



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**McAULEY MINISTRIES AWARDS OVER \$2.8 MILLION  
IN GRANTS TO 14 LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS &  
ANNOUNCES A NEW APPOINTMENT TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
*Grants support education, empowerment, essential needs & social services, and  
peacemaking initiatives.*

**PITTSBURGH (July 15, 2025)** – [McAuley Ministries](#), [Pittsburgh Mercy's](#) grant-making foundation, awarded 14 grants totaling over \$2.8 million in the first half of 2025. The grants help to fund education, empowerment, essential needs & social services, and peacemaking initiatives in Pittsburgh's Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland communities, its three focus neighborhoods, referred to as the Mercy Corridor.

These investments continue McAuley Ministries' commitment to build Mercy Corridor's assets through collaboration and an increase in programs that support residents' access to education, essential needs and social services, empowerment, and programs that foster peace. "A great example of this is our investment in the [Show Up Pittsburgh Initiative](#)," said [Marisol Valentin](#), executive director. The initiative was brought to the Hill District following an asset mapping we performed on our investments in education. The mapping showed that the biggest need was to bring collaboration and alignment among the schools, community partners, and residents. In 2024, McAuley Ministries brought A+ Schools in as a catalytic partner to work alongside Macedonia FACE. A simple key performance indicator (KPI) was selected for the initiative: reducing chronic absenteeism.

According to Valentin, "If we all work collaboratively on getting our kids to school every day, we will reach all the other indicators we are working to improve – graduation rates, higher education enrollment, and so much more." In 2024, through the work of all the partners in the initiative, rates of chronic absence were down in Hill District schools from the prior year:

- Pittsburgh Miller PreK-5: -6%
- Pittsburgh Weil PreK-5: -23%
- Pittsburgh Milliones 6-12, University Preparatory School: -20%

"And beautiful things began to blossom," stated Valentin. "After hearing about needs in schools, partners showed up to close the gap. Jubilee Association, for example, set up a food pantry at Pittsburgh Weil that is stocked and managed by Jubilee Kitchen to help fulfill one of the goals of Principal Kira Henderson – providing families easier access to food at Weil without burdening school staff with managing the pantry. This is the power of collaboration."

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Grouped by grant-making priorities, the recipients of the most recent grants are:

**Education**

- [A+ Schools Pittsburgh](#): \$193,600 for the “Circle our Schools” Initiative which supports school transitions, staff training, chronic absenteeism reduction, and coordinated community services for students and families in the Mercy Corridor.
- [Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania](#): \$53,602 to fund early literacy tutoring, tutor recruitment and training, program evaluation, and continuous improvement through community engagement.
- [SLB Radio Productions](#): \$102,000 to support teen-led podcast production in the Mercy Corridor by funding staff, part-time project coordinators, youth stipends, and workshops that build media, storytelling, and career-readiness skills while amplifying local voices.
- [The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania](#): \$51,000 to develop a relationship evaluation tool, training, and cohort support to help youth-serving organizations measure and improve the quality of connections they build with young people.
- [Tickets for Kids Charities](#): \$61,200 to support the ongoing Cultural Access Program by facilitating ticket matching, fostering partnerships, managing inventory, and collecting impact data to provide underserved youth with enriching cultural experiences.

**Empowerment**

- [Catapult Greater Pittsburgh](#): \$51,000 to continue support of the Hill District Homeownership Initiative which includes legal support for tangled titles.
- [Neighborhood Allies](#): \$1,800,000 to support Phase 2 of Neighborhood Capital which supports investments in community development projects, affordable housing, business creation, and developer capacity building.
- [Pittsburgh Scholar House](#): \$51,000 to expand the Wayfinders Program Pilot in the Hill District by recruiting new residents, providing financial assistance, and strengthening partnerships to increase access to higher education and support student parents.

**Essential Needs & Social Services**

- [Acculturation for Justice, Access, and Peace Outreach](#) (AJAPO): \$61,200 to provide emergency operational support and funding to help explore a new program model following federal cuts to the U.S. refugee resettlement program.
- [Beverly's PGH](#): \$25,500 to celebrate and strengthen families in the Hill District, West Oakland, and Uptown through baby showers, infant formula distribution, birthday celebrations, and continued partnerships with local agencies to provide essential services.
- [Community Human Services](#): \$51,000 to support the South Oakland Food Pantry, enhancing distribution of nutritious food to persons facing food insecurity.
- [Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank](#): \$51,000 to expand food access, enhance service delivery, and support community partnerships through the Food Bank's programs, improving nutrition and equity in underserved areas.
- [Jubilee Association](#): \$61,200 to enhance Jubilee's Path to Self-Sufficiency by developing a workforce training program, upgrading social services, and providing career development to individuals overcoming homelessness and employment barriers.

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**Peacemaking**

- [1Hood Media](#): \$204,000 to cover the development of a new website and support three years of We Keep Us Safe programming and Fridays on Deck events, including recruitment, training, and outreach in the Hill District.

In addition to the spring grants, McAuley Ministries is pleased to announce the appointment of **Sister Barbara Anne Quinn, RSM** to its [Board of Directors](#).

Sr. Barbara Anne entered the Pittsburgh Sisters of Mercy from St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland in 1959. She professed her final vows in 1965. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Mount Mercy College (now Carlow University) and completed post-graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh and Carlow University, earning a Pennsylvania Master's Equivalency in Education certificate. Sr. Barbara Anne taught in several Diocese of Pittsburgh elementary schools from 1963 to 1983, including St. Colman in Turtle Creek, St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Pleasant Hills, St. Regis in Oakland, and Holy Child in Bridgeville. In 1983, she became principal at St. Agatha/Holy Child in Bridgeville and later at St. Sylvester's in Brentwood, where she served for 34 years, shaping the lives of countless students and families. After retiring from her career in diocesan schools in 2018, Sr. Barbara Anne has devoted her time to volunteering at Holy Child Parish, the Convent of Mercy, and other service opportunities wherever there is a need. She also serves on the board of The Lavelle Family Foundation, continuing her unwavering commitment to service and community involvement.

"We look forward to her contributions and leadership in shaping our continued success in the communities we serve," stated Valentin.

**About McAuley Ministries**

Named in honor of [Catherine McAuley](#), founder of the [Sisters of Mercy](#), [McAuley Ministries](#) is the grant-making foundation of [Pittsburgh Mercy](#). McAuley Ministries serves as a catalyst for change, committing resources and working collaboratively to promote healthy, safe, and vibrant communities. Grant-making priorities include capacity building, education, empowerment, environmental care, essential needs and social services, peacemaking, and whole-person health initiatives for nonprofit organizations which focus on the Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland, the three Pittsburgh communities historically served by the Sisters of Mercy. McAuley Ministries also supports organizations in Southwestern Pennsylvania that are sponsored by the Sisters.

Since its founding in 2008, McAuley Ministries has awarded 1,075 grants and community support totaling over \$62 million. It awards on average \$3.5 million in grants annually, making it one of the largest philanthropic foundations in Southwestern Pennsylvania. To learn more about McAuley Ministries and the initiatives it supports, visit [www.mcauleyministries.org](http://www.mcauleyministries.org), follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), or chat with [IRENE](#), our AI assistant.

**About Pittsburgh Mercy**

[Pittsburgh Mercy](#) is one of the largest community health and social service providers and employers in Southwestern Pennsylvania. We offer help – and hope – to 17,000 of our community's most vulnerable in 60+ locations:

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- People who have complex behavioral and physical health challenges
- People who have intellectual and developmental disabilities
- People who are experiencing homelessness
- People who need wrap-around services to live safe, healthy, and well in the community.

Pittsburgh Mercy is the largest Integrated Community Wellness Center (ICWC) in Pennsylvania and the only one in Southwestern Pennsylvania. It is also a five-time awardee of Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) expansion grants. Together, Pittsburgh Mercy and Bethlehem Haven have more than 70 years of experience in serving persons who are experiencing homelessness. Pittsburgh Mercy is a member of [Trinity Health](#), serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy. Our mission is to be a compassionate and transforming, healing presence within our communities. To learn more about Pittsburgh Mercy or to make a donation in support of its important work in the community, please visit [www.pittsburghmercy.org](http://www.pittsburghmercy.org). Follow Pittsburgh Mercy on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [X](#).

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