The Mon Valley Providers Council presents:

The Communicator

April - June 2025

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MVPC Steering Committee

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MVPC 2025 Synergies Forum

By Mon Valley Providers Council

We had over 20 service providers representing 19 member agencies attend our annual Synergies Forum. Based on the engaging conversations held during the forum, as well as the annual Steering Committee Meeting, the MVPC 2025 Priorities are as follows:

1. Provide networking opportunities between MVPC members to improve member knowledge regarding resources available at member agencies (including but not limited to the winter in-person Member to Member Networking followed by the Happy Hour).
2. Conduct at least one poverty simulation for a Mon Valley school district or member agency.
3. Provide the Mad City Money financial literacy program to youth programs in the Mon Valley.

Priorities for Working Groups on Employment & Training, Health, and Housing were also set for 2025. If you would like a copy of these priorities, or you have any questions, please contact Morgan, MVPC Program Assistant, at mbryson@hscmonvalley.org.

The Communicator is the official newsletter of the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), an alliance of over 65 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

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.

MVPC 2025 Networking Event & Happy Hour

By Mon Valley Providers Council

The MVPC held another successful Networking Event and Happy Hour this February for member agencies. Fifteen agencies tabled at the event, with over 40 providers in attendance. It was an afternoon filled with great networking, snacks, raffles, and fabulous music thanks to our DJ, Sly Williams from HSCMV. Thank you to all our incredible member agencies for making this event a success!

Rainbow Kitchen Community Resource Events

By Rainbow Kitchen Community Services

Join Rainbow Kitchen Community Services for a monthly Resource Event that will be at Rainbow Kitchen (135 E 9th Avenue, Homestead, PA 15120) from 10am-12pm on April 16th, May 21st, and June 18th.

Previous examples of resources in attendance are Adagio Health, Animal Friends, Dress for Success, Duquesne Light, Deb's Clothing Closet, Holy Family Institute, Geisinger, Pennsylvania American Water Company, Stand-up Wireless, Steel Valley Family Center, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare for Homeless Veterans, and Vote Riders.

Resources in attendance vary monthly. Everyone is welcome to come and explore the **FREE** services and information.

rainbow kitchen
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Free Age-Inclusive Photo Bank

By Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh

Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh announces the release of their Age-Inclusive Photo Bank, a free tool for the community and a source of joyful inspiration.

“These images highlight what we know to be true: We want to connect. We want to know our neighbors. We are stronger when we choose community,” says Laura Poskin, Executive Director of Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh. “At a time of division and uncertainty, these photos show that we — as a region — choose community. We choose love.”

The Photo Bank showcases intergenerational moments with loved ones: a family meal in McKeesport, a work day Downtown, an arts festival in Greensburg, and everything in between. “These everyday snapshots deserve to be uplifted not just as sentimental, feel-good experiences, but as essential ingredients to a thriving region,” says Age Inclusion Campaign Manager Cassandra Masters. “We have one of the greatest concentrations of older adults in the United States. There is so much potential in that — if we choose to come together across generations.”

The images were captured by five of the region’s best photographers and showcase important, everyday moments across Allegheny, Butler, Westmoreland, and Washington Counties. Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Martha Rial shares: "Pittsburghers are proud of their ability to build strong communities by celebrating what unites us. I hope my images tell that story.” The photographers behind the Photo Bank also include nationally-recognized photo-journalist Nate Smallwood, Larry Rippel, Ishara Henry, and John Altdorfer, representing all ages themselves and the diversity of our region.

The Photo Bank is a service for community-facing organizations searching for locally-rooted photos for flyers, presentations, reports, and other communications needs. The 100 images are free to download for *non-commercial, non-political use* at agefriendlypgh.org/photo-bank. Neighborhood exhibits and activations are slated for later this year, inspired by age inclusion champions like the Centre for Ageing Better in the UK and partners in Columbus, OH and Boston, MA.

The Photo Bank is part of a regional Age Inclusion Campaign, made possible by support from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation. The campaign uplifts the potential of intergenerational connection and debunks myths and stereotypes about aging.

A leader in the World Health Organization’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh brings generations together to reimagine how our neighborhoods are built and to advance equity through advocacy, education, and innovation. A region that’s more accessible and welcoming is one that’s better for older people — and better for everyone.

BLCA Grand Reopening!

By Braddock Carnegie Library Association

WE'RE GETTING READY TO MOVE BACK INTO OUR BUILDING!

Our location at 526 Braddock Ave will be closed to the public after 3/21/2025.

The BCLA will be packing, moving, and setting up services in our renovated building. During this time, there will be disruptions to some of the services we offer:

- We will be unable to offer fax services. We will not be answering our main phone line.
- The majority of our collection, including tables and chairs, will be unavailable for circulation.

However, our Turtle Creek Satellite will continue normal hours. See below for more information. Our building at 419 Library Street will reopen to the public on May 23, 2025.

GRAND REOPENING RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY!

May 22nd, 2025 from 11am-4:30pm

Come see everything old and new as we welcome everyone back into our historic location at 419 Library Street.

FAQs:

Q: I have materials checked out from the BCLA (or another county library) and now 526 Braddock Ave is closed. Where should I return my items?

A: You can return library materials to any library in Allegheny County or to our Turtle Creek Satellite. See our list of nearby libraries.

Q: Will there still be programs after 526 Braddock Ave closes?

A: We will continue some outreach programming but will not be hosting any programs in our spaces until after our Grand Reopening.

Q: Where can I get tax or rent rebate forms?

A: Rep. Abigail Salisbury's office will have all tax forms on site at their office at 501 Braddock Ave. and can also assist with rent rebate forms. They also offer notary services.

Q: When will the library reopen?

A: Our building at 419 Library Street will reopen to the public for library services after our Grand Reopening on May 22, 2025. We will resume library services at noon the next day. Please stay tuned for more details about the Grand Reopening as well as additional information about our public hours upon reopening.

BCLA's TURTLE CREEK SATELLITE

Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-4pm
Location: Inside the Human Services Center Mon Valley,
519 Penn Ave Turtle Creek, PA 15145
Phone: 412-829-7112
Available Services: Two computers for public use; Free WiFi; Print and copy (no fax available); Small collection of books and DVDs to check out; holds from entire ACLA system can be picked up here.

Heritage Community Initiatives Summer Programming

By Heritage Community Initiatives

HERITAGE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAMS UNLOCK CHILDRENS' POTENTIAL

Parents of children aged as young as six weeks can now enroll their students in one of the region's top-rated, nationally accredited summer education programs. With 96% of students in Heritage's 4 Kids Early Learning Center and Heritage Out of School Time (HOST) programs meeting or exceeding national standards in all areas of child development, our exceptional programs are designed to inspire and educate children while ensuring they have a fun and enriching experience all year round. *Please see details below:*

- Heritage offers two educational programs: Heritage Out of School Time (HOST) and 4 Kids Early Learning Center.
- Children six weeks through eighth grade can enroll.
- The summer session will take place from Monday, June 9 through August 2025.
- Program hours are 7:30am – 5:30pm, Monday through Friday.
- Scholarships available for qualifying students.
- High caliber programming includes:
  - Weekly library sessions in partnership with the Braddock Carnegie Library.
  - STEM focused activities including cooking lessons and partnerships with key organizations like the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium and Grow Pittsburgh.
  - Two meals per day, 60% of which are made from scratch and 100% of which meet federal child nutrition guidelines.
  - Customized support from specially trained Heritage teammates in partnership with UPMC Western Behavioral Health.

FEEDING STUDENTS THROUGHOUT ALLEGHENY COUNTY

In addition to providing Heritage students with largely scratch-cooked food, Heritage works with several partners in Allegheny County to ensure no child goes hungry in the summer. In fact, last summer, our highly sought-after program prepared and delivered nearly 3,000 meals per day, making it one of the largest, if not the largest, summer feeding programs in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Visit www.HeritageServes.org to learn how we support individuals living in more than 75 communities in Allegheny County, to enroll your child, or to learn more about how to contract our nutrition services.

Resources to help you achieve financial wellness

The Human Services Center Mon Valley conducts a **Financial Education Program** with the goal of increasing the financial knowledge and skills of Mon Valley residents. We want to help you succeed! See our resources below, designed to help you achieve financial wellness.

Read our **Financial Resource Guide** to learn:

- Tips for budgeting and saving.
- About public benefits to increase your income or decrease your expenses.
- About free employment and training programs to improve your skills and prepare for a career.

Download a copy from our website: https://hscmonvalley.org/community-programs/financial-education/

Sign up for our **Financial Literacy Email List** to receive periodic emails inviting you to our monthly financial webinars, information on public benefits, and financial tips to help you succeed.

Visit https://bit.ly/hsc-emails to sign up.

Questions? Call 412-436-9537 or email kgascoine@hscmonvalley.org

Join an upcoming **monthly webinar**!

Topics change each month. Previous classes have covered budgeting, preparing for homeownership, navigating retirement, and saving for your child's future.

To see upcoming topics and register for the webinar, visit: https://hscmonvalley.org/monthly-webinar/

Access any of these resources by scanning this QR code:

human services center mon valley

CCAC Recent News

By CCAC

Bots IQ

CCAC Allegheny Campus hosted BotsIQ on March 5th along with about 200 high school students from all around the Pittsburgh area. BotIQ is a workforce development program by the Pittsburgh Chapter National Tooling & Machining Foundation. It nurtures youth's interest in manufacturing careers, offering hands-on learning experiences to foster STEM education, provide technical resources to schools, and connect students with industry mentors. BotsIQ aims to bridge the skills gap and build a competent future manufacturing workforce. Students will move on to the regional competition to be held at the Penn West California University.

West Allegheny High School Visit

On March 20th CCAC hosted 270 freshman students from West Allegheny High School. Students spent the day at the Allegheny Campus learning about important topics including what it takes to become a successful college student. They also learned foundational knowledge about college structure, for example, what a college credit represents or what does it mean to transfer credits to a college. Students then were presented with learning experiences that included an understanding of mechatronics. Mechatronics is a form of engineering that focuses on the integration of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, electronic engineering, software engineering, and robotics. Students heard from the Associate Dean, Dr. Simen Saunders, as he discussed the value and importance of the humanities and arts not just for college but also in our personal lives. Lastly, students were introduced to CCAC's Respiratory and Nursing programs. All students were greeted by ACE, the CCAC mascot, as they arrived on Campus and treated to a bunch of fun CCAC giveaways! Best of luck to the West Allegheny High School freshman class moving forward.

CCAC Athletics Information

Men's Basketball:

With spring just around the corner, it's a great time to look back on another strong men's basketball season. The team had a solid run, finishing with a 16–11 record. They averaged 80.4 points per game and shot nearly 43% from the field over the course of the season. Their impressive 4–1 conference record secured them the top seed in the conference playoffs, giving them a bye straight into the championship game. Unfortunately, their season came to an end on February 23, 2025, in Johnstown, where they fell to Pennsylvania Highlands Community College in the final. While the outcome wasn't what they had hoped for, the season showcased the strong foundation of success being built by the coaching staff.

Men's Baseball:

As warmer weather kicks off the Spring 2025 baseball season, the team is gearing up for an exciting and competitive year. With a roster of over 35 players, they're ready to challenge local community colleges and junior colleges within the NJCAA Region 20 conference. This season, the team will play more than 50 games, including 27 home games and 25 away games. They'll also hit the road to face teams in Maryland and Ohio. All home games will take place at the CCAC Boyce Campus, and the team is thrilled to invite fans to join them for one of the nine remaining doubleheaders on the home schedule. Click here to look at upcoming games.

Student Success News

This year, nine exceptional and talented CCAC students have been selected for the All-Pennsylvania Academic Team. These students not only shine academically but also demonstrate a strong commitment to community service, reflecting their dedication to both learning and giving back. As part of this honor, these students, who plan to transfer to one of Pennsylvania's 14 State System colleges and universities, will be eligible for two years of paid tuition. They will be recognized in Harrisburg at the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges Annual Meeting on April 8, 2025, where they'll join winners from the other community colleges across the state. Additionally, these students will be considered for the prestigious Coca-Cola New Century Transfer Pathway Scholars and Coca-Cola New Century Workforce Pathway Scholars awards. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to these outstanding CCAC students for earning this well-deserved recognition.

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

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

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR)
1-866-363-7273

Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs
412-824-0006

TCV Community Services
412-824-8510

The W.I.R.E. Academy
412-799-3451

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.

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, and Housing. These three Working Groups involve the participation of over 65 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

Lisa Scales, Chair, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank • **Lynn Tatala**, Vice Chair, AIU Project ELECT • **Kelleigh Boland**, Jefferson Regional Foundation • **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 Human Services • **Christine Zellefrow**, UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Mon Yough • **Laura Zinski**, Mon Valley Initiative • **Nancy Osterhus**, Ex-Officio Member

2025 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
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
Literacy Pittsburgh
Macedonia FACE
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
Parenting Connections East
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
Squirrel Hill Health Center
State Senator Jay Costa
State Senator Nick Pisciottano
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
Women for a Healthy Environment
YWCA Greater Pittsburgh