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# Holiday Greetings!

**W**hile the holiday season features many traditions of gift giving, let's take a moment to remember that some of the best things we can give cannot be wrapped in boxes. Sharing our time, talents and energy with others is a priceless gift that can dramatically improve the lives of those around us. I extend sincere thanks to all who selflessly share their bounty with others by supporting the work of the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation.

Wishing you the joy of family, the gift of friends and the best of everything in 2024.

Pam Golden



## Board Elects Two Trustees

**P**CGF welcomes **Cara Ciminillo** and **James W. Weems, Jr.**, who were elected to three-year terms to the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Their three-year terms will begin in January 2024.



**Cara Ciminillo** is Executive Director of Trying Together, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit supporting the work of early childhood through advocacy, community resources, and professional growth opportunities for the needs and rights of children, their families, and the individuals who interact with them. Recognizing collaboration as foundational to

the success of any early childhood outcome, Cara works in partnership with others to bring about positive policy and practice change at the community, regional, state, and federal levels. Cara has a Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Education, Administrative and Policy Studies from the University of Pittsburgh.



**James Weems** is an Assistant Vice President within Information Technology for Dollar Bank. In this role he is responsible for the upstanding performance of systems supporting

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## 24 Community Partners Receive Grants

**D**uring the annual meeting in November, Trustees voted to award grants to the following organizations in support of their work to assist families with children experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

**Allegheny Valley Association of Churches**, a network of 34 churches, works to keep families with children together as they transition from homelessness or housing instability by providing shelter, meals, case management,

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### PITTSBURGH CHILD GUIDANCE FOUNDATION 2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Paul David Spradley  
PRESIDENT

Michele Rone Cooper  
SECRETARY

Aaron Aldrich  
Scott Hollander

Megan Nestor  
Hon. David Spurgeon

Pamela W. Golden  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joan Eichner  
VICE PRESIDENT

Brian S. Allen  
TREASURER

Robert A. James  
Jason A. Lando

Sister Janice Vanderneck

# Board Elects

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customers' banking needs. James has over 20 years business experience and is a veteran, having served in the United States Air Force.

A graduate of Point Park University, James holds an MBA in International Business, and a BS in Communications with a Minor in Finance, and certifications in Project Management, Six Sigma and Total Quality Management. James serves the communities by way of boards and churches. He and his wife of 23 years have three children.

At the fall board meeting, **Paul David Spradley** and **David Spurgeon** were unanimously re-elected to three-year terms on the Board of Trustees. Paul Spradley is Vice President, Diversity

## Trustees Elect Officers

The following Trustees were elected to one-year terms in these offices:

**Paul David Spradley**,  
Ed.D. President

**Joan Eichner**,  
Dr.PH, Vice President

**Michele Rone Cooper**,  
Secretary

**Brian Allen**,  
CFA Treasurer

Equity & Inclusion for Dollar Bank. Judge Spurgeon is serving a 10-year term on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas.

### FAREWELL TO THREE VALUED TRUSTEES

Speaking on behalf of the PCGF Board and Executive Director, the Foundation's president recently recognized **Scott Hollander**, **Sister Janice Vanderneck**, and **Robert James** for their contributions to the organization and community while

serving on the Board of Trustees. "As we bid farewell at the end of the year when their board terms conclude, we extend our deep appreciation for their unending commitment and involvement over the years," said President Paul Spradley. "This trio has worked tirelessly to improve the emotional health and well-being of children and youth living in Allegheny County, and we thank them for all they have accomplished."

Their terms are coming to an end this December. ■

## Grants

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and support that will lead to self-sufficiency.

► **Angels' Place** Implements holistic programs for single parents and their children up to age 5 to create stability and reduce the likelihood that they will become homeless while providing the children with accredited early childhood education.

► **Art Expression** artists collaborate with five shelters to present workshops that teach children and their parents living in shelters coping and problem-solving skills and work to build their self-confidence.

► **Beverly's Birthdays**, believing that all children are worth celebrating, provides birthday cheer in shelters for children experiencing homelessness.



*Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank celebrates its nearly 30,000 square foot expansion and renovation project by hosting a VIP celebration and ribbon cutting event.*

► **Big Brothers Big Sisters** provides guidance and educational opportunities to high school students experiencing homelessness through one-on-one mentorship and post-secondary preparation classes.

► **Bridge to the Mountains** arranges safe, emergency shelter to families with children and youth who would otherwise be unhoused.

► **Catapult** provides shelter,

education, and support for single, young parents with children under the age of 3 who are homeless, helping them achieve self-sufficiency.

► **Duquesne University School of Nursing** in support of its annual symposium that addresses issues vulnerable populations face. This year's focus was on assisting formerly incarcerated individuals.

# Grants

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► **East End Cooperative Ministry** provides enriching experience and diversionary activities during out-of-school time that enable children to continue learning and see a brighter future.

► **Familylinks** offers critical financial assistance to families experiencing homelessness, transitioning to temporary or new permanent housing, or who are in imminent danger of homelessness to help them secure temporary or permanent housing.

► **Goodwill of Southwestern PA** works to prevent homelessness or decrease the time spent as homeless by providing supportive housing to families with children by providing services tailored to the needs of individual clients.

► **Grantmakers in Health** is a network of national foundations for which PCGF is a local funding partner.

► **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank** works to ensure that anyone who needs a healthy meal can receive one.

► **HEARTH** supports families with children who are experiencing homelessness as victims of domestic violence or other traumas by providing mental health care, case management, transportation, and basic needs.

► **Homeless Children's Education Fund** in support of Winnie's Wagon, a mobile unit that provides services for the hard-to-reach homeless children who may not be staying in shelters or attending formal school regularly.

► **Jeremiah's Place** provides free emergency childcare for children ages birth to age 6.



*Tickets for Kids enables children experiencing homelessness and living in shelters to enjoy cultural events and activities.*

► **Jubilee Association** offers a variety of services through its Preventing Homelessness Program that includes financial support for mortgage, rental, and utility payments to help families avoid eviction and provides such supportive services as counseling and teaching job readiness skills.

► **Light of Life** works to prevent homelessness and provide stability in the lives of the women with children by providing a continuum of care that includes addiction recovery, mental health care, and intensive case management.

► **Serenity Living Transitional Home** (SLTH) works to prevent homelessness in youth and young adults by providing transitional housing and supportive services to those who were homeless. SLTH also provides non-residential services for those who have experienced trauma that could derail their lives.

► **Sojourner House** supports mothers who are in recovery by keeping families together and by providing a safe haven to help keep them from slipping back into homelessness.

► **South Hills Interfaith Movement** provides care coordination and vital services to prevent families from facing financial and/or housing crises.

► **The Salvation Army** guides families through structured, goal-setting programs that focus on their individual strengths and leads to more stable situations.

► **Tickets for Kids** provides children experiencing homelessness and living in shelters with the same cultural events and activities enjoyed by their more affluent peers.

► **Women's Center & Shelter** helps families with children meet their basic needs by providing resources, advocacy, and counseling to facilitate healing for child victims of intimate partner violence.

For nearly a decade, PCGF has dedicated its resources to mitigating the circumstances of families with children who are experiencing homelessness. In an effort to increase direct support to children and to encourage social and emotional development, the Foundation will announce changes to its area of emphasis early next year. ■

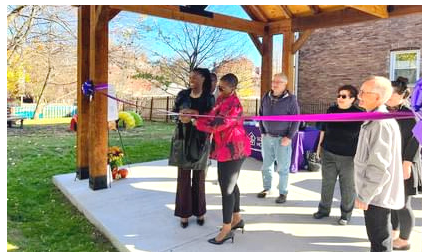
# Kudos to...



*Light of Life Ribbon Cutting for Ridge Recovery Place, the Mission's new home for its long-term recovery programs, donation center, and administrative offices.*

**Center for Victims, , Sojourner House, Light of Life,** and **Homeless Children's Education Fund** for dedicating new facilities to better serve their clients. **Center for Victims** opened a world-class shelter for victims of domestic violence at its main office on the South Side. The shelter includes an interactive exhibit on trauma, canine advocates, and a program connecting clients with professionals who are working toward communities free of violence and crime.

**Sojourner House** volunteers, community partners, and staff who created a private, safe outdoor space featuring interactive activities and a new shelter for their residents and children.



*De'Netta Benjamin Miller cuts the ribbon at the newly-renovated Sojourner House Play Yard.*

## Mark Your Calendars

Board meeting will be held on the following Tuesdays at 4:30 pm

- January 16, 2024
- June 11, 2024
- September 17, 2024

The Board and Annual Meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 12, 2024.**

More than 200 community leaders, elected officials, staff, clients, and former clients attended the **Light of Life** ribbon cutting of **Ridge Recovery Place** on the North Side. The new 53,000 square foot facilities is a result of a successful \$24-million capital campaign.



*An educator tutors a student in Winnie's Wagon mobile learning unit.*

**Homeless Children's Education Fund** dedicated **Winnie's Wagon**, a new mobile learning and technology unit that connects kids whose families are experiencing homelessness with technology and learning opportunities. The mobile unit engages hard-to-reach children who may not be staying in shelters or attending formal school regularly.

**Trade Institute of Pittsburgh (TIP)**, recipients of the 2023 Eileen Zyngolo Spirit of Service Award. TIP is a vocational training provider dedicated to empowering men and women with significant barriers to employment by providing skill-building and career opportunities.