



McAULEY MINISTRIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**McAULEY MINISTRIES GRANTS IMPACT THE NEEDS  
IN HILL DISTRICT, UPTOWN, AND WEST OAKLAND NEIGHBORHOODS**

**More than \$1.1 million in support for health and wellness,  
community development, educational achievement and non-profit capacity**

PITTSBURGH — McAuley Ministries, the grantmaking arm of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, has announced grants totaling \$1,192,540 that will address the health and wellness, community development, educational achievement and non-profit capacity needs of non-profits in the Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland neighborhoods.

The goal of McAuley Ministries is to continue to be a catalyst for change, committing resources and working collaboratively that will enable non-profits and community organizations to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities.

(MORE)

## Page Two

### McAuley Ministries Grants Impact the Needs in Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland Neighborhoods

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

#### *Health and Wellness*

**Healthy Home Resources:** \$150,000 over three years to reach 75 children with asthma in the Mercy Corridor. This project provides a full inspection of the child's home and monitoring of environmental triggers that cause asthmatic symptoms. Healthy Home Resources provides individual home remediation plans and implementation, individual family education plans, and six months of follow-up to reduce or eliminate asthma triggers and decrease asthma symptoms for the child.

#### *Community Development*

**Hill District Neighborhood Partnership Program:** \$250,000 to support a collaborative effort by the Hill House, One Hill Neighborhood Coalition, BNY Mellon, and community development and social service providers based in the Hill District. Funding will be used to implement: 1) a program targeted to close the racial academic achievement gap; 2) violence prevention and substance abuse intervention; 3) home rehabilitation for low-income, senior homeowners to stabilize Hill District neighborhoods and prevent vacancy and abandoned properties; 4) financial literacy programs to help increase the financial security of low-income residents and avoid predatory lending.

**August Wilson Center for African American Culture:** \$50,000 to provide 500 charter memberships during the inaugural year of the August Wilson Center for African American Culture. The grant will reach approximately 800 persons in the Mercy Corridor by providing memberships, access to events, artists' appearances and tours of the Center.

**Oakland Planning and Development Corporation:** \$250,000 to convert two ground-level units of an apartment building in West Oakland into classrooms and a mock hospital room to train low-income persons to become home health aides and certified nurse assistants. The training program also provides CPR certification. The new facility will be used to serve 1,224 job seekers in 2010, an increase of 13% over 2009.

#### *Educational Achievement*

**YouthPlaces:** \$192,540 over two years for YouthPlaces sites in the Upper Hill and West Oakland to provide safe, out-of-school programs to 100 youth that will: 1) increase access to recreational activities and education to improve health and physical fitness; 2) improve writing skills through a year-round writing project; and 3) prepare older youth, ages 16-24, become self-sufficient adults through life skills training, career development, and mentoring.

(MORE)

## Page Three

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#### *Educational Achievement (Cont'd.)*

**Center that C.A.R.E.S.:** \$75,000 to provide and expose 100 middle and high-school youth from the Mercy Corridor to educational and cultural experiences that will influence their decision-making about their future endeavors. Programs will be delivered during the school year and summer to engage students in workshops, lectures, field trips to cultural and historical venues, and visits to college and university campuses. An emphasis will be placed on helping students become “Promise-ready” to leverage scholarships through the Pittsburgh Promise.

**Carnegie Science Center:** \$40,000 for *Mission Discovery*, an out-of-school science program for middle school students and their families in the Hill District. The program provides a safe place for students during the critical out-of-school hours and exposes them to science, art, and technology while promoting academic performance.

#### *Capacity Building*

**Carlow University:** \$364,000 over three years, a seed grant to establish the *Mercy Center for Service*, a campus-wide, collaborative center that coordinates the University’s service and community outreach programs. The *Center* will promote student service, institutionalize service-learning, and provide the infrastructure to support community outreach. The seed grant will result in a financial and development plan to sustain the *Center* and inspire a new generation of persons committed to a mission of service.

**Lydia’s Place:** \$46,000 to assist this organization that provides a continuum of services to incarcerated women and their children to increase its capacity to meet a growing need. The grant will be used for strategic planning, board and staff development, information technology, fundraising for children’s programming, and an analysis of the feasibility for establishing transitional, supportive housing for addicted female offenders.

“It is critical that we continue to invest substantial resources in support of the essential needs of the neighborhood and people from all walks of life and from varied backgrounds,” said Michele Rene Cooper, McAuley Ministries Executive Director. “In light of the impact of the economic crisis on nonprofits and a very challenging fundraising environment, support and guidance such as this is needed now more than ever.”

(MORE)

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in Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland Neighborhoods**

More information on McAuley Ministries and grant opportunities is available by calling 412.578.6223 or by visiting their website at [www.mcauleyministries.org](http://www.mcauleyministries.org).

**About McAuley Ministries**

McAuley Ministries is a public charity and the grantmaking arm of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS). Established in 2008 to administer the proceeds from the sale of Mercy Hospital, the organization is named in honor of Catherine McAuley who founded the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland in 1831, dedicating her life to serving the economically poor, sick and uneducated. McAuley Ministries continues her legacy.

**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<sup>®</sup>, St. Pius X Personal Care Home, Mercy Foundation, and McAuley Ministries.