The Mon Valley Providers Council presents:

The Communicator

April - June 2023

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Turtle Creek Senior Center Open House

Eastern Area Adult Services

The Turtle Creek Senior Center is having an open house on Tuesday, May 23, 10 am – Noon. RSVPs are requested by calling 412-824-6880.

The Turtle Creek Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. It is located at 519 Penn Avenue in Turtle Creek on the first floor of the Human Services Center Mon Valley. Lunch is available daily for a voluntary donation. Information and assistance is available on services including transportation, meals on wheels, rent rebates, and PACE. Exercise classes are held daily and include t'ai chi, yoga, chair exercise, and SilverSneakers.

Stop by the Center or call at 412-824-6880 to learn more and have your questions answered. Information on additional programs are on Eastern Area Adult Services' website, www.eaas.net. The Center is funded in part through Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Area Agency on Aging. Jodi Trovato is the Center Manager and is assisted by Lee Sindorf, Pat Milton, and Robert Drost.

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 Mon Valley, 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.hscmonvalley.org.

human services center mon valley

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

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

Member Networking & Happy Hour Event

Mon Valley Providers Council

The Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC) hosted its annual Happy Hour this year on February 23, in-person for the first time since 2020. The event was also combined with a Member Networking Event, where MVPC members gathered to meet people and learn more about each other's programs. The combined event was a great networking opportunity and attended by over 70 people!

SIGN UP FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY EMAILS

You'll receive invites to our FREE classes covering topics such as

CREDIT DEBT BUDGETING PUBLIC BENEFITS

SAVING FOR THE FUTURE BUYING A HOME

To sign up, visit
https://bit.ly/hsc-emails
Or scan this QR code:

Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center

Free One-on-One Financial Counseling

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER OFFICE HOURS

GET HELP TO REACH YOUR MONEY GOALS!

The Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) provides **FREE**, professional one-on-one financial counseling.

Staff can help you:

- better manage your money
- improve your credit score
- pay down debt
- increase savings
- establish and build credit
- access safe and affordable banking products
- create customized plans to address student loans, buy a house, build financial goals for your business, or start an emergency fund.

Wednesdays
8:30AM - 4:30PM
Human Services Center
519 Penn Ave.
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Virtual appointments also available!

To schedule an appointment visit:
https://pittsburghpa.gov/fec/schedule.html

Ten-Year Anniversary Celebration

Fund My Future PGH

Save the date - Fund My Future PGH will be hosting its Ten-Year Anniversary Celebration. Registration will be required. Look for registration information in our newsletters or on our Facebook page at Fund My Future PGH. Please email info@fundmyfuturepgh.org with any questions.

Monthly Resource Event

Rainbow Kitchen

Join Rainbow Kitchen Community Services for a monthly outdoor Resource Event that will be at Rainbow Kitchen (135 E 9th Avenue, Homestead, PA 15120), 10am – 1pm. Wednesdays April 19th, May 24th, and June 21st.

Some of the resources that will be there include: Dress For Success (free women's clothing & accessories), Deb's Closet Clothing Ministry (free clothing), Allies for Health + Wellbeing (free testing for HIV, Hepatitis C, Syphilis), 24/7 Dads (a new fatherhood group specifically for Dads and facilitated by Dads, presented through the Steel Valley Family Center), Duquesne Light Universal Services/Holy Family Institute) completing applications for Customer Assistance Program (CAP), Unified Insurance/Medicare Advantage Benefit (enrolling qualified individuals for health insurance), Pennsylvania American Water Company (enrolling customers in the H20 Help to Others Bill Discount Program), Reading Ready Pittsburgh (program information for early readers, free children's books and information about the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library), AND many more! Resources vary monthly.

Everyone is welcome to come and explore the FREE services and information.

40 Years of Service

Heritage Community Initiatives

For forty years, Heritage Community Initiatives (Heritage) has been honored to serve thousands of under-resourced individuals and families through our distinctive combination of Transportation, Education, and Nutrition programs. These pragmatic programs afford Heritage the opportunity to be uniquely positioned to positively impact the socio-economic mobility of thousands of our neighbors throughout forty communities in Eastern Allegheny County.

The Heritage 4 Kids Early Learning Center (4 Kids) has over a quarter century of experience providing the highest-quality early education and offering more access through programs including Early Head Start, Head Start, and Pre-K Counts. Students have access to nutritious meals and snacks every day, as well as wrap care outside of traditional program hours. All education fees are based on individual family circumstances. If a family is eligible for a subsidy such as CCW (Child Care Works), the 4 Kids staff will assist in the arrangements. Heritage works closely with parents to make sure educational opportunities are available and affordable for all families. 4 Kids also offers bridge funding for income-eligible families through our scholarship program. Every child receives the same excellent care and education, no matter what the family pays. Heritage is now enrolling for our Summer Session programs. Visit our website, HeritageServes.org for more information.

HOST (Heritage Out of School Time), provides out of school time care to students in grades K-8. HOST educational hours take place before and after school, holiday breaks, and in-service days on which the school districts are closed. While attending HOST, students are provided with an afternoon snack, guided with their homework, and engaged in age appropriate enrichment activities. Along with 4 Kids, HOST has earned a STAR 4 rating, the highest available, from the Pennsylvania Keystone STARS program. Heritage Education Programs are members of or affiliated with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Pennsylvania Child Care Association (PACCA), and the National After-School Association (NAA). HOST currently has spots available for immediate enrollment for school-aged youth. Please call 412-271-3300 for more information.

Heritage Transportation, the only human services nonprofit designated as a public transportation provider in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, provides access to individuals across 16 communities along routes in Monroeville, McKeesport, and East Pittsburgh. For only 25 cents a ride, Heritage vans run routes covering neighborhoods, grocery stores, medical care facilities, employment, and more. Heritage Community Transportation (HCT) has been in operation for 23 years, offering a convenient fixed-route transit service. To celebrate this milestone, HCT is inviting the public to ride for free through March 31, 2023. Riders can hop on an HCT van at one of 75 stops along three routes in Eastern Allegheny County. Transportation is free for children under 5 years old or adults older than 65 through the Blue Card program. With over 1.5 million rides provided, these vans make traveling throughout the region more affordable and accessible. To learn more about Heritage Transportation call 412-351-2200 or visit HeritageServes.org/How-We-Serve/Transportation to view our routes.

Heritage Nutrition Services designs, prepares, and delivers nutritious meals to at-risk youth and seniors every day. With 60% of those meals being made “from scratch,” they adhere to both State and Federal Guidelines. 100% of the 100,000 meals served each year address food insecurity for those most at-risk. To learn more about the Nutrition program, including the monthly calendar of meals, please visit HeritageServes.org/How-We-Serve/Nutrition.

Heritage Community Initiatives’ approach to social mobility programs is unlike any other in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by addressing three major points of access for those they are honored to serve. Through the three arms of the organization, Heritage strives to provide strong foundations for the individuals and families that need it most. To learn more about Heritage Community Initiatives, please visit HeritageServes.org.

Home for the Holidays

Goodwill of Southwestern PA

Ariana is a 23-year-old single mother with a 3-year-old son. About four years ago, Ariana was homeless. Ariana worked hard to find stable housing for herself and her son, eventually being accepted into a transitional housing program where she stayed for two years. This past October, Ariana enrolled in Goodwill's EARN program for people receiving TANF benefits. Her goal was to find full-time employment, ideally as a teacher's aide. Full-time employment would enable her to sustain her housing and provide for her family. Ariane used EARN's Job Readiness services to get help with her resume and cover letter. She dedicated herself to her job search and found a job that aligned perfectly with her goals!

In November 2022, Ariana started a full-time job as a teaching assistant. In addition to a competitive salary and full benefits, her son gets to attend their pre-school program, which he loves! In early December, Ariana and her son finally moved into their very own apartment. They are delighted with their new home and have been enjoying making it their own. Ariana shared that the EARN retention incentives have been a huge help to them as they go through this transitional period, and she is grateful for the support. Ariana has achieved so much through hard work, resourcefulness, and determination.

Goodwill's EARN and Work Ready programs help people receiving TANF benefits find satisfying careers with competitive pay. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, visit www.goodwillswpa.org/earn.

Clothing & Resource Fair

Mon Valley Providers Council

On Thursday, March 30, 2023, the MVPC Working Group on Employment & Training partnered with Dress for Success to host a Clothing & Resource Fair event at Auberle. Tabling agencies included: Human Services Center Mon Valley, CCAC, PA CareerLink, Goodwill of Southwest PA, Women for a Healthy Environment, Allegheny County Health Department, and Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Participants were able to receive clothing for interviews and jobs, apply for SNAP benefits, and learn more about upcoming job fairs and training programs. More than 20 individuals attended the event!

JRF Announces New Funding Opportunity

Jefferson Regional Foundation

The Jefferson Regional Foundation announced the release of the *Community Voice Fund* on March 3rd and will accept applications through April 28, 2023. This new funding opportunity is a vehicle to encourage partners to convene residents and stakeholders of the Jefferson service area for the purpose of including resident voice in the identification and prioritization of community need and to include their existing energy, knowledge, passion, and lived experience in the development of immediate and long-term ideas and action plans that will increase health and well-being.

Interested parties are invited to apply to the Community Voice Fund at the Jefferson Regional Foundation for a grant request not to exceed $35,000 through April 28, 2023. Applications must be submitted by a fiduciary with a qualified 501(c)(3) or a public entity. If a resident wants to apply and does not hold a 501(c)(3), they will need to work with an organization that can act as the fiscal agent and holds a 501(c)(3) status. Foundation staff are happy to assist with this connection if needed.

Important factors to consider when applying for this funding opportunity include, but are not limited to the following:

- Identify who will convene and why.
- Identify what communities the convening will be held in and why.
- Think through opportunities for partnerships with other organizations and how the partnership could benefit the community.
- Identify how community leaders will be involved in the convenings, the planning and the role they will play in the overall process.
- Identify compensation plans for resident participants.
- Identify specific engagement methods - how are you getting the word out/sharing information about your convening(s).

Key expectations of convening:

- What are the solutions as framed by the community?
- How did the community contribute to building the agenda?
- The number of people who attended the convening(s)

Potential applicants can submit questions related to the Community Voice Fund to Kelleigh.boland@jeffersonrf.org. Questions and answers related to the Community Voice Fund will be posted on the Foundation website.

The Community Voice Fund application can be found here and applications should be submitted via email to the Foundation's Director of Grantmaking and Strategy, Kelleigh Boland, at Kelleigh.boland@jeffersonrf.org. Applying for funding through the Community Voice Fund does not preclude nonprofit organizations from applying for support via the Foundation's regular grant cycles.

Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Human Services Center Mon Valley

The Human Services Center Mon Valley's HIV/AIDS Working Group commemorated National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on Friday, March 10, 2023. National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a national day that focuses on addressing the impact of HIV on women and girls.

At the virtual event, participants learned about the basics of HIV and how it can affect women and girls. Speakers from local organizations working with people living with HIV shared information about their services and spoke about topics such as HIV care, support groups for women living with HIV, HIV stigma, and prevention strategies. In addition to hearing from organizations that work with people living with HIV, other organizations shared information about supportive services they offer for women and girls that can assist them with becoming financially self-sufficient, advancing their education or careers, strengthening their family life, connecting them to resources to meet basic needs such as food and housing, providing community workshops and events for adults and/or families, and providing youth education programs and drop-in centers.

The Working Group would like to thank Allies for Health + Wellbeing, Latterman Family Health Center, True T PGH, Project Silk, AHN Positive Health Clinic, Macedonia FACE, AIU McKeesport Family Center, Supports for Success, and the Mon Valley Providers Council for partnering to share information about their programs and services. They would also like to thank everyone who participated and made this event possible. You can watch the recorded event at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blU6mJwyT7Y.

Educational Opportunities for Boys in the Mon Valley

Mon Valley Boys Academy

Boys' Summer Academy – June 19 to July 16, 2023

Beginning this June 19th, a free four-week educational and enrichment experience called the Boys' Summer Academy (BSA) will be held on the campus of Penn State Greater Allegheny in McKeesport. Rising 8th grade and 9th grade boys who live within 20 miles of the campus and who currently qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches are invited to participate in daily nondenominational chapel service; breakfast, lunch and snacks; reading and math skill building; daily athletics plus a 3v3 basketball tournament and track meet; fun, cultural and educational field trips; and life skills training in topics such as teamwork, communications, and money management.

The Boys' Summer Academy also doubles as a summer job! Boys begin each day with a $30 credit and earn up to $570, paid at graduation on July 16, by attending regularly, completing assignments, and observing rules.

Application for the BSA is required and involves completion of two forms plus attendance by the boy and his parent(s) at an Open House at Penn State Greater Allegheny, Main Building, Room 101, 4000 University Drive, McKeesport, PA 15132. Open Houses are scheduled for Thursday evenings, 6:30 pm: April 27, May 11, and May 25 -- and Saturday mornings, 10 am: April 29, May 13, and May 27.

Boys who successfully complete the BSA may qualify for early acceptance to the Mon Valley Boys' Academy, the new college-preparatory independent high school opening in the Mon Valley in July 2024.

To apply for the BSA or to learn more, visit the website at mymvba.org or email Rev. Thomas Johnson, revtommvba@gmail.com.

Mon Valley Boys' Academy – Opening in July 2024

The Mon Valley Boys' Academy is a faith-based, college-preparatory, private high school slated to open with 9th and 10th grades at a location within the Mon Valley in July 2024. Grade 11 will be added in 2025, and grade 12 in 2026.

The mission of this school is to serve Mon Valley boys who would not otherwise have the academic background or the financial resources to access an independent high school education focused on character development, academic achievement, college admission, and college graduation.

The MVBA is founded and headed by Rev. Thomas Johnson, Jr., who co-founded and served for 18 years as headmaster of The Neighborhood Academy (theneighborhoodacademy.org), a faith-based, college-preparatory, independent school in Pittsburgh's East Liberty community. The MVBA represents Rev. Johnson's vision to bring to Mon Valley boys the same opportunities for educational and life success that have been enjoyed for years by students at The Neighborhood Academy, including 100% college acceptance for graduating seniors and a 75% rate of graduation from college in five years or less – both well above the national average.

The Mon Valley Boys' Academy will feature non-denominational morning chapel; affordable tuition, $50/month; small classes and a college-preparatory curriculum; an extended school day including three meals and snacks; after-school programming including athletics, arts, and evening study with tutorial support; and an extended school year that begins with a five-week summer session.

For more information about the MVBA, visit the website at mymvba.org or email Rev. Thomas Johnson, revtommvba@gmail.com.

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 Mon Valley
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

Squirrel Hill Health Center: Turtle Creek
412-422-7442

TCV Community Services
412-824-8510

YouthPlaces
412-434-0851

Services at the Human Services Center

The Human Services Center Mon Valley, 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.

- **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 • **Mary Jo Guercio**, CCAC • **Brenda Harris**, Just Mediation Pittsburgh • **Tiffanee Heywood**, Goodwill of Southwestern PA • **Shari Holland**, UPMC McKeesport/Latterman Health Clinic • **Paula McWilliams**, Heritage Community Initiatives • **James Phillips**, TCV Community Services • **Lisa Scales**, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank • **Bob Sukolsky**, AHN-Forbes Family Medicine • **Lynn Tatala**, AIU Project ELECT • **Adrienne Walnoha**, Omicelo • **Christine Zellefrow**, UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Mon Yough • **Laura Zinski**, Immediate Past Chair, Mon Valley Initiative • **Nancy Osterhus**, Ex-Officio Member

2023 Membership Listing for the MVPC

Adagio Health
Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh
AHN-Forbes Family Medicine
AIU Community School East
AIU Head Start
AIU Project ELECT
Allegheny Children's Initiative
Allegheny County Health Department
Allegheny Family Network
Allies for Health + Wellbeing
Auberle
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh
Black Women's Policy Center
Braddock Carnegie Library Association
Century Heritage FCU
Clairton Family Center
Communities in Schools, Pittsburgh Allegheny County
Community College of Allegheny County
Community Human Services
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
Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Healthy Start
Heritage Community Initiatives
Highlands Family Center
Human Services Center Mon Valley
Jefferson Hospital
Jefferson Regional Foundation
Just Harvest
Just Mediation Pittsburgh
Lincoln Park Family Center
Literacy Pittsburgh
Macedonia FACE
McKeesport Agape Center
McKeesport Family Center
McKeesport Hospital Foundation
Mental Health America of Southwestern PA
Mon Valley Boys' Academy
Mon Valley Initiative
Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce
Omicelo
PA CareerLink Allegheny East
Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs
Penn State Greater Allegheny
Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center
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 Blessing Board
The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh (Duquesne Family Support 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