



**PITTSBURGH  
MERCY**

A HERITAGE OF HOPE

OPERATION SAFETY NET

April 12, 2010

MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY/REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

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**OPERATION SAFETY NET SALUTES INDIVIDUALS WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME  
AT THE SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY SHELTER & ON THE STREETS THIS WINTER**

**WHAT:** Operation Safety Net Volunteer Recognition Dinner

**WHO:** Operation Safety Net, part of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, will honor more than 50 individuals who volunteered their time at the Severe Weather Emergency Shelter and on the streets this winter.

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, April 13, 2010, 5:30 to 7 p.m.**

**WHERE:** Buca di Beppo, 3 Station Square, South Side (Pittsburgh, PA 15219)

**WHY:** This winter was rough on everyone, but especially for persons who are unsheltered and homeless. Anytime the temperature dipped below 25 degrees Fahrenheit, the Severe Weather Emergency Shelter, managed by Operation Safety Net, part of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, opened, providing warm meals, a place to sleep and health care for persons who are homeless. The shelter opened a record 62 nights this winter (December 2009 through March 2010) and served between 75 and 130 homeless individuals a night with a total of 3,466 recorded visits. The shelter's success is due, in part, to the many individuals, groups, organizations and religious communities who support the shelter's operations by volunteering and providing warm meals to serve each night the shelter is open. Additional volunteers passed out sandwiches and other food to individuals served by Operation Safety Net. These compassionate volunteers braved snow, sleet, ice and other wintry elements to provide comfort to some of our region's most vulnerable citizens. The recognition dinner is Operation Safety Net's way of saying thank you on behalf of the people it serves.

**HOW:** The Severe Weather Emergency Shelter is made possible by Allegheny County Department of Human Services, the City of Pittsburgh's Emergency Shelter Grant Program, Highmark, and Operation Safety Net, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy and part of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System.

For more information about Operation Safety Net or to make a donation in support of this important ministry in our community, visit [www.pmhs.org](http://www.pmhs.org).

**RSVP:** Media interested in covering this event should contact Linda K. Ross by 5 p.m. on April 13, 2010 at 412.578.6224, [LRoss@mercy.pmhs.org](mailto:LRoss@mercy.pmhs.org).

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