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Foundation Celebrates 40 Years of Service

The Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation (PCGF) is a small, industrious, and thoughtful grantmaker that is consistently evolving to create the strongest possible impact on the lives of the region's most vulnerable children.



**Pittsburgh
Child Guidance
Foundation**

While we have redefined the Foundation over the years, PCGF remains true to its beginnings. Since its inception 90 years ago as a direct service provider, the organization has endeavored to understand, educate, advocate for, and amplify the need

to address the mental health and wellbeing of children.

The Pittsburgh Child Guidance Center was founded in 1931 to provide psychiatric services to children and their families, train mental health

professionals, conduct research and promote mental wellness in the community. In the early 1980s, the Center transitioned its service to Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic and used the proceeds from the sale of its building to establish the Foundation.

Today the mission of PCGF upholds its founding tradition by advocating for the mental health and wellbeing of children, enabling them to grow into healthy, well-adjusted, functioning adults. ■

Making an Impact

As the pandemic continued in 2021, many of our grantees experienced sharp increases in their demands for services. They witnessed the impact the crisis had on those living at the margins from economic hardships to the challenges their children faced because of remote learning and the social isolation we all faced, as well as mental health challenges. Some organizations reported that the heightened stress brought about an increase in neglect and abuse. Throughout it all, our partners worked diligently to meet the increasing



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Photo: Courtesy of Women's Center & Shelter

Provider Survey

In January, PCGF conducted a small survey of organizations that serve people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Respondents expressed the need for public transportation, childcare, and improved technology, including access to the internet and infrastructure to continue delivering services digitally.

Other concerns involved the need for a streamlined process for entering and exiting homeless shelters, more affordable housing, and reliable funding.

If you're looking for an opportunity

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PITTSBURGH CHILD GUIDANCE FOUNDATION 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Making an Impact

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demands for help while serving families with dignity and respect.

Here are highlights of their accomplishments.

► **Allegheny Valley Association of Churches** (AVAC) provided meals, shelter, case management, and hospitality to families with children experiencing homelessness with its overarching goal to bring stability that leads to self-sufficiency.

During a public hearing, unsolicited, 50 people showed up to support AVAC. One woman spoke about the services she received as a 13-year-old and of the compassion shown by the staff and volunteers. She concluded her testimony by enumerating her accomplishments that included a college degree, marriage, and home ownership in the same neighborhood. An AVAC administrator said, **“We will never take for granted the impact this program has had on families and especially the children.”**

► **Angels’ Place** supported single parents with children ages birth to 5 to stem intergenerational poverty by meeting the critical needs of these families. They included providing early childhood education, positive parenting strategies, and working to improve options for housing stabilization. Among their achievements, children met 88 percent of developmental milestones in age-appropriate categories; 100 percent of the children were screened with Ages and Stages Questionnaires; and 209 individuals donated nearly 3,800 volunteer hours to advance their mission.

► **Bethlehem Haven’s** (BH) Safe at Home program provided monetary support and basic needs assistance and/or rapid rehousing to families with children who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. During the pandemic, BH was able to assist 323 families – 62 percent more than originally projected. Eighteen families were able to remain in their homes and nine were able to move to more



Photos: Courtesy of Women’s Center & Shelter

“ I have so many things to worry about...my kids’ education, our health and bills for childcare but I don’t have to worry about losing my home. Thank you so much.”

Jimmy, father of two children, who hired a sitter to keep his job.
(Bethlehem Haven)

affordable, sustainable housing.

► **Bridge to the Mountains** provided emergency shelter to pregnant women and women with children who were experiencing sudden homelessness and were at risk of having to live on the street and/or family separation.

Bridge provided shelter for five families (five adults, three children and four newborns). Every family was connected with multiple supportive resources that addressed issues such as food insecurity, and physical and mental health needs. Every family was able to transition out of emergency shelter to Rapid Rehousing or Permanent Supportive Housing. Additionally, Bridge coordinated shelter for four 18-year-olds who would otherwise have been living on the streets. A Bridge administrator said, **“It would be nearly impossible to articulate the great sense of humility we experience when those seeking support trust us to stand alongside of them...(and) being present for the birth of four beautiful newborn babies.”**

► **The Day One Project** housed single parents with children 2 and younger in supportive housing where they

learned about emotional and physical health; child development; financial independence; and achieving housing stability. Upon completion, participants receive a voucher for Section 8 housing.

► **East End Cooperative Ministry** (EECM) hosted 130 kids at a five-week Summer Camp for children ages 5 to 16 from disadvantaged communities. The program focused on career awareness, arts and humanities, physical education, life skills, and prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use. While interacting with the children, counselors provided emotional support by being directly involved in absentee parent issues; resolving social media bullying; conducting grief counseling and attending three funeral wakes to assist families affected by violent deaths.

► **Familylinks** collaborated with the Housing Authority of Pittsburgh to provide case management and therapeutic services that addressed mental health, substance abuse, and/or psychoeducational needs for the entire family. The pandemic has emphasized the need for these critical services.

► **HEARTH** provided services to women with children who experienced homelessness as victims of domestic violence or other traumas. HEARTH served 55 participants (19 adults and 36 children) to address education needs and provide social and emotional support, job training, and financial literacy. Eighty-one percent of participants obtained safe, permanent housing.

► **Homeless Children’s Education Fund** (HCEF) provided quality one-on-one coaching to create hope through learning. HCEF held more than 30

Making an Impact

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arts, science, and dance enrichment workshops and partnered with Reading is Fundamental to read 300+ books. HCEF worked with students at Sojourner MOMS to grow and harvest vegetables in a community garden.

► **Jeremiah's Place** (JP) supported families and essential workers during the pandemic through its Strong Families Program by providing reliable childcare to prevent neglect and abuse during stressful times. As the only service of its kind in the region, JP had a 30 percent increase – serving 360 children from 235 families.

► **Light of Life** (LoL) provided a continuum of care for women and children that ranged from meeting basic needs to education, employment, financial assistance, and rehabilitation services. In April, LoL opened an 18-bed shelter to move women and children off the streets and out of cars.

Through case management, women

developed life skills and children receiving care in the Family Shelter experienced a sense of structure and normalcy. Many program participants were able to maintain housing or return home.

► **The Salvation Army** supported Pathways of Hope, an individualized program providing wrap-around services for homeless families with children to exit temporary shelters for more permanent housing, provide emergency funds, transportation, and job readiness training. Equally important, Pathways helps families develop life goals to grow and protect themselves and their children against the pitfalls of intergenerational poverty.

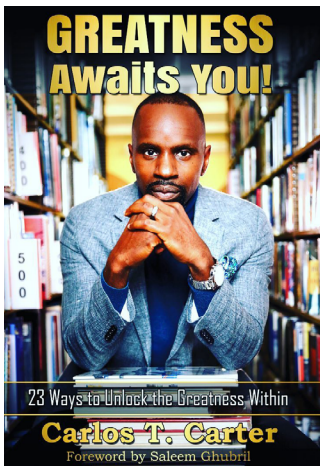
► **Sojourner House** helped homeless mothers in recovery who experienced increased stress and isolation due to business and school closures during the pandemic. Participants work to maintain abstinence, rebuild family relationships, increase self-sufficiency, gain employment, apply for housing, and be reunified with their children.

► **South Hills Interfaith Movement**

(SHIM) supported families with children experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness by helping them meet basic needs and navigate the complex support system. SHIM supported 1,900 individuals who sought assistance with rent or utilities or for food insecurity by visiting SHIM's food pantry. SHIM is the only organization of its kind serving this area.

► **Women's Center & Shelter** (WC&S) Children's Program provided healing advocacy and counseling to child victims of intimate partner violence – most experienced homelessness. The 168 children served while in shelter received healing services and expressive activities to work through their trauma. The WC&S team observes that many of their clients have complex, multi-layered needs that require collaboration across many departments such as interpreters for foreign-born, attorneys, health care, employment, job training, securing public benefits and basic supplies as well as emotional support and counseling. ■

Kudos to...



Tammy Aupperle, who was named Executive Director of Jeremiah's Place.

Ardana Jefferson, who was named Executive Director of Homeless Children's Education Fund. Previously she was with Hosanna House and has extensive experience working with nonprofit organizations in Florida and Pittsburgh.

Urban League President & CEO **Carlos Carter**, who published his first book "Greatness Awaits You: 23 Ways to Unlock the Greatness Within." ■

Merci, Gracias, Thanks to ...

The organizations that took the time to participate in the Provider Survey in January for your insightful responses.

Inkwell Global Marketing that has become a very generous supporter of the work being done by PCGF. In January, Inkwell sent more than 50 men's shirts, jackets, and pants that we distributed to one of our shelter partners. ■

Provider Survey

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to make a difference in our community, some organizations are recruiting volunteers. Resources include college students, most of whom need internships to graduate. The »**Bayer Center**, conducts board training, »**Leadership Pittsburgh**, and »**Pittsburgh Cares** place board members and volunteers, respectively.

On behalf of the Board, thanks to the survey participants for their thoughtful and illuminating responses. ■

Mark Your Calendars

We ask Trustees to make every effort to attend:

Board Meeting Tuesday, June 21
4:30 – 6 p.m.

Board Meeting Tuesday, September 13
4:30 – 6 p.m.

**Board Meeting/
Annual Meeting** Tuesday, November 8
4:30 – 6 p.m.