



McAULEY MINISTRIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2009

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

**Support for essential housing and healthcare needs continue**

PITTSBURGH — McAuley Ministries, the new grantmaking arm of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, has announced grants totaling \$137,600 that will address the health and wellness, housing and community development needs of five non-profits in the Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland neighborhoods.

The goal of the organization is to continue to be a catalyst of change after its formation in 2008, committing resources and working collaboratively to promote healthy, safe and vibrant communities.

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

**Oak Hill Residents Council:** \$43,875 to provide consulting support to the Council and community-led committees during Phase II of the Oak Hill development. Phase II will include construction of market-rate and low-income apartments, town houses, and single family homes, and renovation of a community and recreational facility. Additional funding of \$5,225 will be used for an organic community garden in collaboration with Landslide Community Farm. The garden will be a vehicle for community engagement and is expected to yield enough produce to supply Oak Hill and its neighbors.

**Bethlehem Haven of Pittsburgh:** \$40,000 for a rapid re-housing program that will help homeless women and women at-risk for homelessness to secure and maintain stable, appropriate housing. A housing specialist will assist women in emergency and transitional housing programs locate and negotiate the terms of affordable, safe, and supportive housing in the community. Bethlehem Haven will also provide aftercare services, including budgeting assistance, a weatherization audit, and referrals for community services, to assist women in maintaining their homes.

**Consumer Health Coalition:** \$32,000 over two years for a health outreach and insurance enrollment campaign in the Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland. The Consumer Health Coalition's Outreach and Enrollment Specialist will help uninsured individuals and families complete applications for publicly-funded health insurance programs and public health resources such as mammogram voucher programs and pharmaceutical assistance programs. The Consumer Health Coalition will reach individuals who are uninsured by establishing partnerships with agencies and congregations in the community and through direct outreach to individuals in the target communities.

**Friendship Community Presbyterian Church:** \$11,500 for community engagement and an assessment of West Oakland and Oak Hill. The assessment will identify the community's needs, identify existing resources and gaps, outline the most pressing needs, and determine strategies for providing relevant programming at the 200/202 Robinson Street site.

**Mercy Outreach Ministries:** \$5,000 for Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, a legacy program of the Sisters of Mercy. Mercy Neighborhood Ministries serves West Oakland families by assisting with financial emergencies, such as lack of food and risk of utility shutoff; encouraging academic achievement among youth enrolled in St. Agnes School and the Oak Hill after-school program; and promoting interaction and social support among senior women who reside in the neighborhood.

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“Considering the present economic conditions, our goal is to respond to the escalating demand for support of essential needs in the Pittsburgh neighborhoods traditionally served by the ministries of the Sisters of Mercy,” said Michele Rone Cooper, Executive Director of McAuley Ministries. “We’ve been in these neighborhoods for a long time — since the Sisters of Mercy founded Mercy Hospital in 1847 — and we’re proud to continue to enhance those communities and carry on that legacy.”

In addition to providing support to its immediate communities, McAuley Ministries will also fund the legacy ministries originated by the Sisters of Mercy in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

“With our first two rounds of grants, we are now seeing that the Mercy tradition continues in a new and necessary way,” said Shelia Carney, RSM, Chair of the McAuley Ministries Board of Directors. “We’re continuing to meet community needs when cutbacks are occurring throughout Pittsburgh.”

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). 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 organization 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.