



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**McAULEY MINISTRIES AWARDS OVER \$2 MILLION
IN GRANTS TO 27 LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Grants support capacity building, education, empowerment, essential needs & social services, legacy programs, and whole-person health initiatives.

PITTSBURGH (February 26, 2026) – [McAuley Ministries](#), [Pittsburgh Mercy's](#) grant-making foundation, awarded 29 grants totaling over \$2 million. The grants help fund capacity building, education, empowerment, essential needs & social services, legacy programs, and whole-person health initiatives in Pittsburgh's Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland communities, its three focus neighborhoods, collectively referred to as the Mercy Corridor.

According to Marisol Valentin, executive director of McAuley Ministries, 2025 was a volatile and uncertain year for nonprofits. She noted that community partners responded through strong collaboration, resulting in several joint grants, including Holy Family Institute's Black Educators Teaching Fellows Program. Fellows will teach at Nazareth Prep, support the Artful Spirits Program funded by the Lilly Endowment, and collaborate with Hill Dance Academy Theatre HDAT, Point Park University, and the Historic Black Churches of the Hill District—Bethel AME Church, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church, Wesley Center AME Zion Church, and St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church.

Another notable collaboration is with UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Community Health and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh and Morgantown. Valentin explained, "Together, these partners are addressing health inequities for children by bringing high-quality pediatric medical care to Bedford Dwellings and Skyline Terrace with the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, reducing barriers to care. The project will also integrate a UPMC Children's Community Health Worker, who will play a critical role in bridging the gap between health systems and community residents."

Reflecting on both initiatives, Valentin added, "These projects are just a few examples of how our partners are responding to the moment through collaboration, building partnerships and centering on community."

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

Capacity Building

- [Amani Christian Community Development Corp](#): \$10,000 for expanded operations at the Madison Arts Center.

- [Hill Community Development Corporation](#): \$150,000 for gallery space at Nafasi on Centre and general operating support.
- [Mid-Atlantic Mothers Milk Bank](#): \$30,600 for capacity expansion and donor milk access equity.
- [Program to Aid Citizen Enterprise \(PACE\)](#): \$134,876 for nonprofit leadership and financial sustainability training.

Education

- [Allegheny Partners for Out-of-School-Time \(APOST\)](#): \$102,000 for out-of-school time capacity building.
- [Carlow University](#): \$100,000 for workforce development initiatives.
- [Center that CARES](#): \$209,100 for Hill District youth development.
- [FashionAFRICANA](#): \$25,500 for Pittsburgh Millionaires UPREP students arts and design education.
- [Girls Inc.](#): \$30,600 for Mercy Corridor elementary school mentorship.
- [Holy Family Institute](#): \$214,200 for the Black Educators Teaching Fellows Program.
- [Neighborhood Learning Alliance](#): \$51,000 for elementary career exploration.
- [Ozanam Inc.](#): \$126,480 for Hill District youth enrichment and STEM programming.
- [Venture Outdoors](#): \$61,200 for intergenerational outdoor learning in the Mercy Corridor.

Empowerment

- [Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®](#): \$5,000 for student food support.
- [Black Political Empowerment Project \(B-PEP\)](#): \$50,000 for civic engagement and community justice initiatives.
- [Macedonia Church of Pittsburgh](#): \$25,000 for due diligence toward a community-owned grocery store.
- [Reimagine Reentry](#): \$51,204 for pre-apprenticeship training for returning citizens.

Essential Needs & Social Services

- [412 Food Rescue](#): \$102,000 for expanded food recovery operations in the Mercy Corridor.
- [Bethel-Trinity Community Development Corporation](#): \$51,000 for facility repairs and community meals for Hill District residents.
- [Familylinks Inc.](#): \$51,000 for young adult emergency housing support.
- [Homeless Children's Education Fund](#): \$10,000 for emergency assistance for families.
- [Neighborhood Resilience Project](#): \$153,000 for operational support and emergency aid to residents in the Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland.
- [United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania](#): \$76,500 to develop a nonprofit rapid response grant program.
- [Womanspace-East](#): \$150,200 for family emergency shelter sustainability.

Legacy Programs

- [Carlow University](#): \$6,876 for development of the Sisters of Mercy oral history website.
- [Carlow University](#): \$80,000 for leadership development pilgrimages to Ireland.

Whole-person Health

- [Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh and Morgantown](#): \$14,280 to provide mobile pediatric care in the Hill District.
- [UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation](#): \$25,500 for children's preventive care and asthma support in the Hill District.
- [Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank](#): \$76,500 for hygiene supplies for Bedford Dwellings families.

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](#), a member of [Trinity Health](#). 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, as well as other Southwestern Pennsylvania organizations sponsored by the Sisters.

Since 2008, McAuley Ministries has awarded 1,101 grants totaling more than \$64 million and distributes an average of \$3.5 million annually, making it one of the largest philanthropic foundations in Southwestern Pennsylvania. To learn more, visit 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, serving 17,000 individuals across 90+ locations. Its services support people with complex behavioral and physical health challenges, intellectual and developmental disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, and individuals needing 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.

A member of [Trinity Health](#), serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy. Pittsburgh Mercy's mission is to be a compassionate and transforming, healing presence in the community. To learn more or to make a donation, visit www.pittsburghmercy.org and follow Pittsburgh Mercy on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [X](#).

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