The Mon Valley Providers Council presents:

The Communicator

July-September 2022

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Supports for Success

Human Services Center Corporation

Do you know anyone who would benefit from extra support and resources to meet their needs and achieve their education goal or obtain employment or better employment? And improve their financial well-being? Supports for Success, a case management program of the Human Services Center Corporation may be a good fit! The Supports Specialist directly assists participants with creating a goal and action plan, resume building, finding employment or better employment opportunities, enrolling in college or vocational training, budgeting and credit management counseling, referrals to resources that assist with goal attainment, and more. For more information call or email Iris at 412-829-7112 or igrilho@hscc-mvpc.org.

The Communicator is the official newsletter of the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), an alliance of over 70 human service agencies serving more than 37 communities in the Mon Valley of Allegheny County. The MVPC is a program of the Human Services Center, a United Way Agency. To learn more about the MVPC, our member agencies, and their services, read this edition and visit our website at www.hscc-mvpc.org.

Human Services Center Corporation

United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania IMPACT FUND AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania serves Allegheny, Westmoreland, Fayette & Southern Armstrong Counties

519 Penn Avenue, Turtle Creek, PA 15145
412-829-7112 • 412-829-4363 (fax)
www.hscc-mvpc.org
facebook.com/humanservicescenterturtlecreek

A copy of the official registration and financial information of the Human Services Center Corp. can be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Human Services
Center Corporation

SIGN UP FOR OUR FINANCIAL LITERACY EMAILS

YOU'LL RECEIVE INVITES TO OUR FREE CLASSES COVERING TOPICS SUCH AS

CREDIT	BUDGETING	BUYING A HOME
PAYING DOWN DEBT	SAVING FOR THE FUTURE	PUBLIC BENEFITS

Visit https://bit.ly/hscc-emails to sign up, or scan this QR code:

Resolving Disputes & Maintaining Stable Housing

Just Mediation Pittsburgh

There is a housing crisis in Allegheny County, and mediation is the best decision folks can make before going to eviction court. JMP is a nonprofit organization that began to keep tenants housed and make sure landlords were receiving rent payments. JMP looks for the best resolution for both parties and mediates landlord-tenant disputes to help landlords reduce unit turnover and keep tenants in their homes. Their mediation is free, confidential, and voluntary for Allegheny County tenants and landlords, and JMP's mediators have a 93% success rate once both parties agree to mediate. They help participants create positive solutions for themselves. This service is totally free and can help both parties by saving time and money and hopefully eliminating the need to go to court. They also provide referrals to other agencies who can help with any needs that are noticed during mediation, such as rental assistance and other support services.

JMP is a neutral third-party and helps clear up confusion and/or miscommunication by making sure that both the landlord and tenant receive the same information at the same time and to help set a clear plan to move forward. Community mediators do not serve as a judge or lawyer and if an agreement is reached, it becomes part of your lease. JMP's mediation sessions are via phone or Zoom and they offer a variety of 2-hour time slots to work with your schedule, though most conflicts are settled within 1 hour. The process can save weeks and sometimes months of your time compared to starting and finishing the court process.

Landlords have already lost money; mediation gives the opportunity for tenants to potentially access funds to help ease debt through referrals to their partners. The average cost to evict in Allegheny County is $5,000 - which includes lost rental payments, filing and attorney fees, funds lost while the property sits vacant, cost to list the property, and fixing up the unit before a new tenant moves in. Mediation allows both parties the opportunity to come up with an agreement that is legally binding without giving up any legal rights. JMP works with many landlords who have successfully resolved through disputes with their tenants and reached solutions that satisfied their responsibilities and needs as landlords.

While Just Mediation Pittsburgh helps to resolve nonpayment issues, tenants who participate can expect to benefit from mediation for reasons such as resolving habitability concerns, end of lease confusion, and breach of lease disputes in addition to other housing-related issues. Many tenants have difficulty communicating clearly with their landlord, or even getting in touch with them; mediation offers them this opportunity to resolve long standing issues. JMP partners with RentHelpPGH's Resource Navigator who can connect tenants with resources to help meet their needs.

If you are currently experiencing a housing dispute, or you know someone who could benefit from JMP's services, please contact Just Mediation Pittsburgh at justmediationpgh.org/contact or call 412-228-0730 to be connected to a member of their Intake Team.

JustMediationPGH

COVID-19 TESTING @ HSCC

FRIDAYS
1:00 - 4:00 PM

PREREGISTRATION IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED

Preregister online at
https://curative.com/sites/27564

Scan me to register!

Parking Lot @
Human Services Center
Corporation
413 Penn Ave
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Tests provided at no cost. No prescription or referral needed. Insurance is not required. However, if you have insurance that will cover the cost of the test, your insurance will be billed. Please bring your insurance card.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

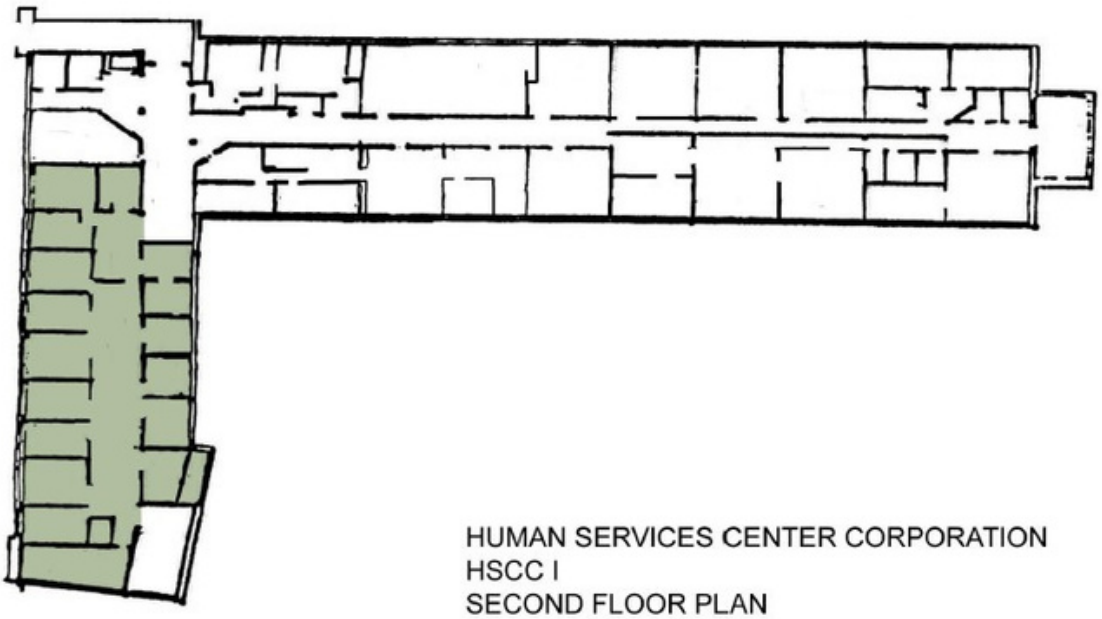
HUMAN SERVICES CENTER
519 PENN AVENUE, TURTLE CREEK, PA 15145

Human Services Center Corporation

PROPERTY INFORMATION & AMENITIES

- 3,800 SF office space
- Affordable leases include utilities, cleaning and maintenance services, and free parking for both staff and clients
- ADA-compliant and fully handicap accessible
- Meeting rooms and computer lab available
- Access to courtyard
- Located on several Port Authority bus lines and a Heritage Community Transportation route

Located on Penn Avenue in Turtle Creek, the Human Services Center was established in 1982 as a "mall" for human services and currently houses multiple tenant agencies, community outreach services, and youth programming. The Center works within 38 communities in the Mon Valley collaboratively to help children, families, and adults in this area improve their lives. Establishing relationships between tenants and outreach programs to best serve community needs in the area is a high priority.



HUMAN SERVICES CENTER CORPORATION
HSCC I
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Office space is a self-contained area located directly across the elevator and stairs on the second floor.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Stephanie Eson
Operations & Community Programs Manager

412-829-7112

seson@hscc-mvpc.org

Human Services Center Corporation

Unclaimed Property Scam Alert

State Senator Jim Brewster

Senator Jim Brewster wants to alert constituents to a possible unclaimed property opportunity and warn them about potential scams. **The Pennsylvania Office of the State Treasurer** is currently seeking the owners of more than $3.5 billion in unclaimed property. The PA Treasury receives hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed property every year. These items and funds go missing, often for things as simple as a misspelled name or an out-of-date address. Anyone can search the online database at patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property. Staff members at Senator Brewster's office are happy to help with the process in any way, whether that be searching the unclaimed property site, providing notary services, or assisting with claim submission.

Recently, scammers have found a way to use the unclaimed property system to defraud people. Scammers are using text messages to target potential unclaimed property claimants. The Pennsylvania Treasury Department never sends unsolicited text messages. Anyone who receives a phishing message about unclaimed property should ignore it and promptly delete it. Do not click on any links and do not respond to these messages. Each year, more than 10 million Americans have their personal information - including name, social security number, bank account, or credit card number - stolen. Thieves often use this information to open phony credit card, bank or utility accounts. Occasionally, the perpetrator will use the victim's identity to secure benefits such as healthcare or government assistance. Senator Brewster's office has several publications to help you avoid falling victim to identity theft.

Senator Jim Brewster's district offices and satellite offices also provide information about and assistance with a variety of topics such as the Property Tax/Rent Rebate, PennDOT's Yellow Dot Program, Birth Certificates, and Vehicle Registrations. Constituents over the age of 65 can apply for the Pittsburgh Regional Transit's Senior Bus Pass (ConnectCard) in the offices, as well.

Contact Senator Jim Brewster's office via email at www.senatorbrewster.com or at one of the district or satellite offices for more information about identity theft, unclaimed property, or other state-related issues:

Monroeville Office
One Monroeville Center
3824 Northern Pike, Suite 1015
Monroeville, PA 15146
412-380-2242

McKeesport Office
201 Lysle Blvd., Suite 100
McKeesport, PA 15132
412-664-5200

North Versailles Satellite Office
Wednesdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm
North Versailles Township Building
1401 Greensburg Ave.
North Versailles, PA 15137

Turtle Creek Satellite Office
Tuesdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm
Turtle Creek Borough Building
124 Monroeville Ave.
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Free Job Training Services for Youth Ages 18-24

Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania

YouthWorks, a program of Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania, is now recruiting young adults, ages 18-24, who can benefit from free programs Goodwill has to offer.

YouthWorks helps young people who need help finding a job, enrolling in a community college or university, or who are looking to make a career change. YouthWorks can also help youth get their GED in addition to many other support services including transportation, financial literacy, and individualized community-based case management services.

Specific young adult programs include:

- Retail Training Program – targeting young adults looking to begin a career in retail but need work experience. The 12-week program prepares individuals for a job in retail, and pays $10.75 while training in a Goodwill store. Youth who successfully complete the program are guaranteed a job at a Goodwill store in their community.
- LifeLaunch: Ignite – targeting young adults who are or have been justice involved and want to work towards a career based on their interest and skills. The program offers an initial assessment and evaluation, job training, support with job search, and additional assistance including transportation, career exploration, mentoring, and follow up and support for an additional year.

For more information, visit: www.goodwillswpa.org/youth-services.
To enroll, call 412-632-1742 or visit www.goodwillswpa.org/youth-info.

Program for 2022-2023 High School Seniors

Human Services Center Corporation

Do you want your teen to have a set plan for after graduation? Do you want your senior to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to move on to a successful life after high school? Then the Human Services Center Corporation's Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) may be a perfect fit!

ELP is a very successful workforce development and college readiness program for seniors attending East Allegheny, McKeesport Area, Penn Hills, West Mifflin Area, and Woodland Hills High Schools that is incorporated into the students' school day. Participants attend a weekly session during the school day where they are instructed in a curriculum specifically created for seniors to prepare them for success after high school. A variety of professionals present to the class throughout the year on their career fields and personal development as well as students are matched to job shadowing opportunities. Outside of the classroom, participants work one-on-one with a staff person to receive highly individualized attention and support in their pursuit of their goals. They create goal plans and refer to the plans throughout the year to stay on track. Plus, participants will have the chance to earn money periodically based on participation and goal completion throughout the school year and post-graduation.

There are limited spots available and your family must meet the designated requirements to participate. If you or your teen would like to hear more details about the program and/or apply, please call 412-829-7112 or visit our website at www.hscc-mvpc.org to download an application. Spots fill up very quickly! Apply as soon as possible!

Goodwill's YouthWorks Offering Free CDL Classes

Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Young adults who want to gain the skills needed for the Pennsylvania Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) can now enroll in a new Goodwill class meeting at CCAC's Boyce Campus. These classes are for people ages 18-24, who are currently or have been justice system involved.

Participants in the 8-week training program receive a weekly stipend. The training prepares students to take the CDL Class A knowledge, skills, and road tests. The knowledge test covers general knowledge, combination vehicle, air brake, hazardous materials, tankers, and double-triples. The skills test requires performing a pre-trip inspection and various backing and parking maneuvers. The road test consists of driving a predetermined route. "There is a tremendous need for CDL Drivers in today's job market," said Tiffanee Heywood, Director of YouthWorks. "This impactful new training program provides the skills and credential young people can use immediately to gain employment and the weekly stipend is a really great support for the individuals while in training."

The curriculum also covers Department of Transportation (DOT) and Hours of Service regulations, map reading and trip planning, shifting techniques, industry terminology, and career opportunities. In addition to the weekly stipend, additional support and incentives include transportation assistance, financial literacy, housing assistance, interviewing skills, employment services, follow up support, and mentoring and leadership skills.

To be eligible for classes, participants must be out-of-school (GED or high school diploma not required), must live in Allegheny County, and be between 18 and 24 years of age who have been involved with the justice system. Participants must have a PA Driver's License and be fully vaccinated (completed a primary COVID-19 series of vaccine doses approved by the FDA or WHO).

For more information or to enroll, visit www.goodwillswpa.org/cdl or contact Morgan Matthews: 412-632-1742 or morgan.mathews@goodwillswpa.org.

Tenant Agencies at the Human Services Center

Adagio Health Nutrition Services
412-925-0650

Allegheny County Health Dept. - W.I.C. Program
412-350-5801

Allegheny Intermediate Unit - Community School East
412-464-4043

Braddock Carnegie Library - Turtle Creek Extension
412-829-7112

Early Learning Resource Center
412-350-3577

Eastern Area Adult Services
412-824-6880

Healthy Start
412-247-4009

Human Services Center Corporation
412-829-7112

Learn "N" Play Development Center
412-829-0240

Mon Valley Providers Council
412-829-7112

Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs
412-824-0006

TCV Community Services
412-824-8510

Services at the Human Services Center

The Westinghouse Valley Human Services Center, located at 519 Penn Avenue in Turtle Creek, provides a variety of services to residents in eastern Allegheny County communities and the Westinghouse/Turtle Creek Valley. Schedules may vary due to COVID-19.

- **The Braddock Carnegie Library - Turtle Creek Extension** is open to the public and has full access to the Carnegie Library system. Call 412-829-7112 for hours of operation.
- **Youth LIFE After-School Program** begins in September. Youth LIFE After-School Program serves 100 youth going into first through fifth grade. For more information, contact 412-829-7112.
- **KOOL Summer Program** serves 150 youth going into first through fifth grade in the Fall. For more information, contact 412-829-7112.
- **The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP)** is a workforce development and college readiness program for seniors in the East Allegheny, McKeesport Area, West Mifflin Area, Woodland Hills, and Penn Hills High Schools. For more information, contact 412-829-7112.
- **Supports for Success** helps individuals seeking to achieve self-sufficiency through employment and/or education by providing referrals and guidance. For more information, call 412-829-7112.
- **Free Tax Preparation** is available for individuals with low income. For more information, call 412-437-8229.

Communities Served by the MVPC

Braddock
Braddock Hills
Chalfant
Clairton
Dravosburg
Duquesne
East McKeesport
East Pittsburgh
Elizabeth Borough
Elizabeth Township
Forest Hills
Forward Township
Glassport
Homestead
Jefferson Hills
Liberty
Lincoln
McKeesport
Monroeville
Munhall
North Braddock
North Versailles
Penn Hills
Pitcairn
Port Vue
Rankin
South Versailles
Swissvale
Turtle Creek
Versailles
Wall
West Elizabeth
West Homestead
West Mifflin
Whitaker
White Oak
Wilkins
Wilmerding

About the Mon Valley Providers Council

Our Mission: The Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), in collaboration with individuals, families, and groups in the Mon Valley communities, will define and address mutual issues and needs. Building upon the providers and communities, the MVPC will promote agendas and develop resources for collective action.

Who We Are: The MVPC, a program of the Human Services Center, is an alliance of human service and related organizations, which are based in or have a substantial service presence in the Mon Valley. The MVPC serves as a formal network for information and resource exchange among human service providers in the Mon Valley. The MVPC involves its member organizations in Working Groups which address crucial issues in the Mon Valley in the areas of Employment and Training, Health, Housing, and Youth. These four Working Groups involve the participation of over 70 dues-paying members and over 250 staff members of those organizations. Through these standing Working Groups, the MVPC promotes cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among its member and participating organizations in an effort to fill gaps in human services in the Mon Valley Communities.

Staff: The MVPC is staffed through the Human Services Center.
Current MVPC staff are:
Dave Coplan, Director
Katie Gascoine, Outreach Coordinator
Sam Bednar, Program Assistant

MVPC Steering Committee

Darla Poole, Chairperson, Auberle • **Eric Ewell**, Vice Chairperson, Penn State Greater Allegheny • **Kelleigh Boland**, Jefferson Regional Foundation • **Elli Dragisic**, McKeesport Hospital Foundation • **Devon Goetze**, Auberle • **Christine Zellefrow**, UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Mon Yough • **Brenda Harris**, Just Mediation Pittsburgh • **Tiffanee Heywood**, Goodwill of Southwestern PA • **Shari Holland**, UPMC McKeesport/Latterman Health Clinic • **Dean Jolin**, CCAC • **Paula McWilliams**, Heritage Community Initiatives • **Mary Jo Guercio**, CCAC • **James Phillips**, TCV Community Services • **Lisa Scales**, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank • **Bob Sukolsky**, AHN-Forbes Family Medicine • **Lynn Tatala**, AIU Project ELECT • **Laura Zinski**, Immediate Past Chair, Mon Valley Initiative • **Nancy Osterhus**, Ex-Officio Member

2022 Membership Listing for the MVPC

Adagio Health
Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh
AHN-Forbes Family Medicine
Allegheny County Health Department
Allegheny Family Network
AIU Community School East
AIU Head Start
AIU Project ELECT
Allies for Health and Wellbeing
Auberle
Black Women's Policy Center
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh
Century Heritage FCU
Clairton Family Center
Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC)
Communities in Schools Pittsburgh Allegheny County (CISPAC)
Computer Reach
Discovery House
Duquesne Family Center
East Allegheny Family Center
Eastern Area Adult Services
Every Child, Inc.
Family and Immigrant Connections Program
Family Resources
Forbes Hospital
Fund My Future (FMF PGH)
Goodwill of Southwest Pennsylvania
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Healthy Start
Heritage Community Initiatives
Highlands Family Center
Human Services Center Corporation
Jefferson Hospital
Jefferson Regional Foundation
Just Harvest
Just Mediation
Lincoln Park Family Center
Literacy Pittsburgh
Macedonia FACE
McKeesport Family Center
McKeesport Hospital Foundation
Mental Health American of Southwestern PA
Mon Valley Initiative (MVI)
Mon Yough Chamber of Commerce
Omicelo
PA CareerLink Allegheny East
Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs
Penn State Greater Allegheny
Pittsburgh Regional Transit
Rainbow Kitchen Community Services
Rankin Christian Center
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh
Squirrel Hill Health Center: Turtle Creek
State Senator Jay Costa
State Senator Jim Brewster
Steel Valley Family Center
Sto-Rox Family Center
TCV Community Services
The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh (Duquesne Family Center)
Touching Families, Inc.
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
UPMC Children's Hospital Family Care Connection
UPMC McKeesport
UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Mon Yough
Veterans Leadership Program
Wesley Family Services
Wilkinsburg Family Center
Women for a Healthy Environment
YWCA Greater Pittsburgh