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Holiday Greetings!

May your holiday season be filled with an abundance of occasions that add meaning to your celebrations and nurture your relationships. Strong and enduring traditions present amazing opportunities to share experiences and build connections. We at the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation are grateful for the many kind words and deeds extended to us throughout the past year.

Wishing you the joy of family, the gift of friendships and the best of everything in 2023.

Pam Golden

Foundation Launches Education Video Series



Screen shots from the Building Brighter Futures video series on YouTube

The importance of engaging parents in the education of their young children cannot be overstated. Education is one way to disrupt the cycle of intergenerational poverty that plagues some families. To remind parents that they are their child's first and most important teacher(s), the Foundation has created a suite of five motivational videos—**Building Brighter Futures**—for parents of young children. The



videos are free, short (under 10 minutes), readily available on the internet and can be watched on a computer, tablet or even a phone. The videos can be used by agencies offering parenting classes to stimulate

discussion. Topics covered on the Building Brighter Futures series include: Babies Learn, Too • How to Advocate for Your Child's Education • Mental Wellness and Self-Care for Your Child and You • The Power of Local Libraries • Resources for Families Living in Allegheny County. The videos are available on the [Building Brighter Futures YouTube channel](#). Download the Building Brighter Futures tool kit [here](#).

PITTSBURGH CHILD GUIDANCE FOUNDATION 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Paul David Spradley
PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

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Hon. David Spurgeon
Sister Janice Vanderneck

Board Elects Two Trustees

Welcome to **Aaron Aldrich** and **Megan Nestor** who in January will begin serving three-year terms as Trustees on the Foundation.



AARON ALDRICH

has 17 years of experience in the banking and finance industry. His journey started in retail

banking where he had various roles before joining Bridgeway Capital in 2012. Currently, he is the Director of Lending Strategies and is responsible for leading strategic planning initiatives for the Lending Team.

Aaron enjoys community service and has instructed financial literacy courses at area high schools and churches. He serves as President of the North Side Christian Health Center Board of Directors and serves on the Chatham Women Business Center Advisory Committee. In addition to receiving several awards for achievements in banking, Aaron was honored by The New Pittsburgh Courier as a 2019 Men of Excellence Awardee. He received his bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh and his

Trustees Elect Officers

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

Paul Spradley

Ed.D. President

Joan Eichner

Dr.PH, Vice President

Michele Rone Cooper

Secretary

Brian Allen

Treasurer

Master of Business Administration from Point Park University.



MEGAN NESTOR

is the Deputy Director at Allegheny County's Department of Children Initiatives (DCI), whose mission

is to improve access for all Allegheny County children and families to quality early learning and out-of-school time programs.

Possessing a mix of experience in direct service, policy and data analysis and community engagement, Megan enjoys using data and research in

tandem with community voices to connect policy and practice across disciplines.

Previously, Megan worked with non-profits in New York City to combat systemic inequities facing historically underrepresented students, and, while in graduate school, Megan was a Policy Associate in the City of Detroit Mayor's Office.

Prior to joining DCI, Megan was the Director of Human Centered Economy at Fourth Economy Consulting, where she focused on the connections between economic development, education, and childcare. Megan holds a bachelor's degree and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan.

FAREWELL TO THREE VALUED TRUSTEES

Gay Fogarty, Linda Krynski and William McKain have reached their term limits and are leaving the Board at the end of the year.

Board President **Paul Spradley** thanked the trio for their many contributions to the organization and the community and for being stalwart advocates of the Foundation and its work. ■

23 Community Partners Receive Grants

During the annual meeting in November, Trustees voted to award grants to the following organizations that serve those who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness.

▶ **Allegheny Valley Association of Churches** works to keep families with children together as they transition from homelessness or housing instability by providing shelter, meals, case management, and support that will lead to self-sufficiency.

▶ **Allies for Health + Wellbeing** provides support for clients living



with HIV/AIDS and their children to prevent them from becoming homeless.

▶ **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.

▶ **Bethlehem Haven** provides short-term solutions to avoid long-term poverty by keeping families in their homes and out of the shelter system.

▶ **Beverly's Birthdays**, believing that all children are worth celebrating, provides birthday cheer

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Grants

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in shelters for children experiencing homelessness.

► **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** provides safe, emergency shelter to families with children who would otherwise be living on the streets.

► **Catapult** provides opportunity, education, and support for single, young parents with children under the age of three to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

► **Duquesne University School of Nursing** presented a symposium on the Impact of Social Isolation on vulnerable populations.

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

► **Familylinks** provides critical financial assistance to families



Jeremiah's Place provides free, emergency childcare.

experiencing homelessness, transitioning to temporary or new permanent housing, or who are in imminent danger of homelessness.

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

► **Homeless Children's Education Fund** acquires supplies for Winnie's Wagon, a mobile unit that provides

services for 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 0 to 6.

► **Light of Life** works to prevent homelessness and provide stability in the lives of women with children by providing a continuum of care.

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Kudos to..



Sister Janice Vanderneck, who was honored at a gala during the 30th Anniversary Conference of the National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors of Hispanic Ministry for her work in serving and collaborating with the community.

In accepting the national recognition in Nevada, Sister Janice said, "This recognition is significant to me because it comes from my faith community. My motivation for service with and for Hispanic immigrants is fired by my Catholic faith." Sister

Janice is pictured with Bishop Alberto Rojas of the Diocese of San Bernardino, Calif.

Joni Schwager, Executive Director of the Staunton Farm Foundation, who was honored by Mental Health America of Southwestern PA with the Award of Distinction for her longstanding work in advocating behavioral health.



Donta Green, Executive Director of the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh, who was named one of *Pittsburgh Magazine's* "40 under 40" for his work in empowering people with significant barriers to employment through skill building and career opportunities. Donta is also head coach for the Westinghouse Academy football team, which enjoyed a championship winning season. ■

Grants

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▶ **RAND** provides objective research and analysis that helps develop solutions to public policy challenges to make communities safer, healthier, and more prosperous.

▶ **Serenity Living Transitional Home** works to prevent homelessness in youth and young adults by providing transitional housing and supportive services to those who were homeless.

▶ **Sisters Place** provides residential clients with basic needs so they can focus on recovery from addiction, financial stability, employment, and education.

▶ **Sojourner House** works to support mothers in recovery by keeping families together by providing a safe haven to help keep them from slipping back into homelessness.

▶ **South Hills Interfaith Movement** provides service coordination and vital support to prevent families from facing financial and/or housing crises.



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

▶ **The Salvation Army** guides families through structured, goal-setting programs that focus on their individual strengths and gain stability in their lives.

▶ **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. ■



Low-Barrier Homeless Shelter Opens

Second Avenue Commons, a new low-barrier shelter, opened in late November to serve people experiencing homelessness. The facility has 96 beds with capacity for an additional 30 beds, if needed, and includes a primary care clinic and a day program that provides support services for walk-in clients. Pittsburgh Mercy, Pittsburgh Mercy Operation Safety Net, and UPMC are among the partners providing services at the facility. ■



Mark Your Calendars

Board Meetings will be held at the Foundation office beginning at 4:30 pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday, **January 17, 2023**
- Tuesday, **June 20, 2023**
- Tuesday, **September 19, 2023**
- Tuesday, **November 14, 2023**
- Board and Annual Meeting