



CONTACT: Linda K. Ross  
Director, Communications  
Pittsburgh Mercy Health System  
412.578.6224  
[LRoss@mercy.pmhs.org](mailto:LRoss@mercy.pmhs.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Nov. 3, 2009

**McAULEY MINISTRIES AWARDS GRANTS TO SUPPORT  
HEALTH AND WELLNESS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT**

**More than \$1.7 million given to local programs to help vulnerable in our community in 2009**

PITTSBURGH — McAuley Ministries, the grant-making arm of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, announces the awarding of \$198,100 in grants to seven area organizations. The grants are designed to address health and wellness, community development, and academic enrichment in the Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland neighborhoods. This brings the total number of grants awarded by McAuley Ministries in 2009 to \$1,770,190. Of that amount, \$1,390,640, or more than three-quarters, has been awarded since July.

Of the seven grants most recently funded in October, four were awarded to Pittsburgh Mercy Health System legacy programs, two were granted in support of community development initiatives, and one was given to support academic enrichment for middle and high school students.

(MORE)

**McAuley Ministries announces \$198,100 in grants**

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

***Legacy Program Grants***

**Pittsburgh Mercy Foundation for Operation Safety Net<sup>®</sup>:** \$49,700 to implement a national model known as HELP (Homeless Experience Legal Protection). Operation Safety Net<sup>®</sup> (OSN) will collaborate with the Allegheny County Bar Association and local attorneys to provide free legal assistance to approximately 90 homeless clients during a 12-month period. The program will help OSN's clients to regain proof of their identity, apply for public support benefits, such as Social Security and veteran's benefits, and other social services. The grant will also provide bridge medications until Social Security and health care benefit applications are filed and approved.

**Pittsburgh Mercy Foundation for A Child's Place at Mercy:** \$27,400 to support the operations of A Child's Place at Mercy.

**Sisters Place:** Sisters Place is a supportive housing community committed to assisting single parents and homeless families achieve self-sufficiency. This \$25,000 grant will fund ongoing children's programming and social services that are no longer supported by federal funding.

**The Intersection:** \$7,000 to provide transportation to low-income persons who need to access medical care, employment, education/training, and social service appointments. The Intersection, founded in 1972 by the Sisters of Mercy, serves economically-disadvantaged families in McKeesport.

***Community Development Grants***

**Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development:** \$45,000 to support a development consultant who will support and advise Uptown on development projects. By December 2010, the consultant will advance 1-3 new development projects identified in the Uptown Vision plan and also assist with establishing an Uptown Investment Fund to support housing development, commercial development, and green projects.

**Hill Community Development Corporation:** The New Granada Theater is an historic structure, strategically located on the Centre Avenue corridor in the Hill District. The physical stabilization of the theater is near completion. This \$25,000 grant will fund a redevelopment planning process designed to examine the best reuses for this community asset. The goal is to identify a financially-viable reuse that pays homage to the building's legacy, advances the revitalization of Centre Avenue and the Middle Hill, and benefits the residents of the Hill District.

(MORE)

**McAuley Ministries announces \$198,100 in grants**

***Academic Achievement Grants***

**Ozanam, Inc.:** Ozanam operates an after-school and summer basketball program in the Hill District. Using basketball as a means to attract and retain middle and high school students, this \$25,000 grant will support the implementation of a tutoring component, based on No Child Left Behind requirements, to improve participants' grades, attendance, behavior, and graduation rates; and qualify participants for the Pittsburgh Promise scholarship.

In July, McAuley Ministries awarded \$1,192,540 to nine other non-profit organizations including Healthy Home Resources, the Hill District Neighborhood Partnership Program, the August Wilson Center for African American Culture, Oakland Planning and Development Corporation, YouthPlaces, Center that C.A.R.E.S., Carnegie Science Center, Carlow University, and Lydia's Place. Grants ranged from \$25,000 to \$364,000 and are supporting health and wellness, community development, educational achievement, and non-profit capacity.

"Given the current economic environment, non-profits continue to face many challenges, not the least of which is raising funds to support important work in our community. McAuley Ministries is pleased to committing resources to and working collaboratively with these organizations on initiatives that promote, healthy, safe and vibrant communities," said Michele Rone Cooper, executive director, McAuley Ministries.

**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.

(MORE)

**Page 4 of 4**

**McAuley Ministries announces \$198,100 in grants**

**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.