The Mon Valley Providers Council presents:

The Communicator

July - September 2024

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Engaging Voters in the Communities We Serve

By Mon Valley Providers Council

With this year's upcoming election, it is more important than ever for nonprofit organizations in Allegheny County to implement voter engagement strategies. Educating and empowering residents to vote goes beyond voter registration; this type of advocacy includes voter pledge campaigns, creating incentives to engage individuals, and providing educational resources on elections.

There are a few ways in which voter engagement aligns with improving quality of life in our communities. Voting allows for the voices of all to be heard, regardless of background or opportunity. Research has shown that only about 67% of eligible voters in Pennsylvania have participated in past elections. For residents with household incomes under 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, only 46% of eligible voters participate nationwide. Because nonprofits often serve families and individuals that most benefit from change, it is our responsibility to bring awareness to the importance of voting.

By encouraging and tracking voter engagement during election season, our sector can also leverage voter outcomes in advocacy efforts for the populations we serve. These outcomes also directly impact funding opportunities for our sector.

If your organization has not implemented a voter engagement plan, consider adopting one today! To learn more on how HSCMV has been engaging voters this year, visit https://hscmonvalley.org/vote. You can also reach out to Morgan, the MVPC Program Assistant, at mbryson@hscmonvalley.org.

The Communicator is the official newsletter of the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), an alliance of over 70 human service agencies serving 38 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

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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.

Pledge to vote in this year's elections!

Click here to pledge

The Human Services Center Mon Valley proudly supports voter education and engagement efforts throughout our programs. This year we are once again collecting pledges from registered voters leading up to the November 2024 Election.

Voters who sign a pledge to vote will receive periodic reminders as Election Day gets closer.

Click the link above to pledge today!

Spring Health and Housing Working Groups Event: Whole Person Care Resource Fair

By Mon Valley Providers Council

On April 18, 2024, the Mon Valley Providers Council Working Groups on Health and Housing co-hosted a resource fair at Jefferson Hospital for providers focusing on whole person care by emphasizing resources related to mental health, physical health, housing, transportation, food insecurity, and more. Twenty organizations tabled and provided resources at the event for nearly 50 attendees.

Several agencies had the chance to present to the group about what their agencies do, what populations they serve, and how to refer a client to them. These featured resources included Women for a Healthy Environment, Amachi Pittsburgh, Adagio Health, and more. Providers were able to learn about available resources serving the Mon Valley and to network with other providers.

HOPE Program for Young Adult Crisis Housing Services

By Auberle

The HOPE Program is a supportive services only program serving youth 18-24 years old who are experiencing a housing crisis. Once the youth is referred, they will be assigned to a case manager who can assist the youth in stabilizing their housing situation and locating any additional resources the youth may be in need of.

Referrals should be emailed to the program supervisor, Danielle Rodriguez, at danieller@auberle.org. When emailing, please provide the youth's name, best contact information, and a brief description of their situation if possible. Feel free to call or text.

Please contact 412-627-2272 if there are any questions or if you would prefer to submit a referral that way.

Mad City Money Simulations Available to All MVPC Members

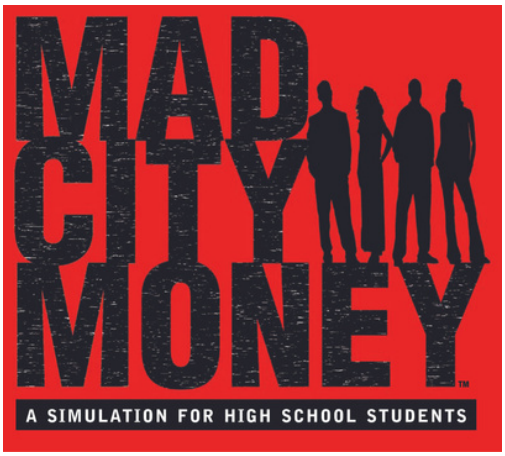
By Mon Valley Providers Council

The MVPC is proud to offer Mad City Money simulations to any MVPC dues-paying member interested in holding one, free of cost. These 2-hour simulations support 24-30 high school students (ages 15-18) in developing financial literacy skills for the future.

Some of the skills that students will learn include:

- Saving and spending money
- Budgeting
- Managing debt
- Credit
- Unplanned expenses

Mad City Money simulations can be offered via Zoom or in-person. To host a simulation in-person, you must have a large space that can fit 10 tables around the perimeter of the room. For more information or to plan your simulation, contact Morgan Bryson, the MVPC Program Assistant, at mbryson@hscmonvalley.org.



Poverty Simulations Available to All MVPC Members

By Mon Valley Providers Council

Poverty simulations are one step providers can take to better understand the difficulties that clients in poverty experience on a daily basis. The MVPC is proud to offer the opportunity for any MVPC dues-paying member to host a poverty simulation as part of staff training. These simulations can help staff develop greater empathy for clients and improve problem-solving when facing client barriers due to poverty. In the past, we have hosted poverty simulations for school districts, charter schools, and nonprofits such as Goodwill.

In order to host a simulation, you will need a large room that can fit 13 tables around the perimeter of the room. The simulation takes around 3 hours, including time for a debriefing period.

The simulation is best suited for 44 to 82 participants. If you are interested in hosting a poverty simulation at your site, please contact Morgan, the MVPC Program Assistant, at mbryson@hscmonvalley.org.

Get Involved With Heritage Community Initiatives

By Heritage Community Initiatives

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

Heritage Education Programs are enrolling for the 2024-2025 academic year. Heritage 4 Kids and HOST (Heritage Out of School Time) have served more than 8,000 children and their families—providing the highest quality early education with cognitive, emotional, physical, and social support. The 4 Kids Early Learning Center is accepting children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 5 years while HOST is enrolling students in grades K-8, providing care before and after school and during holiday breaks and in-service days. Transportation for HOST is available for school-aged students who live in the Woodland Hills School District. Secure your child's spot today by calling 412-271-3300.

Heritage Nutrition Services fuels neighbors in need with tasty, healthy meals for largely at-risk youth and seniors throughout the region. Nearly 200,000 meals are served annually with a goal of 75% of those being made from scratch. With 100% of meals served addressing food security in Allegheny County, the menu also adheres to both state and federal nutrition quality guidelines. To learn more about the Nutrition Services, including how to become a partner, please visit https://heritageserves.org/how-we-serve/nutrition.

Heritage Community Transportation (HCT) is here to get you where you need to go! HCT provides access for individuals across 16 communities with 81 stops. For only 25 cents a ride, Heritage vans run routes covering neighborhoods, grocery stores, medical care facilities, employment, and more. HCT marks 25 years of service this year, a milestone of offering a convenient fixed-route transit service. With over 1.6 million rides provided, these vans make traveling throughout the region more affordable and accessible. To learn more about HCT call 412-351-2200 or visit https://heritageserves.org/how-we-serve/transportation to view all routes.

To learn more about Heritage Community Initiatives, please visit
https://heritageserves.org.

Heritage
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Free Nonprofit Capacity-Building Workshops

By Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership, University of Pittsburgh

The Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership is very excited to announce a series of 7 workshops in 2024 and 2025 to support local nonprofits! Over the next 18 months, we will be hosting professionals and researchers to share their expertise in workshops that will cover a range of important topics for nonprofit leaders. We're very thankful for those of you who suggested these topics over the past year, and we selected topics that would support the most organizations with our resources here at GSPIA. All of the workshops will be held in-person at the University of Pittsburgh's campus.

Upcoming workshop topics include:

- Fundraising and Grant Writing
- Strategic Planning
- Program Evaluation
- Data Management
- Cyber Security
- Professional Development

If you're interested in any of the upcoming workshops, please fill out this interest form so we can keep you up to date. Dates and times for each session will be announced as they are set, and we will share more details before each session. If you have any questions on the workshop series, please contact Doreen Hernández at edoreen@pitt.edu.

Open Job Positions at AIU

By Allegheny Intermediate Unit

The Allegheny Intermediate Unit FACES Program has open positions. Use this link to view the career page: AIU Careers - Jobs (selectminds.com)

We have **3 Family Development Specialist positions** available (Penn Hills and McKees Rocks locations). These individuals are parent educators and work with children birth to age 5 in a home environment.

In our **Adult Education Department**, we have the following open positions:

- *Fatherhood Facilitator for Incarcerated Families:* Develop and maintain a fatherhood initiative program at the Allegheny County Jail
- *Fatherhood Facilitator Community-Based:* Develop and maintain a fatherhood initiative program at a family center
- *Case Manager Adult Education and Fatherhood:* Work with adult students and teachers to assist with student management and facilitation of fatherhood/parenting classes at the Allegheny County Jail
- *Adult Education Instructor (ESL, PT):* Classroom instruction to adults
- *Adult Education FT Instructor (Corrections):* Classroom instruction to adults in a correction setting

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

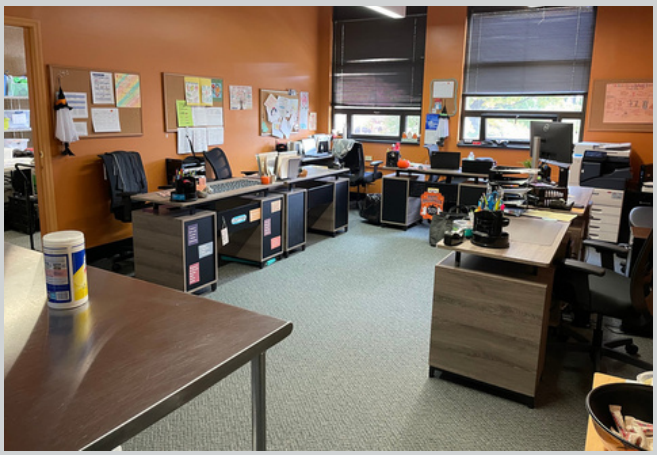
Is your agency looking for an office suite complete with two kitchenettes and a private restroom **OR** a satellite office? Space in the Human Services Center Mon Valley could be the right fit!

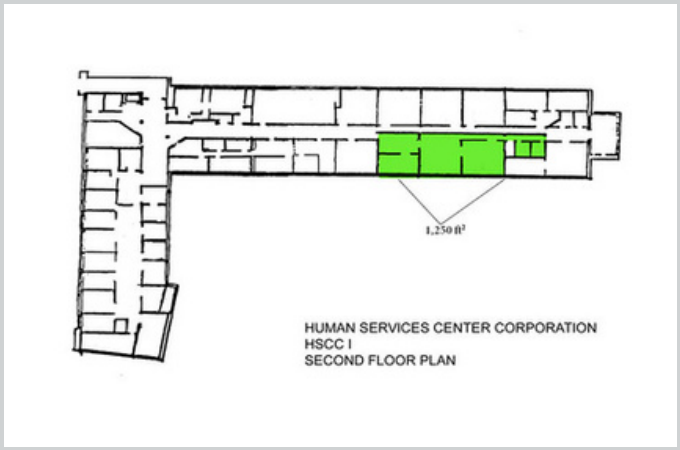
Our 2 available satellite offices are ideal for 1-2 employees.

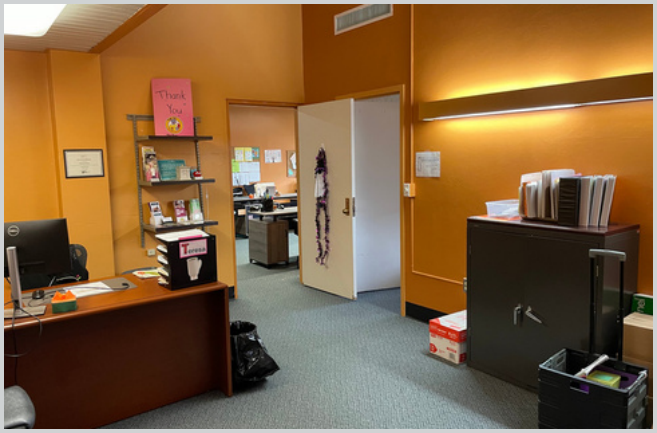
PROPERTY INFORMATION & AMENITIES

- Office Suite: ~1250 SF total
- Satellite Offices: 350 SF or 144 SF
- 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 Pittsburgh Regional Transit bus lines and a Heritage Community Transportation route

Located on Penn Avenue in Turtle Creek, the Human Services Center Mon Valley (HSCMV) was established in 1982 as a "mall" for human services and currently houses 13 tenant agencies, community outreach services, and youth programming. The HSCMV 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.







Available **office suite** space is located on the second floor. This area includes a private restroom, two kitchenettes, and large rooms perfect for meetings and open-concept office space (~1,250 SF)

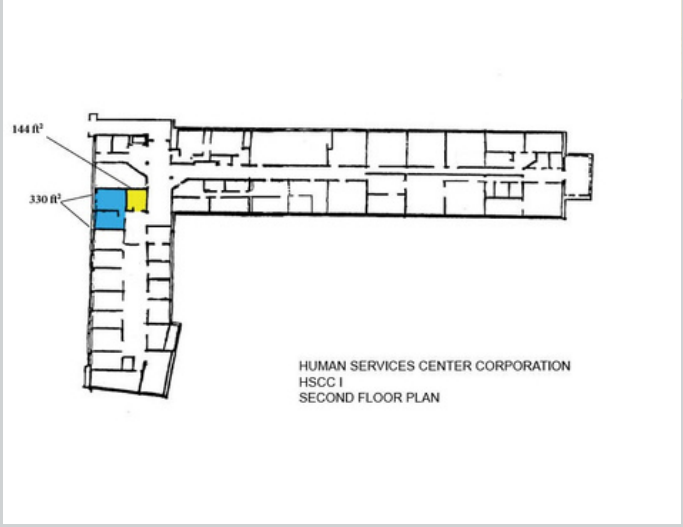
CONTACT INFORMATION

Stephanie Eson, MSW
Operations & Community Programs Manager

412-829-7112

seson@hscmonvalley.org

human services center mon valley



Available **small office spaces** are located on the second floor. Two smaller offices are ideal for agencies looking for a satellite office or a single office workspace (350 & 144 SF respectively)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Operations & Community Programs Manager

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human services center mon valley

Tenant Agencies at the Human Services Center Mon Valley

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

North Hills Community Outreach
412-487-6316

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 Mon Valley

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. For more information on the programs below, contact 412-829-7112.

- **Youth LIFE After-School Program** begins in September. Youth LIFE After-School Program serves 85 youth going into first through fifth grade with academic and social enrichment programming.
- **KOOL Summer Program** is a summer academic enrichment program serving 85 youth going into first through fifth grade in the Fall.
- **Emerging Leaders Program (ELP)** is a workforce development and college readiness program for seniors in the East Allegheny, McKeesport Area, Penn Hills, West Mifflin Area, and Woodland Hills High Schools.
- **Supports for Success** helps individuals seeking to achieve self-sufficiency through employment and/or education by providing referrals and guidance.
- **Free Tax Preparation** is available for individuals with low income. For more information, call 412-437-8229.
- **Voter Registration** help is available at HSCMV. For help with registration, finding your polling place, or to pledge to vote in the upcoming election, contact 412-829-7112.

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 Mon Valley, 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 Mon Valley Communities.

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

MVPC Steering Committee

Darla Poole, Chair, Auberle • **Lisa Scales**, Vice Chair, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank • **Kelleigh Boland**, Jefferson Regional Foundation • **Sean DeYoung**, Allies for Health + Wellbeing • **Mary Jo Guercio**, CCAC • **Heather Emanuele**, AHN Jefferson Hospital •**Tiffanee Heywood**, Goodwill of Southwestern PA • **Shari Holland**, UPMC McKeesport/Latterman Health Clinic • **Tinisha Hunt**, Macedonia FACE • **Amanda Jimcosky**, Women for a Healthy Environment • **Maddie Nagel**, Mon Valley Initiative • **Leah O'Reilly**, Human Services Center Mon Valley • **James Phillips**, TCV Community Services • **Ejetta Roberson**, Goodwill of Southwestern PA • **Alicia Romano**, Community Health Services • **Lynn Tatala**, AIU Project ELECT • **Christine Zellefrow**, UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Mon Yough • **Laura Zinski**, Immediate Past Chair, Mon Valley Initiative • **Nancy Osterhus**, Ex-Officio Member

2024 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
Amachi Pittsburgh
Auberle
Black Women's Policy Center
Braddock Carnegie Library Association
Century Heritage FCU
Clairton Family Center
Community College of Allegheny County
Community Human Services
Duquesne Family Center
East Allegheny Family Center
Eastern Area Adult Services
Family and Immigrant Connections Program
Family Resources
Fund My Future PGH
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
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 Initiative
Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce
North Hills Community Outreach
PA CareerLink Pittsburgh
Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs
Penn State Greater Allegheny
Pittsburgh Action Against Rape
Pittsburgh Area Community Schools
Pittsburgh Comprehensive Treatment 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
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