerated is a massive barrier to re-entry. Background checks and applications with questions regarding incarceration limit job options, and potential exclusion from federally funded housing or discrimination by landlords can inhibit access to affordable shelter. As a result, one in 20 people do not have permanent housing after being

re-entry programs; therapy; education; employment assistance programs involving job training and placement; and community-based resource centers for those on probation.

Objectives of the Jail Collaborative Strategic Plan call for:

- Ensuring high-quality, evidence-based programs for people at higher risk of re-offending;
- Making the transition to the community effective for each person leaving the jail;
- Reducing barriers to employment, transportation, healthcare and housing for formerly incarcerated people;
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive plan for diverting, treating and supporting people with behavioral health issues, including those with co-occurring substance use disorders.

A 2014 study by The Urban Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based research firm, found that the Jail Collaborative's prisoner re-entry program reduced the probability of re-arrest by 24%. In 2015, 53% of program participants were placed in jobs after their release. ■



In 2015, 53% of the Jail Collaborative's program participants were placed in jobs after their release.

children experiencing homelessness, an inextricable link exists between Adverse Childhood Experiences such as parental incarceration, abuse, homelessness and substance abuse. PCGF continues its support of the HSIF Jail Collaborative.

discharged from the Allegheny County Jail and 56% are unemployed.

The Jail Collaborative employs several strategies to reduced recidivism, including creating individually tailored



CRAFTING A SAFE HOME

SHELTER:

Contemporary Craft Focuses on Homeless Issue

With its current exhibit, *Shelter: Crafting a Safe Home*, the Strip District-based Contemporary Gallery is calling attention to the issue of housing insecurity and homelessness through this socially engaged art experience.

Shelter: Crafting a Safe Home runs through February 17, 2018 at Contemporary Craft, 2100 Smallman Street. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■

Passages

PCGF extends condolences to the family and friends of **Herb Burger**, who passed away in October. Mr. Burger's wife, Jane, has served as a PCGF Board member and president. During his illustrious career, Mr. Burger was CEO of two leading advertising/marketing agencies, served as co-owner of a real estate investment firm and ran a number of private investment funds. Forever passionate about Pittsburgh, he was involved with a series of programs that promoted the city and was a founder of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. We honor Herb Burger's legacy for his innumerable contributions to our region. ■



Community Partners Receive 2017 Grants

Congratulations to 20 community partners who received grants from the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation in support of these important initiatives.

- **ACTION-Housing** to serve youth 18 to 20 years old who are pregnant and/or parenting
- **Allegheny Valley Association of Churches** for furnishings for the Day Service Center, where families can go during day hours when churches are not available for shelter
- **Angels' Place** to enable a specialist to work with families to identify goals for housing, education, finances and mental health and to provide Trauma Informed Care training for staff
- **Auberle** to help youth develop individual plans regarding rental assistance, tenant practices, independent living skills and finding full-time employment
- **Bethany Christian Services** to provide host families for children of a parent struggling with homelessness or other crises
- **Beverly's Birthdays** to support the Birthday Cheer Bin Program, which provides gender and age-appropriate birthday gifts for low-income children
- **Center for Victims** to support a community resource center for children, shelter residents, employees and community members recovering from crime and violence
- **East End Cooperative Ministry** to provide developmental and enrichment services to 25 children whose families are at risk of becoming homeless
- **Familylinks** to support the Homeless Family Assistance Fund, which provides emergency funds to families experiencing housing crises
- **Grantmakers in Health** — PCGF is a local funding partner
- **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank** to feed people in need and mobilize the community to eliminate hunger
- **Homeless Children's Education Fund** to support an after-school and summer program for youth in grades K-8 that improves academic performance and teaches strategies for success
- **Jeremiah's Place** to support family enrichment programming for families living in shelters
- **Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net** to support the medical and social services outreach program for people experiencing homelessness
- **Salvation Army** to support a 36-bed homeless shelter that provides shelter, meals, basic living amenities, case management services and family enrichment activities
- **Sojourner House** to evaluate young children's ability to meet behavioral, cognitive, social and emotional milestones for all children in Sojourner House's care
- **South Hills Interfaith Movement** to increase case management capacity and orchestrate education, economic assets, social capital, health and wellbeing for impoverished families
- **The Jail Collaborative Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation** to support human services programs within the County Jail to reduce recidivism and reintegrate population in community
- **Tickets for Kids** to provide free tickets to arts, culture, science and athletic events and activities to families experiencing homelessness
- **Women's Center & Shelter** to guide children through the process of healing from trauma

Mark Your Calendars

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

Board Meeting

Tuesday
Feb. 13
4 - 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting

Tuesday
June 12
4 - 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting

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

Board Meeting/ Annual Meeting

Tuesday
Nov. 13
Meeting: 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Reception: 5 p.m.

All meetings will be held at the Foundation Office.