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## Call for Proposals

Non-profit organizations based in Allegheny County that serve families with children who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless are invited to submit proposals for funding from the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation.

Visit [www.PittsburghChildGuidanceFoundation.org/grants](http://www.PittsburghChildGuidanceFoundation.org/grants) for application guidelines.

The deadline to submit is October 12, 2023. ■

## Proposed Policies to Help Vulnerable Youth

This spring, Homeless Children’s Education Fund hosted a Homeless Youth Policy Breakfast to explore ways to amplify voices and mitigate the circumstances of these young adults. Rodd Monts, Director of State Policy for School House Connection provided an overview of legislation now under consideration in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Monts said, “These bills would reduce barriers youth often face in accessing vital documents and critical supports needed for self-sufficiency, as well as to navigate successfully through higher education so that they can obtain a degree and thrive as adults.”

► **HB 127 - Drivers Licenses for Youth Experiencing Homelessness**

**Sponsor:** Erie County  
Rep. Ryan Bizarro

Would waive the fees for youth identified as homeless by a state agency and permit these children to use a shelter or school address as a temporary address; however, the child must be enrolled in an education program to receive the waived fee.

[Click here to see a sample letter of support for HB 127 2023](#)

*more policies on page 2*



**PITTSBURGH CHILD GUIDANCE FOUNDATION 2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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# Policies

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## ▶ **HB 729 - Post-Secondary Help for Homeless Students**

**Sponsor:** Berks County  
Rep. Mark Rozzi

Would require all institutions of higher learning to provide homeless and foster youth priority for on-campus housing and to develop plans for access to housing resources in between semesters and during breaks, if such accommodations are offered for the student body. It would require institutions of higher education to provide a liaison who would identify services and financial aid available for current and formerly homeless students.

[Click here to see a sample letter of support for HB 729 2023](#)

## ▶ **HB 730 - Homeless Minor's Ability to Contract for Services**

**Sponsor:** Berks County  
Rep. Mark Rozzi

Would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to apply to high school or post-secondary schools, as well as contract for a variety of services including shelter and housing, employment, loans, and bank accounts. Further, the legislation would provide immunity to providers who have reason to believe the minor would incur harm if returned immediately to the home of the parent, the provider is unable to locate a parent, or the minor refuses to disclose contact information.

[Click here to see a sample letter of support for HB 730 2023](#)

## ▶ **HB 1175 - Pilot Program - Support for Homeless Students in Higher Education**

**Sponsor:** Chester County  
Rep. Melissa Shusterman

Would provide for a pilot program at six geographically dispersed schools – four community colleges and two PASSHE institutions – to assist students experiencing homelessness. The pilot program would ensure that homeless students have access to safe housing, food, laundry, technology, and other services so that they can focus on completing their education. Schools participating in the program would also be tasked with providing feedback on the program to recommend future legislation.

[Click here to see a sample letter of support for HB 1175 2023 Pilot Program](#)



## Free Dental Clinic

Mission of Mercy's two-day free care dental clinic will be held on October 27 and 28 at the David Lawrence Convention Center. Patients can receive care without regard to insurance or income. In prior years more than 1,400 people have taken advantage of the clinic. Services are provided on a first-come, first served basis. Volunteers are needed.

Visit [www.MOMpgh.org](http://www.MOMpgh.org) to become a sponsor or volunteer. ■

## Back to School

Going or returning to school can be stressful for children and teens, especially those with mental health issues or who have been exposed to trauma. Since the pandemic, mental health issues have spiked. National statistics show that 70% of teens suffer from loneliness. More than 40% of teens report feeling persistently sad or hopeless, and suicide rates among 10- to 24-year-olds increased by 57% between 2007 and 2018. Experts offer a few tips to get the year off to a good start with practices that bring security and stability into their lives.

Dial 988 to reach the emergency suicide and crisis lifeline.

Caring adults can play a vitally important role in providing understanding, reassurance, and guidance to help children and youth through stressful times.



## Building Brighter Futures

Click these links for tips on helping kids get ready for school:

<https://mhanational.org/blog/going-back-school-doesnt-have-be-hard>

<https://mhanational.org/safety-school-physical-and-emotional>

### Early Education Is Key

It is never too soon to engage children in learning. Building Brighter Futures is a free video series that offers a host of tips on ways to incorporate educating children in everyday activities.

Click this link to watch the videos:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@buildingbrighterfutures334> ■

# Symposium on Incarcerated Persons

For 13 years, Duquesne University's School of Nursing has presented symposia on social justice issues that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. Scholars, researchers, policy makers, healthcare professionals, advocates, and those with lived experience will come together on October 26 and 27 to explore issues affecting The Face of the Person who is Incarcerated through lectures, panel discussions, and breakout sessions.

[Click for more information](#) ■



## Summer Fun

Thanks to Gary Brill and Inkwell Global Marketing for brightening the days of more than 200 kids with the donation of frisbees. For three years, Inkwell has generously donated frisbees, clothing and winter hats for distribution to nonprofit organizations for kids and families. ■

## Kudos to...



**Aaron Aldrich**, PCGF Board Member, who was appointed Senior SBA Business Development Officer, Regional Vice President, Northwest Bank.



FBI Director Christopher Wray presented **Donta Green**, with the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award for his service to multiple community organizations. In addition to serving as Executive Director of the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh, Donta coaches the

championship winning Westinghouse Bulldog football team and mentors the players.

**Homeless Children's Education Fund** received national recognition on The Kelly Clarkson Show for being a Good Neighbor of the Year for their work in uplifting the community.

[Click for Video](#)

**Paul Spradley**, PCGF Board President, who is having a banner year. Within the past three months, he has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Bankers Association, named one of 50 Men of Excellence by the *New Pittsburgh Courier*, and was selected as a Top 100 Under 50 Executive and Emerging Leaders by Diversity MBA. ■



## Mark Your Calendars

- **September 19** - 4 to 6 p.m., Board Meeting
- **October 12** Deadline to apply for 2023 Grant requests
- **October 26-27** Annual Duquesne University School of Nursing Symposium on The Face of the Person who is Incarcerated
- **October 27-28** Free Dental Clinic at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center
- **November 14** - 4:30 to 6 p.m. Board and Annual Meetings ■



*PCGF Board member Sister Janice Vanderneck (left) and Executive Director Pam Golden joined Paul Spradley to celebrate his recognition as a Man of Excellence.*