



## McAULEY MINISTRIES

Contact: Michele Rone Cooper  
Executive Director, McAuley Ministries  
v: 412.578.6223  
[mrcooper@mercy.pmhs.org](mailto:mrcooper@mercy.pmhs.org)

Dick Roberts  
Roberts Communications  
v: 412.535.5000  
[droberts@rob-com.com](mailto:droberts@rob-com.com)

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### **McAULEY MINISTRIES TO HELP CARLOW UNIVERSITY EXPAND SERVICE OUTREACH**

#### **Grant will create *Mercy Center of Service* to help more people in need**

PITTSBURGH – In an effort to consolidate and expand service programs for those in need, McAuley Ministries, the grantmaking arm of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS), has announced a \$364,000 seed grant over three years to help Carlow University establish the *Mercy Center for Service*.

The amount is part of nine grants totaling \$1,192,540 awarded to address the health and wellness, community development, educational achievement and capacity needs of non-profits in Pittsburgh's Hill District, Uptown and West Oakland neighborhoods.

In creating the *Mercy Center for Service*, Carlow University plans to provide a campus-wide, collaborative base for four key programs; Alternative Spring Break, Annual Day of Service, the Office of Service Learning, and the Grace Ann Geibel Institute for Justice and Social Responsibility.

(MORE)

**McAuley Ministries grant to establish *Mercy Center for Service***

“We share with Carlow University not only our Mercy heritage, but a spirit of service that speaks to the heart of our mission at McAuley Ministries,” said Michele Rone Cooper, executive director of McAuley Ministries. “We are providing this support to help make reality the university’s vision to strengthen, expand and sustain their community outreach efforts.”

“Like McAuley Ministries, Carlow University embodies the heritage and values of the Sisters of Mercy,” said Dr. Chrys Gabrich, dean of Arts and Sciences at Carlow University. “This new Center will further help us embrace our ethic of service for a just and merciful world by expanding outreach initiatives and meeting the needs of more people.”

The plan calls for a three-year seed grant to assist in the creation, staffing and funding of the new *Mercy Center for Service* at Carlow University. The Center will invest in a three-pronged strategy to promote student service, institutionalize service-learning, and manage the process through infrastructure and program support, building on current service initiatives:

**Alternative Spring Break (ASB):** Founded 15 years ago, this has been a signature Carlow program where students dedicate their Spring Break in service to those less fortunate. ASB is part service project, part service-learning in which participants pray about and reflect on not only the “what” and the “how” of their service activity, but as important, the “why?” In 2008, 25 students and five adult advisors assisted hurricane victims in Louisiana.

**Annual Day of Service:** Each year Carlow organizes a Day of Service for first-year students, partnering with more than 20 local community agencies. The vision is to expand this Day of Service to involve the entire University community, from first-year to upper-class students, faculty, staff, alumnae, and the Campus School.

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**Service-Learning:** All students must take at least one course designed to incorporate service learning into the curriculum. The University plans to assist each of three academic divisions and individual faculty to evaluate their curricula and revise courses where appropriate. Over the three years of the grant, 12 additional courses will be designed and designated as service-learning courses. In addition, a portion of the grant will be used to stimulate and engage faculty service-learning research in interdisciplinary cohorts, and to include students as engaged scholars in this research.

**The Grace Ann Geibel Institute for Justice and Social Responsibility**, whose programming is supported by the Carlow Elsie H. Hillman Endowment, addresses issues of social justice such as human trafficking and domestic violence. The Institute is currently coordinated by volunteer faculty team; the McAuley Ministries' grant will provide operational infrastructure to the Institute.

During the first three years of the *Mercy Center for Service*, Carlow University will benchmark current service programming, track participation rates, assess progress and develop a sustainability plan for future funding.

**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.

**About Carlow University**

Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Carlow University was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1929. Formerly Carlow College, the institution was granted university status in 2004. Offering both undergraduate and graduate programs, Carlow is the first women-centered university in the state of Pennsylvania, and is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2009.