

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**McAuley Ministries, new Pittsburgh Mercy Health System foundation,  
announces inaugural grants  
in excess of \$700,000 to Pittsburgh community**

**PITTSBURGH, PA (December 18 , 2008)** — McAuley Ministries, the new grantmaking arm of Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, is pleased to announce its initial set of grants totaling \$739,350 to nine nonprofits serving the Pittsburgh community.

Initial grant recipients and the amount of each grant are as follows:

- **YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh:** \$500,000 payable over three years, to support construction of the new Thelma Lovette YMCA in the Hill District. The grant will support the green rooftop terrace which will provide a site for outdoor recreation.
- **Hill House Association:** \$44,000 for staffing, consultants, and offices to support neighborhood development and management of projects resulting from the Hill District community benefits agreement.
- **Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh:** \$75,000 over three years in support of staffing and consultants for grant-writing, community development projects, membership recruitment and communications.
- **A Child's Place at Mercy,** a legacy program of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System: \$26,100 for the Parent and Baby Project, an initiative designed to prevent shaken baby syndrome.
- **Operation Safety Net®,** a legacy program of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System: \$29,250 for the transitional housing component of the Allegheny Engagement Network which targets the area's chronic homeless population.
- **Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program,** a legacy program of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System: \$20,000 for strategic planning.

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**McAuley Ministries Inaugural grants**  
**December 2008**  
**2 of 3**

In addition, McAuley Ministries responded to the escalating demand for essential services fueled by the current financial crisis as an increasing number of families and individuals turn to local nonprofit organizations for food, housing, utilities, and transportation. The foundation will contribute \$20,000 to **Neighbor-Aid**, the community relief fund established at the Pittsburgh Foundation, \$20,000 to the **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank**, and \$5,000 each to **Jubilee Kitchen** and the **Intersection** in McKeesport.

The Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS) established McAuley Ministries in 2008 to administer the proceeds from the sale of Mercy Hospital. The foundation's mission is to serve as a catalyst for change, committing resources and working collaboratively to promote healthy, safe, and vibrant communities.

“McAuley Ministries will honor the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy by focusing our grantmaking on the sponsored ministries of the Sisters as well as on the Pittsburgh neighborhoods traditionally served by their ministries,” said Michele Rone Cooper, executive director of McAuley Ministries. “Those neighborhoods include the Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland.”

The foundation targets programs that address health and wellness, community development, educational success, and capacity building among nonprofit and community organizations.

“By selecting these target programs, McAuley Ministries follows the example of Catherine McAuley who used a significant inheritance to meet the needs of the poor in nineteenth century Ireland,” explained Sheila Carney, RSM, chair of McAuley Ministries' board of trustees. “In addition to health care and education, her focus was on providing people with the skills necessary to be self-sufficient.

“Our new foundation offers us the opportunity to continue to enhance the communities in which we have ministered for the 165 years of our history in Pittsburgh,” Carney continued. “We are fortunate to be able to carry on that legacy.”

For more information on McAuley Ministries and grant opportunities, please call 412.578.6223.

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**About McAuley Ministries:**

McAuley Ministries is a public foundation and the grantmaking arm of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS). In 2007, PMHS refocused its mission, transitioned its acute care services to other providers in the region, and returned to its roots of caring for the most vulnerable people in the community. Mercy Hospital merged with the UPMC Health System in January 2008, and the proceeds of the transaction resulted in the formation of McAuley Ministries. The foundation is named in honor of Catherine McAuley who founded the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland in 1831. She was dedicated to serving the economically poor, sick, and uneducated, and McAuley Ministries continues her legacy.

**About Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS)**

Pittsburgh Mercy Health System is an extension of the Catholic ministry to all people in Southwestern Pennsylvania. A member of Catholic Health East and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, PMHS focuses on providing quality services that meet physical, mental and spiritual needs. Ministries include Mercy Behavioral Health, A Child's Place at Mercy, Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, Operation Safety Net ®, St. Pius X Personal Care Home, Mercy Foundation, and McAuley Ministries.

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