

100 PERCENT
DETERMINED
INVESTED
COLLABORATIVE
TRANSPARENT
AUTHENTIC
RESPONSIVE
EQUITABLE
EMPOWERING
INCLUSIVE
COURAGEOUS
RESILIENT
PITTSBURGH





DOWNTOWN

Pittsburgh is at the center of a rebounding regional economy and is a nationally recognized success story. It's also home to The Pittsburgh Foundation, which is dedicating 60 percent of its discretionary grantmaking to creating opportunity for 100 percent of our neighbors.



HOMESTEAD

This scrappy community is emblematic of western Pennsylvania neighborhoods reinventing themselves through innovation and collaboration among community-based nonprofits, small businesses and citizens. It's also the birthplace of U.S. District Judge Mark Hornak, who received the Foundation's James Fulton Congressional Internship award in 1977. His story starts on page 42.



OAKLAND

Medical and scientific research is a driving force in the region's booming "eds and meds" economy driven by universities, hospitals and high-tech companies. Stories of two such groundbreaking efforts funded by the Foundation are on pages 50 and 54.



HOMWOOD

This once-thriving community is a key focus area for Foundation programs aimed at fighting poverty and increasing quality of life for residents like Torron Mollett. Mollett's college education was funded in part by The Pittsburgh Promise. See his story on page 36.



SALEM, PA

Within an hour's drive of the city, Westmoreland County's farmland and rural communities are working to rebound and meet the human services needs of residents. Nonprofits like Salem Lutheran Church are helping with funding from The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County's donors. Learn more on page 28.

MAKING OUR REGION WORK FOR ALL



IN ANY OTHER YEAR'S REPORT ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S WORK,

we would focus on how we've been fulfilling our primary mission — improving the quality of life for residents in the Pittsburgh region.

But we can't report fully and honestly without first addressing the recent significant events that brought anxiety and uncertainty into our region and influenced the direction of our agenda.

Most originated in Washington and beyond: international terrorism and nuclear saber-rattling; unprecedented political divisiveness; pitched battles over affordable health care; a flawed immigration policy “corrected” by such cynical politics as assaulting young, mostly Latino immigrants — the Dreamers.

Add to that list local events that jolted the national conscience. One of the most horrendous: the torch-lit march of white supremacists in Charlottesville, Va., in which a neo-Nazi drove his car into a crowd of counter-protesters, killing a young woman.

And these events were layered over our own pressing issues prominent on our agenda: robust economic development versus gentrification in city neighborhoods; the opioid crisis; growing economic disparity; and protection of essential human services in the state budget process.

The weight and volume of these issues and the dispiriting effects of divisive rhetoric challenged us last year to an unprecedented degree. But in the process of sorting through it all, we found abundant evidence that the community philanthropy model is stronger than it's ever been.

The Pittsburgh Foundation family and the public we serve are more convinced than ever of the inherent value of community in American life.

That assessment matches national surveys. Though 70 percent of respondents to a national poll this summer said that civility has dropped and anxiety has ratcheted up since the presidential election, another poll found that nearly as high a percentage strongly value community and believe in investing in programs close to home.

And there is plenty of evidence to show that community foundations are among the most effective models for empowering people of diverse ideologies and life experiences to come together to achieve social good.

Just two days after the white supremacist uprising in Charlottesville, the area's community foundation announced and funded a five-point plan to assist those who were harmed and developed a process for community reconciliation. In Hurricane Harvey-ravaged Houston, many staff of the region's community foundation lost their homes, but are leading the recovery effort, including managing an \$84 million* emergency relief fund.

In our region, we've focused on expanding programs and services developed through 100 Percent Pittsburgh, our organizing principle that commits us to inviting people on the margins to join us in developing opportunities for their full participation in our revitalized economy.

Youth in the juvenile justice system joined us in developing strategies to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. Generous Pittsburghers joined us in our Critical Needs Alert online giving campaign to raise a record \$1.3 million for basic needs. And single women with children joined us in devising strategies to provide them more economic opportunity. The findings will be shared in a new research report next year.

We invite you to read through the following pages to understand the many ways our donors, grantees and civic partners — as told in their own words — are rejecting divisive elements and building a community that champions civic engagement, equity and opportunity for all.

Edith L. Shapira, M.D.

Chair, The Pittsburgh Foundation
Board of Directors

Maxwell King

President and CEO,
The Pittsburgh Foundation



The August Wilson Center

GEM OF THE CITY

IN A 1999 INTERVIEW with the Paris Review, playwright and Hill District native August Wilson described “Fences” as a story of love, honor, duty and betrayal. Until recently, the same might have been said of the cultural center bearing his name.

The dream of an institution celebrating African American culture in Pittsburgh became real at a 2001 press conference, when Mulugetta Birru, then head of the city’s Urban Redevelopment Authority, designated a Downtown lot topped with dilapidated buildings as home for the August Wilson Center.

A lot of ground had been plowed to earn that moment. Newly elected councilman Sala Udin, a boyhood friend of Wilson’s, built political support, while Bonnie VanKirk and Karen Farmer White led grass-roots fundraising. Yvonne Cook, Mona Generett, Marva Harris, Cecile Springer, Nancy Washington, and Pastors Dr. William H. Curtis and the late Jason Barr led their own networks. Carol Brown served as founding board member, and Oliver Byrd chaired.

“It was like the Bible,” Byrd said at the time. “So many people worked so hard to claim a spot on the cultural landscape. It was a huge undertaking.”

Construction was well underway when the Great Recession struck. Costs and debt soared, plunging the Center into bankruptcy and leaving many supporters demoralized and angry. As for-profit developers began circling, a coalition of government agencies and three philanthropies — The Pittsburgh Foundation, The Heinz Endowments and the Richard King Mellon Foundation — bought the Center and began rebuilding.

Three new community members joined the board, including developer Michael Polite, now chair, who led the search this year that produced the new president, Janis Burley Wilson, who had been vice president for strategic partnerships and community engagement at the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. [Here, Burley Wilson relates her vision for the Center’s future.](#)



On July 20, Janis Burley Wilson, pictured with the August Wilson portrait she commissioned for the Center’s 1839 Gallery, was named the organization’s new president and CEO.

STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CITY

felt that August Wilson's legacy was too precious to relinquish, too important to fall into the hands of callous commercialism and too historic not to share with the world. My top priority is to build a solid, sustainable organization that is financially secure. That process begins with implementing programming, fundraising and organizational plans. But it also means making sure that people who come to the Center gain some knowledge of the man and his work — that they come away inspired by him.

Until recently, there was really nothing about August Wilson's life and work in the Center. In July, North Carolina-based artist Tarish Pipkins (who is from Pittsburgh) created a mural of Wilson that 200 people helped to paint in the entry space at the Center. There is a recurring character in Wilson's plays, Aunt Esther, who lives at 1839 Wylie Avenue. She welcomes other characters and sends them on their way. Some years ago, Pittsburgh-based artist Vanessa German created a life-sized female figure called "1839 Wylie Avenue" for the "Art for August" exhibition that was curated by Janera Solomon. One of my dreams is that we can acquire that sculpture and install it permanently at the Center along with the mural and artifacts related to his plays.

Of all of August Wilson's plays, "Gem of the Ocean" inspires me the most. It's the powerful women in that play who take what life has handed them and make their own stories. Aunt Esther is so majestic and regal. She holds court in her kitchen with all the other characters who come into her life and her home. I tell my own daughters all the time: We have to write our own stories.

Just think about the literary and theater opportunities the Center holds. We can bring theater artists and writers together with social justice workers to consider the hope and pain of a people. The Center could be the space that unifies the many diverse people and organizations doing that kind of work ... a space to connect Pittsburgh-based artists to the larger artistic community, expanding their work and their reach.

Those bonds are so important. Going forward, I hope to create a national advisory board that includes people like Denzel Washington and other directors who have presented August Wilson's work so that we have an ongoing connection. My hope is that the Center will have an integral role in any major project that involves Wilson's work.

We've also created community-based conversations with artists like Vanessa German, who interviewed [musician and visual artist] Robert Hodge under a big tent at the Art House in Homewood. We are currently presenting an exhibition by photographer and curator Dr. Deborah Willis. That exhibition is curated by James Claiborne, who leads public programming at the African American Museum in Philadelphia. We met at an executive arts leadership conference at Rutgers University and decided immediately that we had to work together. That partnership is ongoing and presents an opportunity to bring curatorial and artistic knowledge from both sides of the state together.

The gallery spaces are also phenomenal and massive. There is so much we can do to bring world-class artists to Pittsburgh so our

community can learn and create in new mediums. When people travel to Pittsburgh, they think of The Andy Warhol Museum as a must-see destination. Having traveled internationally, I know that people all over the world have the same level of esteem and respect for August Wilson. We can make the August Wilson Center an international cultural destination that people feel compelled to visit to experience visual arts in our galleries and performances in our theaters.

Because of the gravitas August Wilson conveys, I have no doubt that we can make strong connections with other museums nationally and internationally to catalyze and create, or consider a particular social issue.

Personally, there's a level of excellence that is associated with August Wilson. If you're presenting in a space named for August Wilson, you need to bring your best. I'm going to come with my best. There's a pride in that, a very high bar that artists want to reach when they present their work here. I believe the entire arts community will feel a responsibility to rise to that. "

Janis Burley Wilson

An architectural gem, the August Wilson Center was designed by African American architect Allison G. Williams to recall the sail of Swahili trading ships.

As told to Kitty Julian, senior communications officer at The Pittsburgh Foundation



*The UpPrize Social
Innovation Challenge*

BIG DATA EMPOWERS NONPROFITS

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, the best minds from the nonprofit and for-profit sectors are coming together to pursue innovative and affordable solutions to systemic social issues. In Pittsburgh, for the past year, The Forbes Funds, a supporting organization of The Pittsburgh Foundation that is dedicated to increasing the management capacity of nonprofits, partnered with BNY Mellon to host the UpPrize Social Innovation Challenge. Now in its third year, UpPrize helps community-based nonprofits adopt technology solutions to improve quality of life for the vulnerable populations they serve. Since its inception, seven catalyzing projects have been awarded a total of \$1 million in development funding through the competitive program. BlastPoint, a big data mining service geared to nonprofits, won the \$150,000 grand prize last year.

The concept for the company emerged three years ago, when Carnegie Mellon University MBA student Alison Alvarez pitched an idea at a university workshop for an affordable, easy-to-use data gathering tool. That got the attention of Tomer Borenstein, a computer engineer, and the two teamed up to found BlastPoint, a company that enables anyone to quickly access, visualize and export location-based data about any place in the United States. In a short time, their idea has grown into a valuable resource for community nonprofits looking to take advantage of big data. Alvarez and Borenstein used their prize money to hire interns and continue advancing their product, which is undergoing testing. Alvarez also stepped down from her day job as a product manager at a data management company to work on BlastPoint full time.

Alison Alvarez talks about the impact UpPrize has had on furthering BlastPoint's mission.



BlastPoint co-founder Alison Alvarez is using big data and mapping technology to help nonprofits pinpoint community needs and use resources strategically.



“ JUST BEING ABLE TO SAY WE WON the UpPrize has been tremendous — really validating. I think it’s helped us sell our product. We set what we thought was a pretty ambitious sales goal of 10 customers by May 24. We ended up getting 11. UpPrize has opened us to people who might not have talked to us before. We’re getting lots of feedback and ideas and it’s been great. Even if we hadn’t won the money, that validation has been a really big boost all on its own.

We are finalizing our next release. We have a minimally viable product out there, but we want to add a lot more features and make this as elegant as possible. To that end, The Forbes Funds and BlastPoint will partner to work with a group of 10 to 12 nonprofits to let them “test-drive the tool” and give us input on what works and what needs to be improved. For us to succeed, we need nonprofits guiding us along the way.

Another thing we’re working on is building data literacy. I spoke at Pittsburgh TechFest about different ways developers can use geographical data to understand the world around them. We’re building presentations to educate others on the capabilities of data. We estimate that our tool will save nonprofits time and money by offering this information simply and directly. For example, segmentation allows an organization to recognize and market to its target audiences. Once you have that approximation, you can repeat the method for different areas.

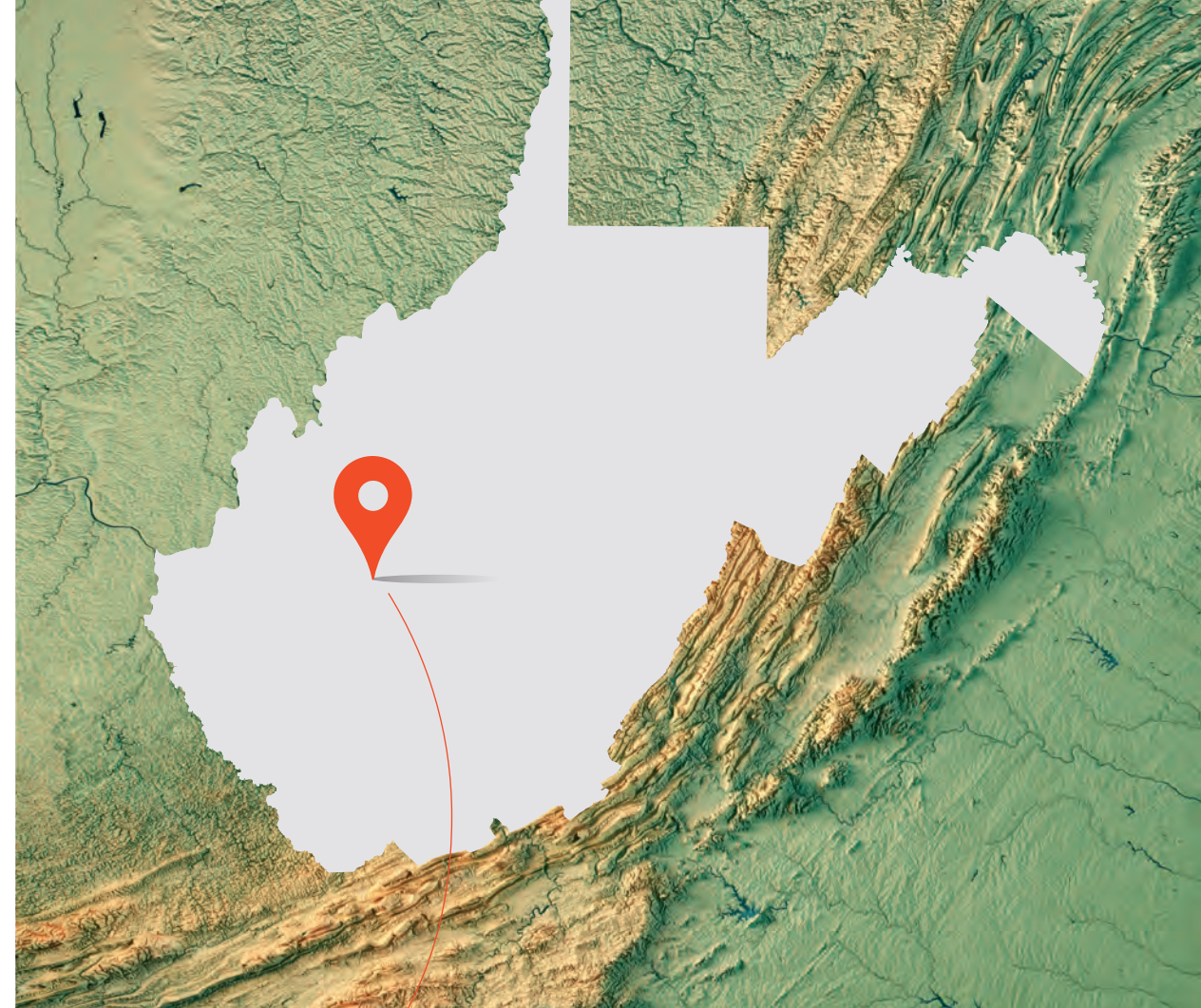
We work with organizations in southwestern Pennsylvania, such as the Allegheny Conference, Southern Allegheny Planning and Development, the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance and Bedford County Development. Something will happen in your region and you have the opportunity to shape the story with data. Our tool lets people do that. One of my favorite stories is South Central Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) in Harrisburg. President Trump did a talk in Harrisburg to celebrate his first 100 days in office, and PREP got inundated with media requests. People were asking questions about job growth and unemployment in the area. PREP used BlastPoint to pull all the data.

A special feature in our new system is Drivetime, which helps companies understand market potential. Most customers will drive to a store 15 minutes or 30 minutes down the road. But what if you don’t know how many potential customers are in your area? Drivetime allows companies to drop a pin on the map and see how many people live within a 30-minute drive from that point as well as how much education they have and how much of their paycheck they have left over after paying rent.

We premiered that feature for the Charleston Area Alliance, a really big client for us. The Alliance is a nonprofit whose whole mission is to showcase Charleston, W.Va., as an area that’s great for business. That’s a tough sell, especially in West Virginia, which most people don’t think of as a place to relocate their factory. It’s a scrappy town with huge potential, and I’m hoping our tool will make that apparent.”

Alison Alvarez

As told to Amanda Walz, a freelance writer based in Pittsburgh



Charleston Area Alliance

BLASTPOINT IN ACTION

CODY SCHULER serves as the Entrepreneur Project Manager at Charleston Area Alliance, a nonprofit community development organization in southwestern West Virginia that employs 10 people. After discovering BlastPoint at the Three Rivers Venture Fair in 2016, Schuler and his team saw an opportunity to use the company’s software to revitalize the city.

“What we’re battling in West Virginia is the mass migration of young professionals who are moving to other states for opportunities,” Schuler says. “Companies that are looking to relocate want to be where the workforce is, and it’s difficult to attract them if our talented young people are moving away. But if you get them to stay and you show that in the data, you can start building some momentum. We see BlastPoint potentially helping in that way.”

The Alliance has used BlastPoint to gather and visualize data to entice companies looking for locations to build new stores, factories and offices. The software has enabled them to attract a yet-undisclosed, out-of-state company to set up shop in Charleston, bringing with it jobs and economic opportunities. ■

The Trade Institute of Pittsburgh

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF INCARCERATION

DRIVERS ZIPPING INTO DOWNTOWN on the Parkway East can easily ignore the gray facade of the Allegheny County Jail. The ranks of men and women held inside — some 2,200 a day in a building built for 1,450 — are growing. Incarceration rates at the county jail have increased by 62 percent over the past 20 years, and now consume half of the county's annual budget. African American families in Allegheny County are disproportionately affected: 13 percent of the county's population is African American, but nearly half of the people in the county jail are black.

What are we doing wrong? The Pittsburgh Foundation's 100 Percent Pittsburgh organizing principle was created to help break the cycle of generational poverty that is responsible for an increase in the school-to-prison pipeline for youth ages 12 to 24, particularly in minority communities. The Foundation asked youth involved in the juvenile justice system how the system could be changed. Their top recommendations: End zero-tolerance school discipline policies that often lead to confinement for minor nonviolent infractions; and increase access to mental health services. The Foundation also supported a study by the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics' Criminal Justice Task Force, which found that costly and unfair pre-trial detention has been a major contributor to the county's 70 percent jail population increase.

The Foundation is also making grants to promising local efforts. A pilot project underway on the city's North Side to keep first-time offenders out of jail focuses on specialized police training. A second program supports those leaving jail to learn construction trades at the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh in Homewood. Since Steve Shelton founded the Institute in 2009, 200 graduates have found living-wage jobs, and the group's reincarceration rate is 4 percent, far below the statewide average of 22 percent. Now enrolled in the Trade Institute's Entrepreneur in Training Project, [Ronnell Miller is one of the formally incarcerated individuals hoping to beat the odds.](#)



With the masonry skills developed at the Trade Institute, Ronnell Miller is building pizza and bread ovens, which will be sold to earn revenue for the organization's entrepreneur-in-training program.



I GET UP EVERY DAY AND GO TO WORK. That's what adults do, right? I joined the Trade Institute program in February to get skilled in masonry and carpentry. I build brick ovens to bake pizza and bread. It's an old tradition. Now I'm learning how to make that into a business, researching and meeting people.

I'm 45 years old. I was born in Pittsburgh, then grew up in Florida, Atlanta and Alabama. I enrolled at Tuskegee University there, but used my student loan money to buy drugs. I returned here in my late teens. I still have a lot of family in town, but my mother passed away in 2016.

My first conviction was a year for selling marijuana and crack cocaine on the South Side in the early 1990s. I was a flourishing drug dealer, 19 years old, making \$150,000 a year. I was a businessman. For the next conviction, I got three to 36 years, but it was a split sentence, so I served three years, then probation. Altogether, I've had 18 incarcerations. I've been shot in the head. At one point, my 15-year-old son was in the same pod as me at the county jail. That was hard. You don't show your child this. Now he's at Pine Grove SCI [a state prison for juvenile offenders], serving five to 10 years for homicide.

I have nine kids, from age 3 to 24. Five of them I don't see; they've been taken away, someone else takes care of them. I didn't have a father, no real role model. But no one raised me wrong. My mom gave me everything.

I was actually in the Trade Institute program before, two years ago. I'd been at the Renewal Center [a transition service for ex-offenders] for two months, but went back to jail for something I didn't do. I had a dirty urine test [which violated parole]. That meant another six-month stint. My daughter cried. She said, "You promised you wouldn't go back to jail." While I was in jail, Steve Shelton came in to talk to the guys on my pod. He looked at me and said, "I know you." He told me to come and see him when I got out, last November.

I didn't do that right away. When you get out, everybody wants to feed you — "Come on over to eat." You see old friends; they want to help you. A friend put money and a gun in my hand. "I got ya," he said. That's what I used to do: take care of others. But the hustling lifestyle is no good if you care about your kids. Now I'm taking responsibility. It's on me. I need to be here for my kids. I wasn't before. So I called Steve.

This time I got through the [introductory program] in seven weeks, instead of 10. The other guys said, "Why do you learn this so fast?" I messed with them — I didn't tell them I'd been here before. At first, I wasn't living in a good place. There were crackheads arguing at two o'clock in the morning and I had to get up at seven for work. Steve kept asking me, "Where are you staying? You OK?" He helped me find a better place.

This work is hard. I have \$3,000 in the bank and I feel broke. It's tugging on me, the old lifestyle, the old vices and desires. But Steve has helped me and my family, too. I've had two cousins and my older brother here, and three nephews, but one got kicked out today.

I got off parole May 29. I'm on probation now. My biggest thing is to get done what needs to be done, every day, to make me a better man. The other things will fall into place. It's different now. I was surviving. Now, to live means something more."

Ronnell Miller

As told to Christine H. O'Toole, a feature and travel writer based in Pittsburgh

ALLEGHENY COUNTY JUSTICE SYSTEM

Individuals in Jails,
National and
Allegheny County



Youth
in juvenile
justice
system for
nonviolent
offenses

77%

13%
African Americans
in the population of
Allegheny County

58%
African Americans
in the population of
Allegheny County Jail

*The definition of "unconvicted individuals" includes people in the Allegheny County Jail who are detained in the jail awaiting trial for their new crime plus awaiting a violation hearing.

The Bennett Prize

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

SINCE 2010, Steven Bennett and Elaine Melotti Schmidt, Ed.D., have been collecting paintings by contemporary women artists who work in the figurative realistic style. It's an approach that the couple, who live in the San Antonio, Texas, area, embrace for authentically depicting and celebrating women in all their complexity, power and vulnerability. As the couple's collection has grown, so has their awareness of inequities that confront women in the arts. Museums and galleries present far fewer exhibitions of art by women, have fewer pieces by women in their collections and, when women's pieces are collected, they generally sell for less than works by male artists. Troubled by this gender discrimination, Steve and Elaine donated \$3 million last year, the largest new gift in 2016, to The Pittsburgh Foundation and established The Bennett Prize through the Center for Philanthropy, where the Foundation's subject matter experts partner with donors to develop significant projects. The Prize will fund a juried biennial exhibition of works by 10 emerging women artists who paint in the figurative realistic style. The jury will then name one of these painters as the first Bennett Prize winner. The winner will receive a two-year stipend to create new works leading to a solo museum exhibition and catalog. **Now on the verge of announcing the museum partner for the inaugural group exhibition, Steve and Elaine hope to create an appetite for figurative realism and increase the likelihood that women who work in this genre will achieve the critical acclaim they deserve.**



This stunningly realistic oil-on-linen painting of Elaine Melotti Schmidt, Ed.D., and Steve Bennett was painted by Katie O'Hagan in 2016 and is a cornerstone of the couple's art collection.

STEVEN BENNETT: I have a bachelor's degree in art history, and I had pretensions of being an artist at one time, but the law was my calling. Over time, Elaine and I found ourselves wanting to do more than put prints on the walls at home. We decided to begin collecting fine art. There is a distinction between collecting art and just owning it. A collection is an aggregation, an expression of the owner's vision. Our collection is composed entirely of paintings of women by women in the figurative realistic style, which means paintings of people that aren't abstract but actually look like people.

We are convinced that women artists see the world differently and see themselves differently. There is a complexity to paintings by some of the best figurative realists, who depict not just what the camera would but what the human heart would see. The dark, edgy aspect of this work is what makes it so exciting.

DR. ELAINE MELOTTI SCHMIDT: I think men who paint tend to idealize the female form more than female artists do. Women artists include our flaws and our cellulite much more readily. I'm attracted to the stories behind the work. One of my favorite works is "Loss" by Alyssa Monks. She made this painting after her mother died. When we saw it for the first time, it was right after my mother died, and it resonated so strongly. It hangs now in my office across from my desk.

STEVEN: The Bennett Prize includes a stipend of \$25,000 a year for two years to encourage the careers of female figurative realists, regardless of age or years painting, who haven't yet received full recognition for their work. A group exhibition of works by at least 10 of the artists who submit for the Prize will take place in 2019, followed two years later by a solo museum exhibition of works by the artist whom the jury names as The Bennett Prize winner. Our hope is that both the group show and the solo exhibition will lead to museums adding these works to their collections, making the artists better known to museums and collectors.

ELAINE: There will also be the benefit of networking. Women artists go out of their way to help one another and collaborate. It's not just getting their own work out there, but helping other artists make connections to galleries and museums and to other artists who might serve as mentors. It's very hard to make a living as an artist. Just having someone pay attention to an artist and her work can be enough of a boost to keep her following her passion.

STEVEN: To do this, we needed to find an institutional philanthropic partner with experience in the arts, with staff who really "get it" in terms of aiding underserved constituencies, in this case, women artists. We found that at The Pittsburgh Foundation. The staff has a competency and grasp of the fine arts as well as experience in dealing with art prizes and exhibitions.

ELAINE: Steve and I both have broad-based interests in making the world a better place. We read the Foundation's annual reports for two years before we decided to come here. It is an honor for us to be associated with an institution working on social justice issues and education as well as the arts.

STEVEN: When we looked at initiatives the Foundation supports, we realized how much we had in common and the degree to which the Foundation is in sync with our values and what we are trying to do. The Foundation makes it possible for people with relatively modest means to give shape to their desire to help others.

ELAINE: Our hope is that The Bennett Prize will be obsolete in 25 years because women will have gained enough ground that there will be as many paintings by women in museums as men, and that work by women will command the same prices and esteem as works by male artists.

CENTER FOR PHILANTHROPY

THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION is one of only a handful of foundations in the country to operate a Center for Philanthropy. The Bennett Prize is one example of the Center's empowering innovative ideas — pairing donors with subject-matter experts from the Foundation and the nonprofit community to effect real change. With a focus on multigenerational giving, the Center specializes in helping family members establish philanthropic goals and give together. ■

*The Betty Hags
Memorial Fund*

LIFTING A CONGREGATION

EVERYONE KNEW that Mrs. Betty Hags lived simply and was financially secure. She faithfully attended the 150-member Salem Lutheran Church nearly every Sunday of her adult life, and had casually mentioned that she would remember the church in her will. No one, not her pastor, not her friends in the church's sewing circle, not her neighbors — realized that the quiet, sweet-natured widow would, after she died at age 95 in March 2016, leave nearly \$800,000 to The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. Her fund benefits tiny Salem Lutheran in Delmont, a community of 3,000 residents about 9 miles from the county seat of Greensburg. The Betty Hags Memorial Fund will provide the congregation about \$30,000 a year in perpetuity. "People just teared up," says the foundation's executive director, Phil Koch, when he met with the church's council in November 2016 and announced the gift — and all the zeroes attached to it. "It was an emotional moment." Instead of a direct gift that might be depleted in a few years, this fund will provide a permanent revenue stream to the congregation and the community it serves. [Pastor Kara Propst shares her memories of Betty Hags and what the amazing gift means for their community.](#)



Pastor Kara Propst of Salem Lutheran Church, pictured here in the church's second-floor sanctuary, remembers Betty Hags as a woman of faith and creativity whose generosity surprised an entire congregation.



I FIRST MET BETTY about four years ago at a Wednesday Lady's Circle Luncheon at the church. The first thing I noticed was this woman smiling warmly, and there was a hint of mischief. The second thing I noticed was her hair — this halo of gleaming white angelic curls.

I'd already heard about her — the other ladies had gone on and on about her creativity, especially her skill with a needle. Betty could make anything — sew, quilt, crochet, embroider, knit, make crafts. She was always the one who came up with new ideas for favors they made for seniors in Delmont through our local Meals on Wheels program and a senior care center called the Ark.

After Betty died, Frannie Kramer, another church member, told me, "Oh, Pastor, Betty was a wonderful person. My tootsies are being kept warm right now because I'm wearing slippers Betty knit and gave me."

After Betty moved to the William Penn Care Center in Jeannette, she couldn't come to church anymore, so I'd go to her and we'd worship together. I learned a lot about Betty on those Sunday afternoons. She rarely had a cross word to say to anyone, but she was fiercely independent and had no trouble expressing herself or her ideas and opinions when she wanted. She would tell me stories about growing up in Monessen with her parents, John and Mary Elgin. It was obvious she grew up in a close-knit and loving family. Her dad, John, who worked in a steel mill, was a serious, stern man, and if she and her brother, Bob, were being silly at the dinner table, he would look at them and say, "Cut out the dang foolishness." Then she told me that when her dad left for work, her mom would let them be foolish and play because her mom was the lighthearted one.

Betty met her husband, Joseph Hags, at U.S. Steel, where they both worked. "You know I married the boss," she'd say, because Joe, an engineer who developed numerous patented devices for the company, was her supervisor. Apparently, when Joe laid eyes on Betty, that was it for him. He was too shy to ask her out at first, so he had a friend do it for him. They had many, many good years together.

Even though Joe was a Roman Catholic and she was a Lutheran, they made it work. At a time when people's spiritual and social lives revolved around their own churches, the marriage of a Protestant and a Catholic was considered unusual. But neither Joe nor Betty cared; both helped out in each other's faith communities when needed.

After Betty died, her neighbors and good friends, Arlene and Bill Heipel, were helping to clean out her house and, in the attic, found a quilt Betty had made depicting herself and the other church ladies. They gave it to the church, which had already been the beneficiary of numerous colorful banners she had made in the past. This was perhaps the most special of all — her quilt of life, stitched with love, colored with joy, and bound together with family and friends.

Betty only ever expressed one regret about her life to me — that she would have liked to have been a mother. Here is the truth as I see it: Betty was a mother. Maybe not in the conventional sense, but she was like a mother and a grandmother to so many people in the church, nurturing us all, sewing us into her quilt of life.

Hags, a gifted fiber artist, hand-stitched this quilt depicting the Salem Lutheran Church and its congregation.



Often in her last months, I would find Betty singing hymns to herself, like "The Old Rugged Cross." She was missing her husband, who died years earlier. More recently, the deaths of her beloved brother, Bob, and her sister-in-law, Dot, were hard for her. She missed her home in Bell Township, at the top of a long driveway on nearly 40 acres. She would ask why she was still here on this earth. She wanted to know why she was the last one left.

But then I would observe her finding the inner strength, faith and joy that got her through life. She would then lift her finger, tap her temple and say, "Well, at least I still have all my buttons."

It was amazing to think that Betty and her husband, Joe, had left such a tremendous gift to the church. It's just the kind of people they were, though. At this point, we haven't done a whole lot of planning about specific projects. It's still overwhelming that we're going to receive this bequest, or grant, every year — just like an annual offering — to help us. Our church's mission has been about feeding the hungry. Rather than use it to pay the bills, we'd like to use their gift to expand our ministries.

I knew in the back of my mind, before Betty passed, that she would be leaving a gift for us. We just had no idea how generous it would be. She found a way to be part of the church in perpetuity. Like many mainline churches, we struggle financially. Betty's gift gives us some room to dream. ❧

Pastor Kara Propst



Spurring Change

ADVOCATING FOR THE VULNERABLE

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Local advocacy focused on groups covered under 100 Percent Pittsburgh, the Foundation's organizing principle for grantmaking and other actions to provide more opportunity for the 30 percent of the region's population without access to the improved economy.

Khalif Ali, the Foundation's director of public policy, has been coordinating research

Workers stage a protest to demand a \$15-an-hour minimum wage outside the McDonald's restaurant on Penn Circle in East Liberty in November 2016.

PHOTO BY DARRELL SAPP/
POST-GAZETTE

and lobbying of state government officials for action on a range of issues that hold people back from full economic participation. Remedies include raising the minimum wage, requiring employer-provided sick days and eliminating driver's license suspension as a penalty for non-driving infractions.

In May, the Foundation helped lead a summit of community foundations from across the state to set advocacy priorities that attendees would pursue together over the next several years. The list that emerged: combating the opioid crisis, preserving state funding for human services, implementing fair funding for school districts and helping to right financially struggling municipalities.

A year before that summit, The Pittsburgh Foundation co-launched a statewide advocacy campaign to protect Pennsylvanians in need of essential human services from harm in state budget negotiations. The Foundation joined with United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

IN A SPEECH SEVERAL YEARS AGO to a national conference of community foundations, James Joseph, a former national Council on Foundations president, posed a question to attendees that had them buzzing for the rest of the session:

"As a social enterprise with enormous influence and public goodwill, does a community foundation owe its community more than just the service of managing and distributing charitable funds efficiently?"

Joseph, a former ambassador to South Africa who also has taught at Yale and Duke, went on to exhort his colleagues to "expend your social, moral, intellectual and reputational capital in the same way you expend your grant dollars" — to improve quality of life in communities by leading efforts to change conditions that diminish it.

For much of the past year, The Pittsburgh Foundation expanded its role as a convener and advocacy leader in improving life conditions for the most vulnerable.

Last May, The Pittsburgh Foundation was a major organizer of the Council on Foundations Philanthropy and Public Policy conference in Harrisburg. Khalif Ali, the Foundation's director of public policy, joined Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania's Barbara Taylor, left, and Berks County Community Foundation's Jason Brudereck, right, to create pathways forward on crucial issues.



to fund #FamilyFirstPA, an awareness building and influencing campaign targeting representatives from key districts as well as legislative leaders and Gov. Tom Wolf. The goal: to make funding for vital human services a priority in the next budget.

The Campaign for What Works, a lobbying and advocacy movement working for years through the Foundation and United Way to shape public policy for the benefit of vulnerable groups, took on the human services protection cause. The Campaign recruited leaders in nearly every sector of life across the state to make the case with state officials.

But the most powerful influencers have been the dozens of Pennsylvania families whose members agreed to tell their personal stories of how human services have helped their families thrive.

The campaign has been cited as a factor in state officials coming to an agreement on a spending plan that includes protection of funding for essential human services.

The following are selected excerpts of the #FamilyFirstPA stories told from the viewpoint of mothers and daughters:



IN O'HARA TOWNSHIP, a northeast Pittsburgh suburb popular with young families, Abby Torres doesn't talk about her daughter, Maya's, cerebral palsy as the most important thing in their lives. She talks first about how fortunate she is to have three happy children — Landon and Carson are Maya's younger brothers — and a good life in a comfortable home with husband and father, Peter. Love is clearly the main force allowing the Torres family to flourish, and along with it, state-provided medical services, including a supports coordinator to assist in Maya's care. "It really takes a village," says Abby. "Maya requires a lot of therapy, equipment and medication, so medical assistance is really important." Abby says she believes the state-funded services provided for Maya's care benefit the entire family. "We want all our children to enjoy what life has to offer," she says. "These three kids have such a special bond. We're lucky — blessed, really."

ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

in Warminster, a community near Philadelphia, Lynn Plewes manages the comings and goings of husband, Len, and her children: Emily, 26; Sarah, 23; and Anthony, 16. Theirs is a family moving forward in many ways, thanks to crucial assistance in the form of comprehensive services for Emily, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia as a child, and Sarah, who has autism and intellectual disabilities. Funding covered medication, testing, doctors, hospitals, treatment and, eventually, counseling for the entire family. Lynn attributes her family's perseverance to faith, friends who "walk the same walk" and effective state-funded services. "There are challenges . . . but well-staffed programs are absolutely phenomenal," she says. "Without them we couldn't have made it through."



IN THE HARRISBURG SUBURB OF MIDDLETON,

Wendy Loranzo has dedicated herself to helping people in her community understand the realities of drug addiction and the need for treatment services. But her credential for reaching them is one that she would give anything not to have. Months after the terrible fact, she still finds it difficult to speak the words: "My daughter, Liz, died of a heroin overdose." Aside from her work leading the I Care Foundation that she founded after her daughter's death at age 25, Wendy also cares for Liz's infant son, Carson, and fiancé, Kyle. She already has met with Pennsylvania's attorney general and several legislators in her effort to ensure that funding for drug and alcohol services is included in the state's budget. "We have to do something — this is an epidemic in Pennsylvania. There are people who need help, who want help, and there aren't enough beds available. These are people who literally could die waiting."

IN FORKS TOWNSHIP,

a residential community in northeastern Pennsylvania, Donna Scrafano was struggling to manage the care of her elderly parents and hold down a demanding job as a manager for a human services agency. After the deaths of her mother and brother in 2015, Donna's father, Edward, wanted to continue living in his own home, but he needed daily assistance. After caring for her father full time for a few months, Donna had to return to work. What enabled her to do it without having to move him to a skilled nursing facility was Sharing the Caring, a program providing adult day care through Northampton County. Costs are defrayed through state funding to counties for human services. The program "gives him excitement and something to talk about," says Donna. "He would have wasted away in skilled nursing. He wouldn't be alive today without the program."



The Pittsburgh Promise

A PROMISE KEPT

AS ONE OF THE LARGEST PROGRAMS of its kind in the country, The Pittsburgh Promise marks its first decade of providing college educations to thousands of Pittsburgh students. A recent graduate reflects on the life-changing experiences that helped him hold on to and achieve his goal of a college education.

The Promise, a supporting organization of The Pittsburgh Foundation, operates under the principle that education beyond high school is transformative, providing an access point that lifts individuals and communities out of poverty and into sustainable and thriving economies. The organization is now celebrating its 10th year of making a college, trade or technical education achievable for students. At this milestone, the program has provided more than \$100 million in higher education scholarships to 7,300 recipients. Torron Mollett, 23, who graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice in 2012, is one of them.

Mollett's pathway to a college education was hardly illuminated by hope-filled dreams. Like many Pittsburgh students sharing his background and economic circumstances, the idea of pursuing an undergraduate degree was too far-fetched to consider. But mentors and educators introduced him to the Promise program and pushed him toward it. Mollett stayed with it and won acceptance to Clarion University. It was a seismic life change, and he faced daunting challenges in the transition to college-level studies. While he worked hard to overcome them, he realized that African American students like him at Clarion would have a better chance of success if there was a formal support system. His response was to work with university officials to create a campus-wide mentoring and retention program tailored to African American students. **Heading toward graduation in June, Mollett entered an essay competition that would determine the student commencement speaker — and won.**



Torron Mollett stands at the corner of Nadir Way and Kelly Street in Homewood where he grew up.

FIVE YEARS AGO, I couldn't even have imagined holding a college diploma in my hands, so I never imagined myself speaking at my graduation ceremony. Not at all. I'm from Homewood, where kids feel lucky to graduate from high school. The truth is that a lot of my neighbors drop out, end up in jail or get killed. Here today, gone tomorrow.

Look — my parents created a loving home for me, but life was tough. My mom had me when she was 15. My dad died when I was in middle school. While he was alive, my dad was there for us, but he was in and out of jail. We lived on a street that was plagued with drugs and violence. The crime in the neighborhood was always close by. Our home was the target of gunfire at one point.

The idea of college seemed like a television sitcom. My reality: The cost of a college education would outweigh the benefits.

But if you asked my teachers, college was the obvious next step. I was the captain of the track team and vice president of student government. Grades were never a problem for me. But I guess I lost focus, because my grade point average fell below 2.5 early in my senior year. That really made me think, because I knew I needed a 2.5 to be eligible for the Promise scholarship.

My self-imposed ultimatum: improve my grades. I had to increase my GPA or give up and end my education at high school. Something inside told me to improve my grades. My teachers and mentors pushed me to reach past my comfort zone and visit some schools. Eventually, I found myself heading toward a college education.

The next summer, I started classes at Clarion University with my Promise scholarship backing me up. I still had to work during school, but without the scholarship, I don't think I would have gone to school at all.

The Clarion campus is quiet and rural. I was surprised that it felt like home, but it did — it felt right. But something feeling right and being easy are two different things. It's a culture shock. I was assigned a peer mentor to ease the transition. I remember getting my first C in an English class. English was always my strongest subject! My mentor helped me through it.

I think it was that mentoring experience that helped me to gain a deeper understanding of the factors that had shaped me. Mentors and family members have been supporting me since elementary school. They were the thread stitching my successes together.

Freshman year is a time when you reflect on who you are and who you want to be. I realized that I wanted to serve others. At the end of that year, I came up with an idea to create mentoring programs specifically for African American students. I worked with the Clarion Office of Minority Student Services to launch G.E.M.S. (Golden Eagle Men's Success) and R.U.B.I.E.S. (Rise Up Beautiful Intellectual Exceptional Sisters). I didn't think it would work, but the staff at the student services office believed in me.

Today, these programs coordinate more than 100 students and mentors. One of the things that I'm most proud of is the fact that more than 50 percent of the students who enter as mentees go on to become mentors themselves. Founding the mentoring program boosted my confidence more than any other experience because it showed me that I could ignite change.

That's part of why I majored in political science and criminal justice. I saw so many in my community get locked up and then continue to cycle in and out of the justice system. They didn't have the support to overcome it. So, I'm especially interested in the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. I know that it will be tough work to do, but change requires commitment. This fall, I will begin my graduate studies in criminal justice at the University of Baltimore. I guess that's another thing I never thought I would do.

On the day of my college graduation ceremony, it all hit me. My friends poked fun at me because I cried through the entire day. I cried during my commencement speech when talking about my parents. I'm the first male in my family to receive a college degree because of them. I cried watching the members of G.E.M.S. and R.U.B.I.E.S. cross the stage for their diplomas.

During the speech that day, I encouraged my classmates to take their degree and do something positive with it. I'm determined to take my own advice. **"Torrón Mollett**

Mollett is pictured before the mural at the former Holy Rosary School, which now houses Homewood's Community Empowerment Association. The mural honors important Africans and African Americans.

As told to Lauren Bachorski, director of Communications at The Pittsburgh Promise













SCHOLARSHIPS

7,625 133

Students funded through The Pittsburgh Promise

Schools attended

Caucasian	 2,121	 1,723
African American, Multiracial	 2,169	 1,321
Asian or Pacific	 102	 97
Hispanic	 50	 37
Indian	 2	 3

\$106,547,919

IN SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN

Statistics as of October 2017

IMPACT

63% → 80%

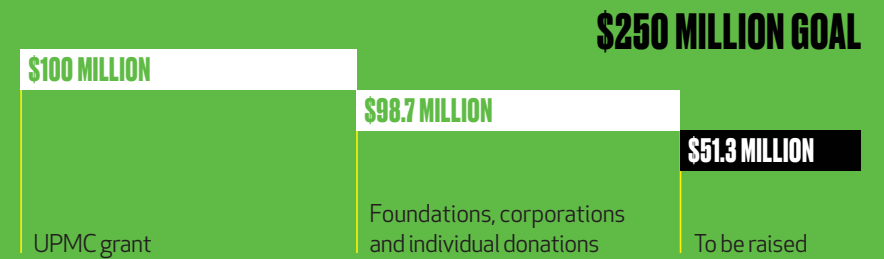
Pittsburgh Public Schools graduation rate, 2007-16

78%

College persistence rates of core Promise scholars

Does not include Promise Extension Program

FUNDRAISING



James Fulton Congressional Internship

FIRM LEGAL FOOTING

IN 2016, The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County awarded 885 scholarship grants totaling \$2.5 million, transforming lives for western Pennsylvania students and their families. One such scholarship is the James Fulton Congressional Internship. Designed for highly qualified students with an interest in government, this scholarship was established at the Foundation in 1972 by Congressman Fulton, who spent his career, in part, training students to be equipped for work in government. That fund was later combined with the J. Steele Gow Political Internship Fund established by J. Steele Gow, a Falk Foundation executive who had a passion for economic and political science research. Combined, these two funds provide scholarships for up to two students a year to intern with Pennsylvania congressional representatives. **In 1977, Judge Mark Hornak received the scholarship, which set him on a career path toward law and community service.**



Judge Mark Hornak stands ready to serve in Courtroom 6A of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

WHEN THE HONORABLE MARK R. HORNAK, a self-proclaimed “Pittsburgh guy,” was appointed a U.S. district judge by President Barack Obama in 2011, it was the kind of recognition that could reasonably be taken for granted given his career trajectory over the last four decades if he were inclined to do so. But that wouldn’t be Judge Hornak’s style.

Born in Homestead and raised in Munhall, Hornak looks as if he could’ve emerged from central casting as the judge in any television movie. Conscientious to a fault when narrating his journey to the bench, Hornak has a quick smile and an even quicker inclination to share the credit for his accomplishments with those who helped him along the way.

For someone who has accomplished as much as he has, Hornak exudes pride in his roots in working-class western Pennsylvania that will never be eclipsed by his prowess on the bench.

He immediately strikes one as the kind of person who would be as comfortable eating pierogis at a bar with old friends from the neighborhood as he would be discussing the intricacies of intellectual property law, an area in which he hears many cases.

He has an eye for detail that is evident in every sentence. If anyone is going to notice the little things that slip by others, it will be Hornak.

As a National Merit Scholar, Hornak graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude in 1978. In 1981, he graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law where he also served as editor-in-chief of the law review.

For all his academic achievements, a significant part of Hornak’s success can be traced to the summer of 1977, when he was awarded the James G. Fulton Congressional Internship from The Pittsburgh Foundation and served in the Washington, D.C., office of the Honorable William S. Moorhead (PA-14), dean of the congressional delegation from western Pennsylvania.

Before receiving the Fulton, Hornak had begun thinking of government service, but not necessarily the law, as early as high school. In 1975, a year after he graduated from Steel Valley High School, he ran for a seat on the school board and lost.

Alberta Culbertson, the winner of that race, graciously wrote one of the two letters of recommendation he needed during the application process for the internship. Pitt professor Bill Keefe, a political science teacher whose class on the legislative process deepened Hornak’s interest in public service, wrote the other. A college transcript and a 300-word essay stating why the applicant wants to participate in the program is the only other requirement.

When he got the internship, and learned he was assigned to work for Rep. Moorhead who represented the 14th District, he was surprised, but pleased. “I was not from the 14th District,” he said. “I was from the 20th — Congressman [Joseph] Gaydos’ district.”

Because Gaydos had half Moorhead’s seniority, the opportunity for seeing how things got done at a congressional whip’s level was a perk he hadn’t counted on. When he moved to Washington, Hornak would find himself in the center of the action. Three years after Nixon’s resignation, when talk of government reform was still thick in the air, that was an exciting proposition.

“It put the foot on the gas,” Hornak said, acknowledging the part the internship played in his life. He hadn’t yet begun thinking specifically about law school, so being in a position to witness how government service worked up close helped him understand it in a way that went beyond Professor Keefe’s class.

For the eight weeks of his internship, Hornak lived with relatives in northern Virginia and commuted to Washington by bus, arriving between 7:05 and 7:10 every morning. Because he arrived so much earlier than everyone else in the office in that pre-flex-time era, he would use the time to walk around and explore the Capitol — or at least the parts that weren’t restricted to members only.

“It was an eye opener just in terms of the history of D.C.,” he said. Thinking back to the advantages that came with the internship, Hornak is effusive in his praise. “It expanded my horizons. It was a big deal being in a congressional office for someone who was 20, 21 years old. The work that I had to do in the office was varied, which also helped me. I developed a much better appreciation for the breadth and work of the U.S. Congress.”

IT WAS A BIG DEAL BEING IN A CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS 20, 21 YEARS OLD... I DEVELOPED A MUCH BETTER APPRECIATION FOR THE BREADTH AND WORK OF THE U.S. CONGRESS.”

Mark R. Hornak

Besides legislative research in the pre-internet era and pulling together material for white papers on any given subject, one of his first big duties was to do the first draft of the speech that Rep. Moorhead delivered every Fourth of July on the radio.

Hornak was especially proud that a speech he wrote for the congressman honoring K. Leroy Irvis, the first (and last) African American speaker of the house in Pennsylvania, sailed through with no major adjustments or alterations. It was a heady time for the young intern.

But it was the case work from constituents that the future judge enjoyed working on the most. “I got to see [the letters] from people who weren’t getting their veterans benefits or weren’t getting an answer back [from some bureaucracy] or wanted to purchase a flag flown over the Capitol or wanted to bring their Brownie troop to D.C.

“I got to see how important it was to the congressional staff and how integral it was to them. It was not some theoretical thing. It really mattered.”

The intervening 30 years, some spent in the private sector working for a big, local law firm, haven’t changed Hornak’s orientation as he made his way up the judicial ranks. “We work on behalf of the people of the United States,” he said. “We try not to forget who works for whom.”

100 Percent Pittsburgh

STILL STANDING

ELISE M. McCLUNG IS MANY THINGS: a mother, college student, school bus driver, entrepreneur, volunteer and advocate. She's also a survivor. Sent to a group home at 14 and emancipated from her mother at 16, she became a mother herself at 20, escaped an abusive relationship at 23 and lost her fiancé at 27. She lives in a comfortable home in Turtle Creek, about 12 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, where she's working to finish her psychology degree and raise her 10-year-old daughter, Anasjae. In her limited spare time, she runs a travel company, plans events and volunteers for several nonprofits. She's bursting with business ideas and ways to help others, and recently launched a self-styled outreach organization called "Still Standing" that offers several support services, including donated clothing delivery and transportation to Toys for Tots.

McClung is a single woman raising a child — a demographic category with about 30,000 members in Allegheny County. Families in this group are among the most likely to live in poverty, according to an Urban Institute report funded by The Pittsburgh Foundation. Seventy-seven percent of households experiencing poverty in Allegheny County are headed by single women. Elise and her daughter receive medical care and social services through Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Family Care Connection East in Turtle Creek and child care from the Allegheny Family Network. As part of its 100 Percent Pittsburgh initiative, The Pittsburgh Foundation is committed to listening to women like Elise, understanding their strengths, challenges and day-to-day experiences, and targeting support to nonprofits that help women and families meet their basic needs. [Here is Elise's story.](#)



Elise M. McClung, pictured with her daughter, Anasjae, 10, at Grillin' for a Cause, a fundraising cookout Elise organized for the Black and White Ball, which benefits families with emergency and ongoing needs.



IT WAS AUGUST 27, 2014 — a Wednesday — when I last saw my fiancé. His name was Nate, and we were supposed to pick up our marriage license that week.

Late that night, or maybe early the next morning, I remember sitting up in bed. When your soul is tied to someone else's, you can feel that person, you know? And I sat there thinking, "I can't feel him. Something is wrong."

They found his body on Friday. The police told me on Saturday. He'd been discovered in the woods, shot one time in the back of the head.

Grief like that takes over your entire life. You have to relearn everything, even the easy stuff that you took for granted. Brushing my teeth became a chore. Cooking dinner seemed impossible. Suddenly I was a single parent again, with a murder investigation to deal with and a traumatized daughter with behavioral needs. She'd been close to Nate, too, and had basically lost a stepfather.

On top of it all, I found out I was pregnant. Nate and I had been trying for a baby. I have polycystic ovarian syndrome and had miscarried twice before. All the stress and grief of his death contributed to my third miscarriage. I said to God, "You're kidding me. There's no way this is happening." We'd been about to get married and have a baby, and poof — everything was taken away.

My daughter kept me going. Anasjae is 10 years old now, and she's made me a better, more thoughtful person. Having a child changes everything; it makes you do better because there's someone looking up to you. (And believe me, they look at everything you do. They don't miss a beat.)

So I had to fight through the grief. I had to do it for her. I had to get up when I just wanted to cry. Looking back, I had great support: My family and friends were awesome, and I don't know what I would have done without Family Care Connections and the Allegheny Family Network. Between them, I could always call and talk to someone. They'd come and get me out of the house. They taught me how to advocate — I even gave a speech in Harrisburg about the importance of family support. They gave me resources and partners who were there for me. They connected me with parents who'd experienced what I was going through. They helped me build leadership skills and self-esteem, and I was never made to feel judged — they were simply there for me in my toughest, toughest times.

That's what drives me today. How could I not take that love and support and give it back to others? I remember going to Toys for Tots last year and seeing parents with garbage bags waiting for the bus with their kids. That really bothered me, because here I am in December — I'm getting out of my warm car and getting my one little bag and getting back in the car and leaving. But they're out there struggling. I thought, "I work for a school bus company, so I know I can get a discount. I can drive the bus, so that eliminates paying a driver." And that's how Transport Me to Toys came about. Last year, I drove a bus from Duquesne to Whitaker to Braddock to Rankin to Swissvale to the Strip. It was all free of charge; parents just had to be at the bus stop on time. I did it in honor of Nate. Hopefully I can get two buses this year, then three, then four...



Elise M. McClung organizes gatherings like Grillin' for a Cause to expand the community support system.

I also run the Still Standing Mobile Clothing Store. I take donated clothes to people at rehabs, food banks, community centers, wherever. They can take whatever they want — there's no limit. Again, it comes from a place of knowing what it means to struggle. I listen to people. I pray for them. I do what I can.

You know, people are single parents for lots of reasons. Some choose it, some have a death happen or a partner walk out. What I want to see is more awareness, more empathy toward parents and their children. I want teachers, school bus drivers and everybody else to understand that it's a whole new era. We're dealing with trauma. We're dealing with mental illness. We're at a time in this country when really, we just need to stop and help one another.

I've been through a lot but, thanks to God, I'm still standing. That's what I want for my daughter. I want her to be able to move past what happened and grow up to be a whole, healthy adult. I want her to give back, to give people hope. I want her to tell those who are struggling, "Hey, it's going to be okay. I'm here for you. I'm ready to help."

Elise M. McClung

*Richard S. Caliguiri Endowed Chair
at the University of Pittsburgh*

FINDING A SECOND WIND

PITTSBURGH MAYOR RICHARD CALIGUIRI, one of the city's most beloved elected officials, died on May 6, 1988, while in office. The disease that led to his death at age 56 is amyloidosis, a condition that causes a buildup of amyloid protein on organs such as the heart, liver and kidneys. Belying its rarity, the disease would later claim the lives of former Pennsylvania Gov. Bob Casey and Erie Mayor Louis Tullio. It remains a life-threatening disease without a cure.

Shortly after the mayor's death, the Richard S. Caliguiri Fund was established at The Pittsburgh Foundation in his honor as a funding pathway that would lead to a cure for amyloidosis. In 1992, a renamed Richard S. Caliguiri Great Race would provide one dollar from each runner's entry fee for the fund, as well. This year, the fundraising mission took a giant leap with the announcement of an endowed chair under the mayor's name at the University of Pittsburgh, a position created to attract a leading researcher to oversee one of the most intensive investigations of amyloidosis and other diseases that lead to heart failure. The idea for this co-creation project originated in the Foundation's Center for Philanthropy, which pairs donors with community leaders and Foundation subject matter experts to develop groundbreaking initiatives.

The research program conceived by Dr. Mark Gladwin, chair of Pitt's Department of Medicine, will be built from contributions eventually reaching \$2 million from the Caliguiri Fund, the Simeon M. and Katherine Reed Jones Fund at the Foundation and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

David Caliguiri was 15 years old when his father died. He is 45 today, married, the father of three and founder of The Caliguiri Group, a public affairs and communications firm. [David describes his father and their family's efforts to fund amyloidosis research.](#)



David Caliguiri stands in the plaza of the City County Building in Downtown Pittsburgh. Behind him is a statue honoring his father, Richard S. Caliguiri, which overlooks Grant Street.



GROWING UP, MY FATHER WAS EVERYWHERE. He had so much energy, such an enthusiasm for life. It was a constant go. Part of that was that he loved his job and loved the City of Pittsburgh and the people of Pittsburgh. We saw amyloidosis take that away from him. That disease — we had never heard of it, couldn't spell it and could barely pronounce it. But we got to know it pretty well — pretty quickly.

He slowed down. He wasn't able to be as active. People would tell me my father would get dropped off at the side of the City County building so he would be able to take the elevator, so he didn't have to go up the steps. It was hard to see that.

Shortly after my father died, my mother and folks who were close to my dad, some former staff members, got together and decided one of the best ways to remember him was to create an amyloidosis fund. The fund was created shortly after he passed. We raised money through golf outings and from private donations.

In 1992, Sophie Masloff renamed the Great Race the Richard S. Caliguiri Great Race. One dollar from every application went to the amyloidosis fund. That is still the case today. We are still getting private donations from people who have been touched by amyloidosis in some way. And my mother still gets letters from people who've been dealing with the disease.

One of the things my mother knew about my dad was that everything had to be Pittsburgh based. So when we set up this fund to raise money for amyloidosis research, we knew we had to do it at a university [such as] the University of Pittsburgh. For many years, we tried to do that, but it was hard to find a researcher. We weren't able to get a commitment from a researcher to devote the time necessary. Their work was intermittent.

In the beginning, it was about trying to create an awareness of amyloidosis. When my father was diagnosed in 1987, I think there were 5,000 known cases of amyloidosis. Then the mayor of Erie, Lou Tullio, was diagnosed. And then [Pennsylvania Gov.] Bob Casey.

But for a long time, it was just this rare disease that killed our father.

What we had were great partners in the City of Pittsburgh and the Great Race. I don't know whether we would be where we are today without that support and the support of The Pittsburgh Foundation. It was through the Foundation that we met Dr. Mark Gladwin. He and his team have recently done studies on amyloidosis. They are great people, smart people, and they love what they do.

We met with them late last summer, and the timing was perfect in how all of our worlds came together. I believe in fate. I think it is what brought us all together. I think that's a sign that we are on to something here.

A year later, we have an endowed chair at the University of Pittsburgh. And I don't know of a better place to get this done. I have a little bit of a bias. I have a graduate degree from Pitt. But I know that having [the research happening] there is what my father would have wanted.

The endowed chair, first and foremost, is about research and ultimately finding a cure for amyloidosis. I think it is going to make a huge difference. I also think their work is going to open the door to new treatments for heart disease as well.

It's a great time for this. We've been introduced to different doctors and researchers who say there is something about the amyloid protein — that it is not just related to my father's disease, but to other diseases as well. We are now starting to realize that maybe it isn't as rare as once thought — that maybe there have been many incidences in which amyloidosis has gone undetected in some people who passed away from heart disease. Now, more folks are being diagnosed, and doctors are able to find ways to prolong their lives.

For the first few years, raising awareness was all we did and all we talked about. You got into that routine. We weren't finding researchers. Not much was getting done.

Suddenly, that's changed with this chair. Now, we may be able to find a cure for amyloidosis. Doors will open to treatments for heart disease as well. Now, there is hope. My family has become re-energized by it. "

David Caliguiri

Mayor Richard Caliguiri with his wife, Jeanne, and sons Gregg, left, and David, foreground, celebrates his re-election on Nov. 3, 1981, as mayor of the City of Pittsburgh.

PHOTO BY
GENE PUSKAR/
AP PHOTO

As told to Jeff Fraser, a freelance journalist living and working in Pittsburgh



Charles E. Kaufman Foundation

A BIG LIFT FROM TINY WINGS

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH School of Medicine, researchers Dr. Michael Palladino and Dr. Elias Aizenman work across the hall from one another. But once they enter their respective labs, it's as if they enter different worlds.

Palladino is known as “the fly guy” for the fruit flies he uses in his biochemical research, while Aizenman, a neural cell biologist, uses mice in his work on complex neurological diseases. Different research, different subjects.

That changed in February 2016, when Aizenman was ready to test a potential treatment method for a range of diseases — Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Huntington's and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's. The new concept uses a “silent gene” programmed to recognize the release of zinc, an early-stage indicator of cell death. Before testing the concept on mice, Aizenman, professor of neurobiology, wanted to experiment on fruit flies, which have a much shorter life cycle, so he ventured across the hall.

“Let's do it,” said Palladino.

With a 2016 New Initiative Award grant of \$300,000 from the Charles E. Kaufman Foundation, a supporting organization of The Pittsburgh Foundation, the two Pitt scientists are moving forward. Kaufman, a respected chemical engineer, left \$50 million to the Foundation, \$40 million of which is dedicated to funding basic science research and interdisciplinary projects. Since 2013, the Foundation has awarded 43 Kaufman grants totaling \$9.1 million. [Palladino and Aizenman discussed the importance of the Kaufman grant to their work and why a fly is the perfect research specimen.](#)



With funding from the Charles E. Kaufman Foundation, Dr. Michael Palladino, left, and Dr. Elias Aizenman are collaborating to study how gene reprogramming might one day treat neurodegenerative diseases.



DR. MICHAEL PALLADINO: My mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease about a year ago. It's frustrating and sad. I have been in the field for a long time, but it's hard to anticipate what it is going to be like [when it affects you personally]. She's not forgetting names, but she'll get very nervous and not sleep well for days, or even weeks.

DR. ELIAS AIZENMAN: I think all these diseases are appearing more because we're getting older. I don't think we were meant to live this long. Before, you reproduced, you died and the clan moved on.

PALLADINO: When I first started here 14 years ago, research funding was actually pretty good. It's just been a constant slide since then. In the last eight years or so, it's been tough.

AIZENMAN: [President] Clinton doubled the NIH [National Institutes for Health] budget, and that was a good period. And then we had two wars and a slash in taxes, and things started to get tough. Obama stabilized the system, prevented it from getting really bad. Now we don't really know where we stand. All the indications are that the current administration wants to slash funding. We are constantly writing grant [applications].

PALLADINO: It's not what we signed up for, this perpetual begging for money. It slows down the science. It used to be you locked yourself in the office for a month or two, wrote a grant or two, and one of them would get funded, and you could work in the lab for a year or two. Now, you end up spending too much time writing grants and not enough time in the lab being as creative as you could. It hampers what you can do. You end up writing the grant that can be funded, so you let what you think can be funded guide your thinking, not your creativity. That's the risk. There aren't enough people branching out into novel areas.

AIZENMAN: The Kaufman grant is great. It is paying for part of the salary for people in both of our labs. And what's nice is that it will lead to something else — another grant proposal. The Kaufman grant will allow us to generate preliminary data, and when you write an NIH grant, you need very strong preliminary data. The stronger you go in, the better.

PALLADINO: The Kaufman grant enabled us to hire full-time people in the lab and not just limp along. It brings some kind of validation. It's a step in the right direction.

AIZENMAN: This is exactly the kind of collaboration I'm looking for. A lot of people say, "Yeah, yeah, that sounds interesting," and then nothing happens. I'm not a fly person, so I really couldn't do it myself. Michael saw that the idea was really good. And he contributed some interesting modifications to the idea. Eventually, we want to translate it to mammalian systems and eventually to people.

PALLADINO: I think that's the strength of the fly model. Instead of a research course of two years in a rodent model or 60 or 70 years in humans, it's all sort of compressed down to a month, a month and a half, with a fly. Our mutants only live four to six weeks, so we can measure changes in characteristics such as cell death, behavioral function and longevity every three or four days. We can understand very quickly the dynamic progressive dysfunction that happens over the lifespan of these animals.

AIZENMAN: We aren't in it for the fame or money or anything like that. We really are interested in basic discovery and curing disease. And I'm hoping by the time I retire, preferably before I die, that one of those strategies, not necessarily from my lab, not necessarily from Michael's lab, but one of these strategies that people have been working so hard over many years will actually protect neurons from dying. Because we have nothing right now... You never know who's going to make the next big discovery.

Detail of *Drosophila melanogaster*, more commonly known as the fruit fly.



ABOUT THE RESEARCH

NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES such as Parkinson's, Huntington's, Alzheimer's and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) are known for wreaking havoc on the human brain. Scientists have identified the source of the degeneration — progressive death of neurons within the brain leading to widespread loss of neurological function — but they have not yet found a way to stop the process of cell death or the suffering it causes.

At the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Elias Aizenman, professor of neurobiology, and Michael Palladino, professor of pharmacology and chemical biology, are in the early stages of studying a potential intervention.

Aizenman has studied neurodegenerative diseases for the last 30 years. He identified a complex process preceding cell death — once injured, brain cells activate a “signaling cascade” in which each step triggers the next until the cell finally dies. For the past three years, he has studied the role of zinc and activation of a potential potassium channel as a means of interrupting the cascade.

Last year, Aizenman began collaborating with Palladino, known as “the fly guy” for his expertise in the genetics of fruit flies. Fruit flies have a much shorter life cycle than the mice typically used in medical research, allowing researchers to run through test cycles much more rapidly.

Funded through the New Initiative Research Grants from the Charles E. Kaufman Foundation, their research uses a “silent gene” that recognizes the release of zinc, one of the early signals in the cascade. Once activated, the gene product blocks the loss of potassium within the cell, thwarting the process before cell death can occur.

Instead of imminent death, an injured cell would be re-programmed to trigger its own defense.

If the silent gene method is effective with fruit flies, the researchers hope for a successful outcome with mice and, one day, a cure for people with neurodegenerative disease. ■

2017

KAUFMAN AWARD RECIPIENTS

WHILE THE CHARLES E. KAUFMAN FOUNDATION was created to support fundamental research in biology, chemistry and physics, the work of Kaufman-funded scientists is anything but basic. Here are this year's awardees:

INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

Locus-specific regulation of pericentric satellite sequences

Dawn Carone, Ph.D.
Assistant professor, department of biology, Swarthmore College

Singlet fission: Deriving fundamental insights from computation

Noa Marom, Ph.D.
Assistant professor, department of materials science and engineering, Carnegie Mellon University

Four-dimensional quantum Hall physics with light

Mikael Rechtsman, Ph.D.
Assistant professor of physics, Pennsylvania State University

Deconstructing the molecular basis of condensin-mediated chromatin folding

Eric Joyce, Ph.D.
Assistant professor, department of genetics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

INITIATIVE AWARDS

Pollen as the next viral frontier: Unrecognized threat to food security and native biodiversity

Tia-Lynn Ashman, Ph.D.
Distinguished professor of ecology and evolution, University of Pittsburgh

James Pipas, Ph.D.
Herbert W. and Grace Boyer Chair in Molecular Biology, University of Pittsburgh

Defining the glycan-specificity and mechanisms of action for antitumor lectins

James Marden, Ph.D.
Professor of biology, Pennsylvania State University

Scott Medina, Ph.D.
Assistant professor of biomedical engineering, Pennsylvania State University

Protecting quantum wires for quantum computing

Michael Hatridge, Ph.D.
Assistant professor of condensed matter physics, University of Pittsburgh

Roger Mong, Ph.D.
Assistant professor of condensed matter physics, University of Pittsburgh

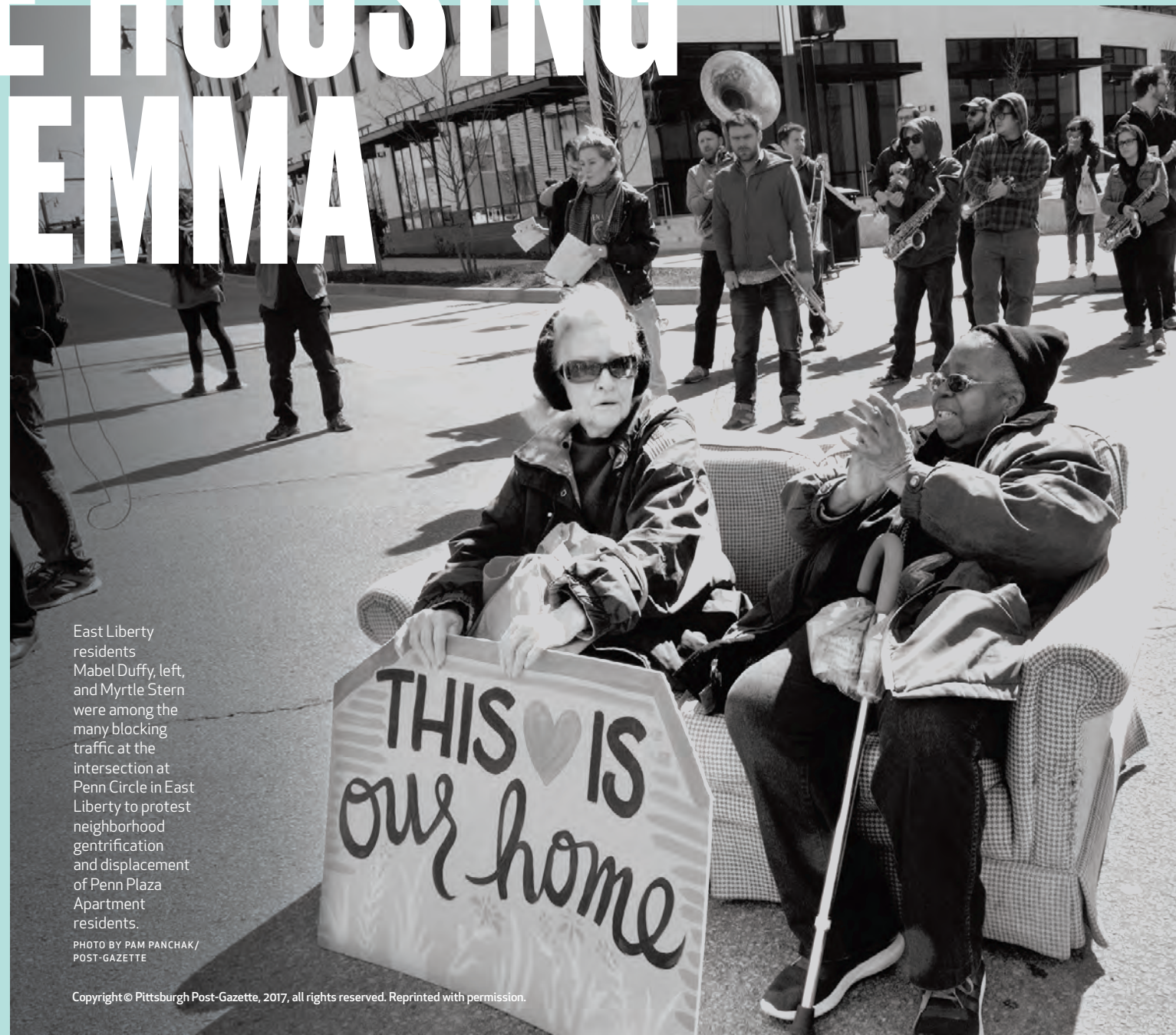
Reconstitution and dissection of chromosome segregation

Ekaterina Grishchuk, Ph.D.
Associate professor of physiology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Ben E. Black, Ph.D.
Associate professor of biochemistry and biophysics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Affordable Housing in Pittsburgh

DECONSTRUCTING THE HOUSING DILEMMA



East Liberty residents Mabel Duffy, left, and Myrtle Stern were among the many blocking traffic at the intersection at Penn Circle in East Liberty to protest neighborhood gentrification and displacement of Penn Plaza Apartment residents.

PHOTO BY PAM PANCHAK/
POST-GAZETTE

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“SHELTER”, says The Pittsburgh Foundation’s Jane Downing, “is one of our most basic needs.” As senior program officer for Community and Economic Development, working for decades on affordable housing and related issues, she knows its importance all too well. About 11,000 people each year encounter some aspect of homelessness in Allegheny County.

“Housing insecurity can happen to anyone,” she explains. “Loss of a job, death of a partner, an accident, unexpected hospital bills — any of these might lead to a missed rental or mortgage payment that could trigger eviction or homelessness.”

A graduate of Bates College and the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Downing served in the Peace Corps early in her career. She then landed a position in the Planning Department of Pittsburgh’s city government, and rose through the ranks to eventually become the department’s director under Mayor Sophie Masloff.

She joined the Foundation in 1994, where she has addressed homelessness through a variety of projects and significant initiatives, including: funding of pre-development work for ACTION-Housing to convert the McKeesport YMCA into a supported housing community for mainly homeless men; supporting a homeless veterans development in Garfield; and devising regional housing legal services specific to the Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency. She has been on the Allegheny County’s Homeless Advisory Board for more than a decade.

Housing insecurity and homelessness are both causes and effects of poverty. The Foundation's 100 Percent Pittsburgh organizing principle acknowledges that Pittsburgh's recent surge in economic activity has not benefited all of the region's populations. Thirty percent of Pittsburgh's residents are subsisting at 200 percent of the poverty level or less, and these are the populations likely to be left behind or even harmed by recent growth. Or they may simply struggle to stay afloat in stable markets. This convergence of factors makes the Foundation's focus on housing insecurity more relevant than ever.

In 2016, the Foundation sponsored a Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures series talk by Matthew Desmond, whose best-selling book, "Evicted," gave accounts of eight Milwaukee families struggling at the threshold of homelessness. The event gave renewed visibility in Pittsburgh to issues that Downing has worked on over the years and sparked the formation of a task force to study and formalize processes of eviction prevention and homelessness.

Last May, the Foundation held as part of its Explore Series of symposia "Private Development, Affordable Housing, and Neighborhood Identity," an event featuring several speakers who discussed the challenges of homelessness and eviction prevention, and outlined ongoing potential solutions.

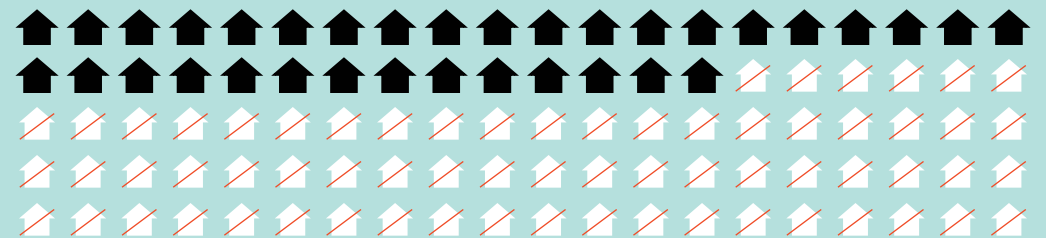
Speakers at the event noted how rising rents and sale prices have led to displacement of lower-income individuals and families, including those who lost their homes when the Penn Plaza apartments in East Liberty were demolished to make way for new development that would include a new Whole Foods Market. Whole Foods, responding to public outcry, has since pulled out of the development. While Pittsburgh's most acute gentrification issues are largely confined to a few rapidly redeveloping neighborhoods, advocates worry that, without a long-term strategy in place, their communities could become the next East Liberty or Lawrenceville, two formerly working-class neighborhoods that lower-income people now struggle to afford. The challenge, says Larry Swanson, executive director of ACTION-Housing, "is to make sure we develop affordable housing in many ways and remain an inclusive community."

HOUSING INSECURITY IN PITTSBURGH

\$15.90 > **\$7.25**

Hourly income needed to afford a moderately priced two-bedroom apartment in Pittsburgh

Hourly minimum wage in Pennsylvania



There are only 34 units of affordable housing available per 100 extremely low-income households, defined as those earning 30 percent of median household income or below. This means that 66 out of every 100 extremely low-income families cannot find affordable housing.



About 44% of Pittsburgh residents spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs.

Spending more than one-third of household income on housing, referred to as cost burden, generally means difficulty paying for other necessities, such as food, transportation, and health care. Cost burden is more prevalent among those who rent, who are younger, who have low incomes or who live alone.



THIS IS AN EFFORT TO GET EVERYONE ON THE SAME PAGE TO END, THEN PREVENT, HOMELESSNESS AND SEE IF WE CAN USE FUNDING RESOURCES IN A COORDINATED WAY... TO PARTNER WITH GOVERNMENT AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE THINGS BETTER.”

Jane Downing

Abigail Horn, coordinator for homelessness services at Allegheny County’s Department of Human Services, says homelessness can be a problem anywhere. “Some people become homeless directly due to an eviction or a foreclosure or to informal eviction, not going through any court proceedings, but leaving their home because they can’t pay their rent or had some other issue with the landlord.”

The expense of housing can also be unreachable for many on an ongoing basis. Adrienne Walnoha, CEO of Community Human Services, observes that in today’s economy housing costs are outpacing income. “So here in Allegheny County, the income that you need to afford a moderately priced two-bedroom apartment is \$15.90 per hour. Minimum wage on the other hand is \$7.25 an hour.”

Evictions, whether formal or informal, present a more pervasive threat to housing stability.

“Over the last six years, an average of 13,700 evictions were filed by landlords annually,” Downing says. “Some are withdrawn. Some tenants pay the rent.” But the filings are a key indicator of housing instability.

Downing states that the goal is “to end and prevent homelessness in Allegheny County by 2020, meaning that if housing insecurity occurs, there are systems in place to ensure that it is rare, brief and non-recurring.” She understands that the timetable seems especially ambitious, and to be successful, “It is going to take all of us to do this.”

To facilitate that collaboration, Downing convened an Eviction Discussion Group last December, gathering 30 housing and homelessness providers, lawyers, advocates and researchers from Allegheny County. Since then, the group has continued to convene to collect and share data that ultimately will inform solutions. “This is an effort to get everyone on the same page to end, then prevent, homelessness and see if we can use funding resources in a coordinated way,” she says. “To partner with government and figure out how to make things better.” ■

Community Human Services

A JOURNEY HOME

IT IS A HUMID DAY IN JUNE when Michael Williamson welcomes me to his home. The 60-year-old former truck driver clearly enjoys company, greeting visitors to his cozy apartment with a warm, easy laugh and Hershey's kisses from a box on the dining table.

That living situation is a striking change from a few months before, when Williamson became homeless in the throes of a health crisis. He is among the 26 percent of Americans who, according to a 2016 study by Harvard's P.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and NPR, find themselves in serious financial trouble resulting from a health issue. Until 2015, Williamson was driving 18-wheel trucks cross-country full time and could easily afford his \$1,200-a-month apartment on Ardmore Boulevard. Then his life was suddenly upended by surgery and a months-long recovery. He was forced to stop working and was eventually evicted from his apartment. Right after surgery, he stayed at the Resolve Crisis Services walk-in center in Point Breeze. He was referred to Resolve by Community Human Services, which is a local leader in the effort to end homelessness in Allegheny County. Currently, CHS staff members are participating in the Foundation's effort to understand and document the burden of eviction in Allegheny County.

Within a matter of days, CHS Rental Advocate Lynetta Lowman organized movers and storage, while CHS Housing Support Specialist Roberta Schick connected him to food assistance, bus passes and agencies that could help him apply for disability income. Lowman also helped him secure an apartment in a quiet area of Wilkinsburg. **Williamson shared with us the story of his illness, his CHS-assisted transition to his Wilkinsburg apartment and his desire to get back on the road.**



With assistance from Community Human Services, Michael Williamson found an affordable and comfortable apartment near the bus line in Wilkinsburg.



I GREW UP IN PITTSBURGH and graduated in 1975 from Churchill High School. In 2001, I got my commercial license and started driving. I got to see the country, state to state, and I met a lot of people. I was doing pretty good for a while, but then I got sick. I had a swollen prostate. It wasn't cancer but I had to have a procedure done in November 2016.

It took me a while to find somebody to do the surgery because I had to get on medical assistance first. The welfare office helped me with that. Getting medical assistance took a few months. It was serious surgery. I had a catheter in for a few months. What I had to go through I wouldn't wish on nobody. I've been out of work ever since.

Before that, I was living in a really nice place — the Bryn Mawr Apartments off Ardmore Boulevard. Then I got behind on rent due to my sickness. I didn't have enough funds coming in. I had a good relationship with [my landlords] and they were working with me, but I just got so far behind that I had to move out.

I ended up at Resolve's shelter for a few weeks. All my stuff was still at the Bryn Mawr, other than a change of clothing. They were a help to me at Resolve. They made sure our personal needs were taken care of. They made sure we were OK and not feeling suicidal. Everyone there was going through some type of situation. There was a lot of smart people there, very intelligent people, who had gotten mixed up with alcohol or drugs or, as in my case, had a health problem. It was hard for me to be there because I still had that catheter in but at least I had a roof over my head.

Most of the people I met there wanted their own place. I heard some stories from people about sleeping under bridges out in the cold. It goes to show you that, in life, there are other people who have it worse than you do. In our group sessions at Resolve, I would tell them, "All of you have something good in you, even though you are going through some bad times."

Community Human Services was going to see if they could get me help with my rent but the bill was so outrageous that they just couldn't do it. I was four months behind. I was broke and sick and shed a lot of tears for a grown man. I had no food — nothing. I was in bed with that catheter. I still have nightmares about it.

On Dec. 2, I moved into the place I'm in now. It's nice. Roberta and Lynetta at Community Human Services found it for me. It was a blessing that everyone at Resolve and CHS pulled together to help me to get this place. I still had my furniture from the Bryn Mawr. I had a good rapport with the landlord. They were giving me time and didn't get rid of my belongings.

I used to pray a little, but these days I pray a lot. Sometimes I go for a walk. If my life wasn't messed up, I would be working, still living at the Bryn Mawr, trying to help some of my family and friends if I could. I'm going back to driving. I am going to have to. That's where the money is. When I'm driving, I'll be away from home for two or three months at a time, but I don't mind it, meeting people in different places, eating different foods. It's a big world out there and I like making money and paying the bills and seeing things I had never seen before.

The people at CHS, especially Roberta, their help has meant a great deal. They try to get you to do better for yourself and tell you you're going to be OK. They talk to you one-on-one, real personal, to see where you are at and where you want to go. I didn't think I was going to come down so hard but I did. They were there when nobody else was in my corner. I mean that 100 percent. **Michael Williamson**

As told to Kitty Julian, senior communications officer at The Pittsburgh Foundation

Williamson credits Housing Support Specialist Roberta Schick and her colleagues at Community Human Services with connecting him to food and medical assistance as well as housing.



Center of Life

FINDING SOLACE AFTER VIOLENCE

PITTSBURGH'S HAZELWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD has seen its ups and downs. At its peak in 1960, it was burgeoning with 13,000 residents — largely due to the good jobs supplied by the Hazelwood Coke Works of U.S. Steel. More than 200 businesses lined Second Avenue.

"There was a time," remembers Hazelwood resident Carol Fuller, "when everything we needed was right here."

But the steel industry's implosion ended the jobs, and the coke works plant closed in 1998. It was a depressingly familiar Pittsburgh story: A once-thriving community now struggled with poverty, disinvestment and unrest while more and more young people lost their lives to gun violence. Among them was Carol's son, Robert Vincent Fuller, otherwise known as "V," who was murdered at his workplace.

Hazelwood's heyday and stories like V's are juxtaposed in a powerful art exhibition titled "I Lived, We Live, What Did We Miss?" Part memorial and part history lesson, the exhibition opened in May at Center of Life, a neighborhood nonprofit that offers everything from music instruction to academic and family support for nearly 500 young people from low-income families each year. The Center's free programs provide Hazelwood's youth with the skills, educational support and training necessary to be strong and independent citizens. More than 90 percent of participating high school students transition to college or trade school. With The Pittsburgh Foundation's grant-making support, totaling nearly \$240,000 over the past two years, the Center's founder and executive director, Tim Smith, is optimistic. "We've seen some rough times in Hazelwood," he says, "but there are good things happening every day. You can learn so much here."

Often, as "I Lived, We Live, What Did We Miss?" demonstrates, those lessons are best expressed through art. **Carol and her sister, Terri, discuss V's life, their loss and the healing power of the Center's exhibit.**



Carol Fuller, seated, treasures childhood photos of her son, V, who was killed in 1997. She is joined by her sister, Terri, V's aunt. The family's artifacts are included in an exhibition at Hazelwood's Center of Life, which honors the lives of those lost to violence.



CAROL FULLER: My son, V, was born Aug. 10, 1974. He was a silly boy, a clown who loved to play jokes. He was a great cook, too. And he was very tall — he was like a string bean. That’s what I called him: my string bean. He was my baby.

TERRI FULLER: He brought so much joy into our lives. He was a jokester who made everybody laugh. He just had this nice, pleasant way about himself.

The whole week leading up to his death, I had this feeling — this bad, sad feeling. I didn’t know what it meant, but I knew to pray, because I was so down. That Friday afternoon, I came home from work and cooked dinner with my son. And later, sometime around 9:30 or 10 p.m., somebody knocked on my door and said, “We heard your nephew got shot.” So I ran down to the bar where V worked — I wanted to know for myself whether it was true. That’s when I saw a crowd of people standing outside.

CAROL: I was at home in bed, having these strange pains. It was unusual — I’d never had pains like that before. It was like a premonition. I knew something was wrong; I just didn’t know what. And then my phone rang. It was my sister. She said, “Carol, what are you doing and where are you? Vincent is gone.”

Earlier that week, on Wednesday, was the last time I saw my son. He came up to me and hugged me. He said, “Mommy, I love you.” I said, “Okay, baby.” And then he was murdered on Friday. It was Jan. 24, 1997. He was working at the bar. Those places I was having pains — those were the same places where they shot him.

TERRI: I wanted to know what happened [to V] and I wanted to return it. I wanted to hurt somebody. I wanted to kill the person or people who killed my nephew. I carried that around for a long time. I had so much anger, bitterness and fear. Fear will debilitate you, and I had so much fear it was crippling. Then my aunt brought a woman to my mother’s house, who gathered us in a circle and just prayed for us. I still remember her words. She said, “Fear is not of God. Fear is of the Devil.” That stayed with me. I knew that whatever happened, I had to forgive these people.

I became a born-again Christian. There’s a scripture verse in the Bible that says, “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up.” I always put my nephew’s name in there. Because out of something bad, my heart changed. My life changed.

CAROL: For a long time afterward, I was just really messed up. I really was.

TERRI: We thought she was on the verge of a breakdown.

CAROL: But I couldn’t see it, because I thought I was doing everything right. It was me and my daughter together. It kind of messed her up, too — she was graduating from school; she was going to college, and, you know, it was just hard. But I prayed. I kept going to church. People kept talking to me and supporting me.

TERRI: At the time, gangs had just started to become prevalent in Hazelwood. And when V was murdered, reporters in the media tried as hard as they could to make it look like he deserved it. They knocked on my niece’s door. They knocked on my neighbors’ doors. You know, just to get something negative to report. But they couldn’t find anything. Everyone said, “Oh no, he was a gentleman. He was a nice guy. Why him? Vincent didn’t bother anybody.”

CAROL: This exhibit. I’m so glad for it...

TERRI: It means a lot that all these years later — 20 years later — Pastor Tim [Smith] came to us and said he wanted to do an exhibit about our kids in a positive way. It makes me feel good — not only about my nephew, but about all the other people. Because, listen: Good, bad or ugly, everyone has a family. And we live on after them. It’s bad enough that we’re hurting, but then the media reports on [young people who’ve been murdered] like they were nothing. Like they weren’t even human beings. Like they weren’t even part of the human race. So I know I’m excited about what’s going on here at the Center.

CAROL: How do I want people to remember my son? I want people to remember V just the way he was: his silliness, his sweetness, his goodness. I want him to be remembered for that. He was a good boy. He was a good boy. He was a good boy.

Professional Advisors

THE MOTHER OF REINVENTION

THE PLAN WAS SPONTANEOUS and simple. It was 1976 and Christmas was approaching. Ken Musuneggi, a Marine on temporary duty in Memphis, had secured leave for the holidays and was preparing to meet his wife, Mary Grace, who had traveled ahead of him with their infant son, Christopher, from the Marine Corps base in New River, N.C., to Pittsburgh to be with family. It would be their first Christmas together with Christopher, surrounded by their extended families.

About 30 minutes outside of Pittsburgh, Ken's car was struck by an oncoming vehicle after its driver had fallen asleep. Both men were killed instantly. Ken was 25 years old.

"In that instant, my life changed forever," Mary Grace wrote in her first book, "A Man is Not a Plan: Success Strategies for Independent Women." "I was no longer a wife and stay-at-home mother living in officers' housing; I was a single parent of an infant, with no job and no place to live."

The array of emotional and mental challenges that accompany such an unspeakable event could have been debilitating, but she picked herself up and soon found a teaching job and an apartment. In 2002, she founded The Musuneggi Financial Group to help others achieve financial independence. *Musuneggi has written two books and regularly speaks about how women can build financial literacy and self-confidence to support their families and generate wealth.*



Mary Grace Musuneggi, who in 1976 was a newly widowed single mother to an infant, is now an author and the leader of a successful wealth management firm that coaches clients pursuing financial independence.

BEING A SINGLE MOM WAS NOT ACCEPTED when I was a young woman. It was either the result of a tragic divorce or from a spouse passing away. Today, being a single mom by choice or by chance is more acceptable. And the interesting thing is that women don't necessarily think of themselves as more independent as a result. A single mother's independence should be more prevalent now, more celebrated, but it's not.

In part, I think that's because women don't know quite how to take advantage of the resources that exist, or aren't aware of them. And, women need an education that opens doors to the jobs that allow them to reach their goals. When I was rebuilding my life, I wanted to buy a house but the prospect of owning one forced me to advance my education so I could earn more. Though society has changed so much, single mothers today still face many of the same challenges I did 40 years ago.

My mother was a role model. Since my father traveled a great deal on business, my mother raised my brother and me pretty much on her own, while taking care of her elderly mother and father. My parents divorced when I was about 10, and my dad died a few years later, but she never said an unkind word about my dad to me. When my husband died, she was a source of strength to me, especially when I was raising a child on my own, starting a business and later going through a divorce.

Although she never made much more than minimum wage most of her life, she had her own "financial plan." She called it the 10-10-80 plan: From her income as a sales clerk in a music store, she saved 10 percent, gave away 10 percent and lived off the remaining 80 percent. I can never remember us doing without, but our lifestyle was very simple. She was never in debt, and she was an active part of our church and community.

In my practice, we see a lot of women who are really challenged dealing with financial matters because they're on their own for the first time, either after a divorce or because they've lost a spouse. They don't have the confidence yet because they haven't had that responsibility before.

Losing a spouse at an early age shaped the strategies I now live by. I tell my clients that you have to seize the day. While you cannot always control what happens, you can make the choice to control how you handle what happens. You reap what you sow. And, as the book title says, a man is not a plan.

The strategies I share with my clients seem to be working. Many of my family clients have built their financial foundation and now want to leave money to a specific charity. We also have clients who are single with no kids and are looking for meaningful ways to share their wealth. The Pittsburgh Foundation is a perfect place for achieving those goals. It's one of the best discoveries our firm has made. I personally have included the Foundation in my will and my significant other's will because funds there are established in perpetuity.

The Foundation also offers a way to honor family members. Giving can happen for young people just doing a budget, as well as for clients who are further along in their lives. We ask clients if they give to charity.

If they're working and getting ready for retirement, a charitable fund enables them to continue their charitable giving.

I have a client who inherited money from his mother and started a fund in her honor using IRA dollars. He gets a tax deduction and doesn't have to make a required minimum distribution. The fund provides him with a way to benefit his church and alma mater in a more permanent fashion.

When you've earned your wealth, you want to protect it even when you're giving it away. I'm sure that people have given to charities where the money isn't used the way they want it to be used. But that doesn't happen at The Pittsburgh Foundation. They find the right organizations, follow up and ensure that funds are spent wisely. That gives people peace of mind.

The Pittsburgh Foundation also gives our clients who are looking to share their assets the opportunity to reach out to all segments of the population, beyond the people and organizations they might already know. And the fact that the Foundation's focus, through 100 Percent Pittsburgh, is on single women raising children is important to me.

I still get the most joy from watching people accomplish their goals. Some of the best clients we have come in genuinely not knowing what they could do. Could they save enough to put their kids through college? Could they afford that house? Could they leave a legacy to benefit others? Helping them define and achieve those goals is my absolute favorite part of what I do. "

Mary Grace Musuneggi

\$26,000

The median income of single-parent families in 2013.
That's roughly one-third of the \$84,000 median income for two-parent families.

90%

Women who will spend some part of their adult life on their own.
Of the 12 million single-parent families in the United States, more than 80 percent were headed by single mothers.

77%

Allegheny County households in poverty that are headed by single women.

2016

THE NUMBERS

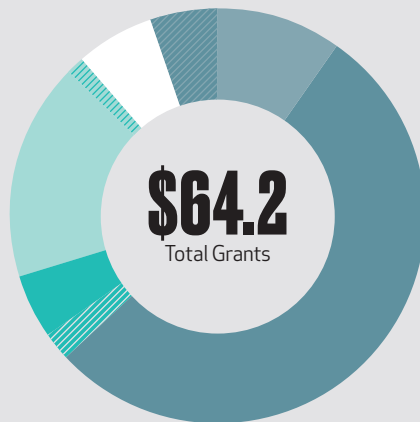
The Pittsburgh Foundation's power to do great things during the past year is reflected in the numbers. Offered here are some views of the Foundation's growth, its grantmaking energy and its financial history.

For more financial information, visit pittsburghfoundation.org/financials

SUMMARY OF GRANTS BY CATEGORY

DOLLARS (IN MILLIONS)

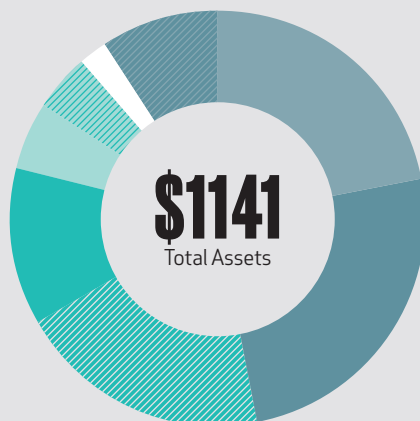
Arts, Culture and Humanities	\$6.4
Education	\$34.1
Environment and Animals	\$1.4
Health	\$3.2
Human Services	\$10.9
International and Foreign Affairs	\$0.9
Public and Social Benefit	\$3.9
Religion Related	\$3.2



FUND ASSETS BY TYPE

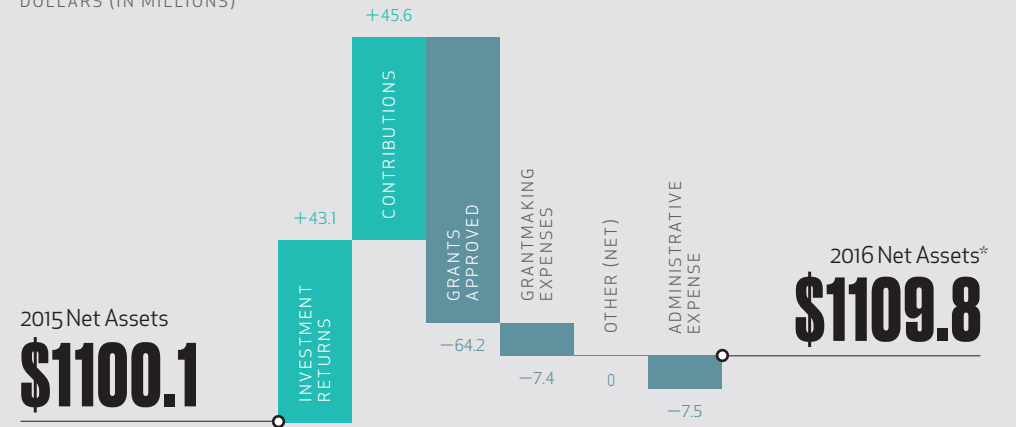
DOLLARS (IN MILLIONS)

Unrestricted	\$251
Advised	\$287
Designated	\$225
Field of Interest	\$139
Scholarship	\$62
Special Purpose	\$49
Medical Research	\$25
Controlled Supporting Organizations	\$104



NET ASSET BRIDGE

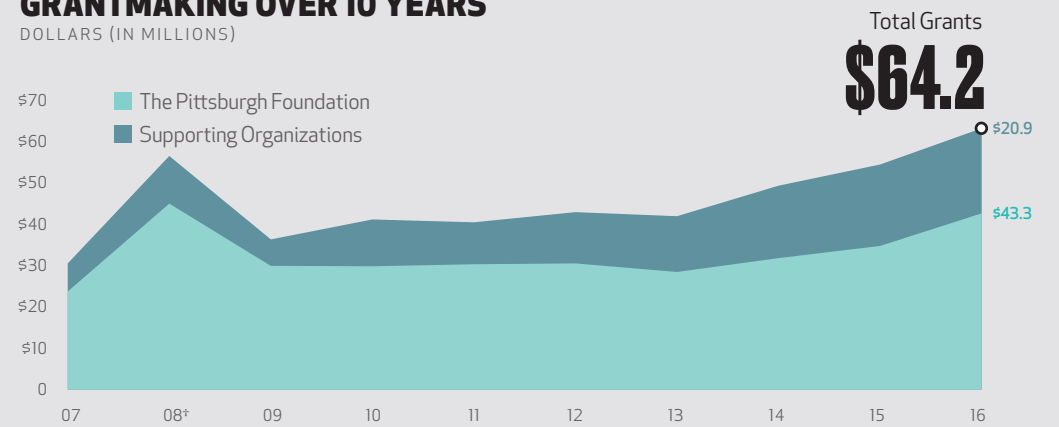
DOLLARS (IN MILLIONS)



*Assets net of grants payable, fiscal agent funds and other liabilities totaling \$31.6 million.

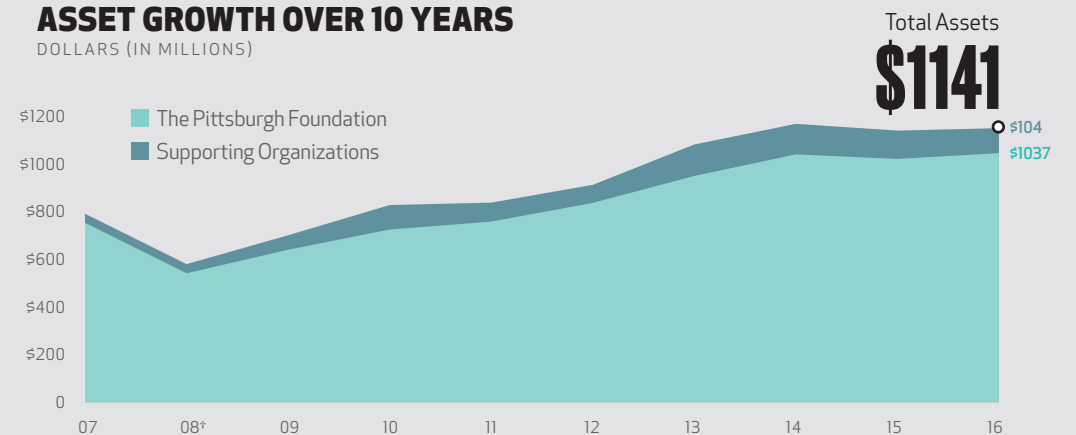
GRANTMAKING OVER 10 YEARS

DOLLARS (IN MILLIONS)



ASSET GROWTH OVER 10 YEARS

DOLLARS (IN MILLIONS)



* In 2008, The Pittsburgh Foundation made a conscious effort to combat the financial struggles in our community with an increase in grants despite a dip in our assets.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of The Pittsburgh Foundation comprises outstanding leaders from all sectors of the community. The commitment, generosity and experience of our Board greatly enhance the mission and success of The Pittsburgh Foundation.

Biographies of all Board members and Directors Emeriti are available on the Foundation's website at pittsburghfoundation.org/bod-current



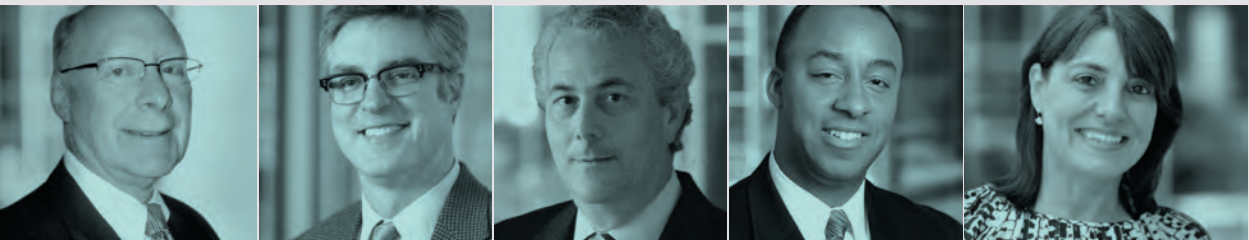
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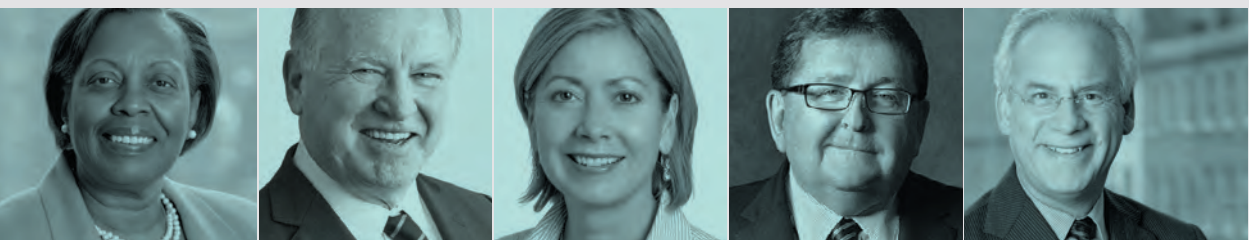
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