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**McAULEY MINISTRIES AWARDS GRANTS TO SUPPORT
HEALTH AND WELLNESS, VIOLENCE PREVENTION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND MORE**

PITTSBURGH (June 1, 2010) — McAuley Ministries, the grant-making arm of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, announces the awarding of \$156,280 in grants to 15 area organizations. A majority of the grants are designed to address health and wellness, violence prevention, community development, and capacity building in the Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland neighborhoods.

This brings the total amount of grants awarded by McAuley Ministries since its inception in January 2008 to \$2,701,730.

Grants awarded this spring will support a local collaborative urban farm, local community development initiatives, earthquake relief and rebuilding initiatives in Haiti, and more.

Grant recipients approved by the McAuley Ministries Board of Directors and their amounts include:

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Health and Wellness Grants

- **Center for Hearing and Deaf Services**
\$30,000 to further develop and maintain a website that will deliver physical and mental health information in English, close captioning, and video-streamed American Sign Language for persons who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing.

- **GTECH Strategies**
\$37,580 to launch the Francis Street Community Garden and Farm at the former Bedford Dwelling site at Bedford and Francis Street in the Hill District. This project is a collaboration of GTECH, Grow Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Housing Authority, the A Philip Randolph Institute, and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to reclaim a large vacant lot in the Hill District and return it to productive use. The Francis Street project will consist of an urban farm, a community vegetable garden, a sunflower garden, a wildflower garden, a pumpkin patch, and a farmer's market. Four youth from the community will be hired to work with the farm manager during the summer to learn farm systems management.

- **Pittsburgh Mercy Health System Development Office for Mercy Behavioral Health's Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh Program**
\$7,000 to Mercy Behavioral Health to expand Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh to two Catholic schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh: St. Agnes Parish School in West Oakland and St. Benedict the Moor School in the Hill District.

Community Development Grants

- **Amani Christian Community Development Corporation**
\$10,000 to green and beautify vacant, blighted properties in the Upper Hill District

- **Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh**
\$15,000 for the creation of a mosaic sign and three-dimensional sculpture at the intersection of Fifth Avenue, the Birmingham Bridge, and Kirkpatrick Street in Uptown. The artist will work with a group of teens from the Hill House Association's Youth Service Program and refugees from the Refugee Service program of Jewish Family and Children's Services to create this public art.

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Earthquake Relief & Rebuilding in Haiti

- **Catholic Health East Global Health Ministry**
\$5,000 toward rebuilding Hospital St. Francis de Sales in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

- **Catholic Relief Services**
\$5,000 for the Haitian Emergency Relief fund

“McAuley Ministries is pleased to honor the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy by supporting and collaborating with these organizations, many of whom have developed creative projects to promote healthy, safe and vibrant communities,” said **Michele Rone Cooper**, executive director, McAuley Ministries.

For more information about McAuley Ministries, visit www.mcauleyministries.org. For more information about Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, visit www.pmhs.org.

About McAuley Ministries

McAuley Ministries is a public charity and the grant-making arm of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS). Established in 2008, the organization is named in honor of Catherine McAuley, who founded the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland in 1831 and dedicated her life to serving the economically poor, sick and uneducated. McAuley Ministries continues Catherine McAuley’s legacy by focusing grant-making on the Pittsburgh neighborhoods traditionally served by the Sisters of Mercy: the Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland, and the sponsored ministries of the Sisters of Mercy in southwestern Pennsylvania.

About Pittsburgh Mercy Health System

Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS) 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[®], and McAuley Ministries.

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