WISH BOOK 2022
OPERATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT A THRIVING COMMUNITY.

THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County
Jubilee Association in the Hill District, p. 30, provides homelessness prevention; food, clothing, utility and transportation assistance; child care; and emergency financial assistance. Bradley Scott (left) and Frances Casello prepare meals. Photo by Kitoko Chargois.
In our roles in place-based philanthropy, we at The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County have been asking ourselves: What does it take to move a community from surviving to thriving? And how can we leverage our resources and those of our donors to achieve a more equitable, just and prosperous region in which everyone has the opportunity to thrive?

Our best answer to these questions: Support nonprofits that work tirelessly for this community. They continually inspire and motivate us as we work with you, the members of our donor family. Together with you and our board and the organizations featured in this book, we are committed to creating a vibrant, equitable and just Pittsburgh region that supports everyone—regardless of race, identity or circumstance—to thrive and fulfill their potential.

This year’s Wish Book presents 100 nonprofits working in a few key critical areas: equity and racial justice, environmental action, economic mobility, arts and culture, and basic needs. When you give to these nonprofits, you are helping to make their work possible and demonstrating your trust in their expertise to meet the greatest needs of our community. In the months and years ahead, you’ll hear much more about how you may give along with us as we ask those most affected by inequity: How can we help you and your community thrive?

MAKING GRANTS IS EASY

To contribute, contact your donor services representative or visit www.pittsburghfoundation.org/wishbook and complete your transaction via email. Your grant, no matter the size, makes a special holiday, anniversary or birthday gift. From all of us at the Foundation, thank you for helping our community to thrive.

Front cover: Let’s Get Free, p. 67; HEARTH, p.34; Chamber Music Pittsburgh, p.10; and First Step Recovery Homes Inc., p.25.
Protohaven, p. 37, engages people in the process of making things to enrich individual lives, build thriving communities, and contribute to a vibrant, sustainable society. Pictured here is Bridget Butler. Photo by Jason Cohn.

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Chamber Music Pittsburgh, p.10, in partnership with Hope Academy of Music and the Arts in East Liberty, offers a free, need-based musical instrument lending library for students such as Keyla Florez, who plays the violin. Photo by Renee Rosensteel.
ARTS AND CULTURE

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Assemble builds confidence through making by creating approachable opportunities for learners of all ages to engage in science-, technology-, engineering-, art- and mathematics-based activities. Since the onset of COVID-19, the education sector has changed completely. Students are adjusting to in-person learning and tackling challenges no other generation has had to face. They lost so much educational time and have experienced mental and physical challenges. After a year of returning to in-person programming, Assemble sees the many effects the pandemic has had on its youth, from not knowing how to use scissors to increased interpersonal conflict among students. Funding will help the organization purchase materials and keep its programs accessible.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny  
**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Assemble serves 2,400 youth through programs at its space in Garfield and in schools across Pittsburgh.  
**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving  
**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

Braddock Carnegie Library Association provides access to materials, community-centered programming, and information for children, youth and adults. While its historic building is under construction, it is operating in smaller temporary spaces and hosting programming out in the community. Funds would allow the association to upgrade its circulation equipment to offer greater flexibility and mobility during this time of transition, including being able to check out materials during storytimes in the parks. It will also allow the association to adapt to current user and staff needs while equipping the library with the digital tools that staff and patrons will expect in a newly renovated building.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny  
**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Last year the library had 16,500 visits plus 7,050 program attendees.  
**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving  
**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Carnegie Free Library transforms lives by offering library cards and access to the resources and programming that communities need, from job search or starting a small business to trying a new hobby or pursuing a degree. People from under-resourced communities utilize computers in the library because they do not have computers at home. The Beaver Falls branch is in need of updated technology to better support the community. Current public access computers are old and outdated, running extremely slowly, and are very frustrating for people to use. Updated computers would increase the ease of access to internet resources, and more computer stations will meet increased demand. The current eight computer stations are in use from open to close, every day, and running with old software. Funds will provide new computers and software that people in the community need to succeed.

**Primary County Served:** Beaver  
**Population Served Annually:** The Library serves 17,300 people each year.  
**Black- and Brown-led or Serving:** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving  
**Wish Requested:** $5,000

Carnegie Library of Homestead is the third-oldest continually operating Carnegie library in the country and one of three libraries built along the Monongahela River for steelworkers and their families. It is the only library that has always operated as a library, a music hall and an athletic club under one roof. An important goal is to improve access for all residents, especially those with disabilities, increasing the library’s capacity to provide programs and services for more people. The library plans to be the first in Allegheny County to provide a sensory room to better serve patrons who have special needs. Funds will help renovate a storage area into a quiet, sensory reading room for children with autism and people of all ages who have special needs.

**Primary County Served:** Allegheny  
**Population Served Annually:** The Carnegie Library of Homestead has an estimated 91,500 library visits per year, including youth from Steel Valley School District, where 27% of students have special needs.  
**Black- and Brown-led or Serving:** N/A  
**Wish Requested:** $5,000
Carnegie Library of McKeesport

Carnegie Library of McKeesport is a crucial, 120-year-old community resource that patrons of all ages rely on for information and community programming. The pandemic resulted in significantly less foot traffic at the library, even after it fully reopened to the public. To attract new audiences and accommodate needs of existing patrons, the library is looking to revitalize operations by creating a new space for patrons to hold meetings for business, research or recreation. The project includes renovating the third floor, which means installing a water pump, a fire escape and electrical wiring. Only after these projects are complete can redevelopment take place. Funds will help get the redevelopment of the library’s third floor underway.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** In 2021, there were nearly 15,000 visits to the three library locations, with many more accessing the digital library resources online.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000

Chamber Music Pittsburgh

Chamber Music Pittsburgh has a partnership with Hope Academy of Music and the Arts in East Liberty to offer a free, need-based musical instrument lending library. The instrument library, owned and maintained by Chamber Music Pittsburgh, allows students and families who could otherwise not afford to buy or rent an instrument the opportunity to borrow one. More than 70% of Hope Academy's students are on full, need-based scholarships. Hope Academy provides them with instruments. The library consists of nearly 200 instruments and demand remains very high, in particular for the cello program, as the number of interested students is constantly growing. Tiny cellos are in very short supply in the library and all remain consistently on loan. Funds will support the purchase of additional instruments to serve more children who are patiently waiting to enter the program.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** Chamber Music Pittsburgh serves approximately 4,500 children and their families per year plus tens of thousands via radio broadcasts of concerts.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving** N/A

**Wish Requested** $5,000
The Farina Foundation is a small, family-run, nonprofit musical organization. It is routinely approached by individuals and music centers who have instruments to donate, but only instruments that can be refurbished and given to a student are accepted. Due to an increase in donations and requests, the Farina Foundation created the Play-it-Forward Program in 2019. Through this program, the foundation accepts, refurbishes and sanitizes all donated instruments with help from various music centers. It collects more than 100 instruments each month. Those instruments are made available to more than 180 schools in The Education Partnership system, and through partnerships with Children’s Hospital, the Children’s Institute of Pittsburgh and Wesley Family Services.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**  The Play-it-Forward program benefits hundreds of students, their families and numerous music departments every month.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving**  Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested**  $5,000

Fine Art Miracles provides in-person arts services benefiting individuals where they are. COVID-19 presented a new crisis: social isolation among the older population and disabled people living at home. Engaging in art has been known to improve a sense of self and build purpose in people who are lonely or depressed. Rising to the challenge, Fine Art Miracles formed collaborations with other local community organizations to reach out and provide art supplies and services wherever needed. Fine Art Miracles partners with local food distributors, such as 412 Food Rescue, Rainbow Kitchen and Meals on Wheels, to include ART2GO packages with food deliveries to low-income seniors. Funding will support ART2GO lessons, complete with instructions, supplies and visuals, for distribution during routine food deliveries to nourish the mind and spirit as well as the body.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**  Fine Art Miracles is currently serving 2,000 individuals.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving**  Black- and/or Brown-led

**Wish Requested**  $5,000
Hill District Consensus Group builds leadership and power among low-income and working-class residents of the Hill District to advance racial and economic justice. The group hopes to continue to provide Kwanzaa Everyday educational workshops for parents and youth. While Kwanzaa is an annual holiday, the seven principles are practiced and utilized every day by millions of people. The group’s Kwanzaa workshop emphasizes youth as the hope and future of African people in both a biological and a cultural sense. Given this reality, the group looks to encourage youth and parents to take part in meaningful art projects. These projects will enhance and educate people about the true meaning of working together to reach a common goal that speaks solely to African American cultural heritage.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny  
**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The Hill District Consensus Group served 150 people in 2022.  
**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led  
**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

Hill Dance Academy Theatre provides professional-level training in Black dance traditions, history, culture and aesthetics, and engages and empowers students to pursue careers in Black dance. As the academy enters its 18th year, it seeks to develop a branding strategy to attract students and donors. Funding will support efforts to clearly communicate the academy’s mission and elevate the company’s cultural identity and personality. This includes a review of national data, research and best practices on dance programs for Black and Brown students, leading to a strategy to increase enrollment from city and county neighborhoods, recruiting a minimum of 10 students from Pittsburgh neighborhoods, creating three community partnerships with organizations, donors and individuals, and at least two full-time merit, need-based scholarships.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny  
**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The academy enrolls 77 children and serves 77 families.  
**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led  
**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Kelly Strayhorn Theater

Kelly Strayhorn Theater is a home for creative experimentation, community dialogue and collective action rooted in the liberation of Black and queer people. To achieve its mission and vision, the theater staff need to be cared for, inspired and equipped to do the work. The theater seeks to increase front of house staff pay to $15 an hour and to offer guaranteed four-hour shifts. Staff are caregivers for patrons and often are the first point of contact between the organization and the public at events. Responsibilities include COVID safety protocols, ushering, managing the box office, customer service, and ensuring that patrons have access and are comfortable. Above all, the front of house staff provide care and hospitality to ensure that the theater’s diverse audiences feel at home.

**Primary County Served:** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually:** The theater presents programming and subsidized rentals to its producing partners. It serves 20,000 to 25,000 people annually.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving:** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested:** $5,000

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New Sun Rising for Storyburgh

Storyburgh works to help people across Pittsburgh tell their stories through storytelling events and online media production. Storyburgh’s team coaches residents on how to tell their authentic stories to fellow community members. Funding would allow Storyburgh to expand its programs to introduce hybrid storytelling events in four different neighborhoods and communities in the city of Pittsburgh. These events will be hosted in person and as simulcast streams online, providing community members with new skills, confidence and a sense of belonging. The events will also foster closer relationships within the community and uplift community members’ voices to be heard across the region and beyond.

**Primary County Served:** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually:** Storyburgh serves 35 in-person participants, and 400 through hybrid events, and has 1,695 social media followers. It has 3,800 unique website visitors each month.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving:** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested:** $5,000
Scottdale Free Public Library serves young people and families by introducing children to reading as infants and offering STEM- and arts-based programming for children as they get older. The library’s programs are designed to teach vocabulary and help with early childhood development. As part of its offerings, the library has created opportunities for area adults and teachers to volunteer by reading to children. A need for new reading nooks has become obvious as the library brings more reading and learning opportunities forward. These reading nooks will offer an environment that allows for better expression, fluency and interaction. The library is requesting funds to purchase new wipeable mats, moveable partitions and age-appropriate books.

**Primary County Served**: Westmoreland

**Population Served Annually**: The library serves a population of 14,700 people. In 2021, the library had 6,400 children attending nearly 125 programs.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving**: N/A

**Wish Requested**: $5,000

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Radiant Hall provides a vibrant, sustainable support network for artists and is centered around safe, functional and affordable studio space. The organization operates 90 studios in three locations across the Pittsburgh area, all subsidized so that no artist pays more than 50% of costs. As reported by Americans for the Arts, creative workers remain among the sectors most severely affected by the pandemic in the nation’s workforce. In 2020, 63% of artists experienced unemployment and 95% lost creative income. Also, 37% of artists were unable to access or afford food at some point during the pandemic, and 58% did not visit a medical professional due to inability to pay. Arts sector jobs are also recovering at a slower rate than are other sectors. Support for Radiant Hall Studios’ operating budget will provide artists with affordable space to create work and grow their businesses, helping make the Pittsburgh region a welcoming, inclusive and viable community for all artists.

**Primary County Served**: Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**: Each year, Radiant Hall serves 90 studio member artists, 250 artist program participants and 3,000 public program attendees.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving**: N/A

**Wish Requested**: $5,000
Youth Preservationists Association represents and promotes younger voices through community engagement and education to advocate for the preservation of historic sites and structures in the Greater Pittsburgh region. The association is currently working with Hosanna House in Wilkinsburg to create a development plan for the revitalization of the area around its campus. Funding will allow the organization to include a youth workforce development element to include Black and Brown students in determining how the community will be renewed.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny  
**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Young Preservationists Association serves thousands of people in the Greater Pittsburgh area.  
**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving  
**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

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SLB Radio Productions uses radio and audio to amplify voices of youth and other people whose stories are often marginalized. It educates, empowers and builds community. The nonprofit opened a brand-new Youth Media Center in May 2022. More than 200 teens have stopped by to write and record music, create podcasts and collaborate. In doing the work to connect teens from across different backgrounds and neighborhoods, and more than 20 schools (including Pittsburgh Westinghouse, Pittsburgh Perry, University Prep, Pittsburgh Sterrett, Woodland Hills and Manchester Academic Charter School) it has become increasingly clear that many teens cannot participate because they cannot afford transportation or because they cannot miss out on wages earned from part-time jobs. SLB has offered stipends to make its youth programming more available to teens who would otherwise have no access to these resources. Funds will be used for these stipends.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** SLB Radio Productions serves 5,000 young people directly and 20,000 via radio and internet broadcasts.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
McKenzie Ross tends to kale in the community garden started by Children Of She, p.23, while Sterling Griggs shovels up gravel in the background. Children Of She is requesting support to expand its local community garden into a larger, more sustainable plot of land. Photo by Kitoko Chargois.
## BASIC NEEDS

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Allegheny Valley Association of Churches provides shelter, meals and support to families experiencing homelessness. Before COVID-19, it offered a rotational model shelter, where churches hosted the families from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. for one week at a time. After lockdown, the association scrambled to find hotels for the families because its churches remained closed. It then started to look for a more permanent site. In December 2021, it purchased a property that was formerly a personal care home. The site is staffed 24 hours a day, something the association has not had to do before, as volunteers had hosted the evening and overnight hours. Though operating costs of this site will be triple the costs of the rotational model, it will offer families a stable place to stay while they look for permanent housing.

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

**BASIC NEEDS**

**Allegheny Valley Association of Churches**

**ACTION-Housing for RentHelpPGH**

The RentHelpPGH team provides in-person supportive services at the Downtown Housing Stabilization Center and in magisterial district judge offices across the county. Funds would allow the purchase of laptops and computers to support the nonprofit’s staff and clients. Additional computers would allow staff to provide real-time rental assistance support to clients while they are in court. This would improve outcomes of eviction hearings and allow more tenants to remain in their homes.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The team provides direct resource navigation to at least 1,300 households and outreach to more than 11,200 households.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Amazing Grace Inside Outreach serves as a catalyst to get people into recovery by strategically placing teams of recovering people on-site to work with people facing addiction and others. Amazing Grace Inside Outreach seeks funding to get teams into the community. This includes sending in people in recovery to make a difference in targeted areas in the Hill district. The nonprofit also needs funding to purchase laptops and/or tablets to connect people in active addiction with the support they need to enter treatment.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny  
**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Amazing Grace Inside Outreach estimates that it will be able to reach at least 300 people over the period of one year.  
**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving  
**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

Allen Place Community Services' mission includes providing health and wellness programs to North Side senior citizens. People over age 60 make up nearly 23% of the neighborhood’s population, about one-third higher than the national average. The number of seniors will grow over the next decade. The North Side also has one of the region’s largest populations of Black, African American and multi-ethnic people. More than 70% of residents have incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level. Lack of access to reliable and culturally sensitive assistance and information about health is a serious obstacle for many of the community’s elder neighbors. Allen Place wants to meet the increasing demand for its life-saving assistance by expanding its diabetes, nutrition and mental health programs. Support will fund additional program coordinators and community health specialists who help older people live better and healthier lives.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny  
**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Allen Place assists about 750 individuals and serves 20 African American church congregations each year.  
**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led  
**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Anchorpoint Counseling Ministry compassionately serves neighbors of all ages, faiths and backgrounds who are experiencing mental health crises. Many community members who need mental health services are unable to afford professional counseling for anxiety, depression, grief, trauma, relationship problems and other issues. Anchorpoint is receiving significantly more requests for mental health care for youth, adults and families who are uninsured, underinsured or under-resourced. The organization offers low-fee counseling services through clinics in underserved communities such as Bellevue, Avalon, Millvale and Etna. The average low-fee counseling session requires $50 in charitable contributions to cover the cost of service. Due to surging mental health needs, the demand for low-fee counseling exceeds budgeted resources. Funds will support 100 low-fee counseling sessions for 12 individuals or families.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** Each year, Anchorpoint Counseling Ministry provides mental health services to more than 800 individuals and families.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving** N/A

**Wish Requested** $5,000

APS Youth Networking Agency provides guidance for students entering ninth grade to pursue academic, personal and social — or APS — goals while building a network of resources and support that lasts into adulthood. The organization provides each student it serves with an APS agent who manages the student’s calendar, acts as a liaison among the student’s supporters and pursues resources for the student. APS began its first year of service in summer 2022 with a small pilot program dedicated to five students in the East End of Pittsburgh. It has secured the resources needed to run the pilot program effectively but has not been able to secure compensation for staff. Funds will support program staff wages and facilitate long-lasting impact.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** In its first year of service, the agency’s pilot program served five students and their families.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000
Bethany Community Ministries’ Senior Care Coordination Program addresses medical and nonmedical gaps in critical care of senior citizens living in Homewood and other marginalized communities in Allegheny County. The faith-based nonprofit partnered with Allegheny Health Network to serve predominantly African American neighborhoods where COVID-19 vaccination rates are low. Over the past two-plus years, Bethany has worked alongside Allegheny Health Network on community strategies that include in-person messaging, peer-to-peer vaccine literacy educational sessions, and vaccination clinics offered in senior congregate housing, public housing, houses of worship and community events. With a diverse medical team, Bethany has coordinated and supported staffing at more than 230 clinics and vaccinated more than 6,000 people, specifically in communities where Black and Brown people live, work, worship and play. Funds will help meet demand for staff and equipment for health screenings for seniors.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED**  Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY**  Bethany Community Ministries serves approximately 6,500 individuals annually.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING**  Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED**  $5,000

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Tiger Pause Youth Ministry’s after-school program offers a safe space to approximately 150 students each day, providing homework help from trained tutors, a nutritious meal, and enrichment and recreational activities. As learning loss during the pandemic became clear, the ministry revamped its program in 2021 through a partnership with the Beaver Falls School District, implementing a process for teachers to refer students who would particularly benefit from a structured after-school environment. This partnership allowed the ministry to hire three Beaver Falls teachers to assist in academic programming, which improved communication with teachers and created a better understanding of curriculum. Tiger Pause also offers a structured gym class and academic exploration to provide students with constructive ways to have fun, release stress and build relationships. Funds will help to offset the increased cost of staffing and supplies.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED**  Beaver

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY**  The ministry’s combined after-school and summer programs serve 200 to 300 kids. Hundreds more individuals are helped through other programs and services.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING**  Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED**  $5,000
**BTC Center Inc.**

BTC Center helps BUILD THE COMMUNITY by addressing food insecurity, public health and safety issues that are the result of health and social disparities, and other needs of disadvantaged communities. BTC provides a food pantry, a community garden in Homewood, and educational classes for older citizens on several topics, including computers and healthy living. The worsening economy and increased mental health challenges have led to more illegal activity in the Homewood Community Garden at night. The gate has been torn off, and needles and drug paraphernalia are found every morning in the garden. BTC Center is seeking funds to purchase and install lighting and a stronger fence. The communities served rely heavily on the support and services the garden provides.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny  

**Population Served Annually**  Last year, the organization served approximately 2,800 senior citizens and individuals of all ages who were experiencing increasing poverty.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**  Black- and/or Brown-led

**Wish Requested**  $5,000

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**Brilliantly BlessED Community Health and Wellness**

Brilliantly BlessED Community Health and Wellness is a faith-based organization committed to improving community well-being through educational equity. Brilliantly BlessED is acutely aware of how educational belonging and attainment influence quality of life and how Black and under-resourced communities disproportionately feel excluded in their schooling experiences. This is apparent in the scores of children who are not reading at their grade level and who are often functionally illiterate when they graduate. Research has shown that diverse characters make up only 7% of children’s books and undoubtedly impact kids’ reading interest. Books are windows, mirrors and sliding glass doors capable of helping increase self-esteem, racial knowledge and a love of reading. Funds will help purchase high-quality and racially affirming books for classrooms in Allegheny County and provide training in their selection and use to teachers and literacy professionals.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**  Brilliantly BlessED directly serves 40 students and approximately seven families and 70 educators each year.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**  Black- and/or Brown-led

**Wish Requested**  $5,000
Girls of Steel Robotics initially focused on competing in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) competitions that challenged participants to build 120-pound robots to compete at the regional and national levels. It is now a year-round K–12 STEM and robotics after-school program serving students from more than 30 public, private, cyber and home schools in the greater Pittsburgh area. Funds would support registration fees for FIRST robotics competitions, mentor and student travel costs to competitions, student fee waivers, robot parts, transportation, LEGO parts, marketing and outreach materials such as bandanas, buttons and posters, practice field elements, and setup and administrative costs for high school and youth programs and outreach.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Girls of Steel Robotics serves 125 to 160 students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

Children Of She, through nutritional workshops and hands-on agricultural experiences, guides the community on the importance of planting and maintaining vegetables and fruit. With the help of community volunteers, the organization was able to transform a small plot of land into an area suitable for planting. Children Of She maintains a community garden on a plot of land in the Upper Hill District, which has been a food desert for more than three years. The garden began with a DIY greenhouse where the group successfully planted and grew cucumbers, peas, onions, eggplants, jalapenos, raspberries and sunflower seeds. Children Of She is requesting support to expand its local community garden into a larger, more sustainable plot of land so that more fresh fruits and vegetables can be grown for the community.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Children Of She serves 10 to 20 single-parent families, including elderly family members.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Family Guidance seeks to stand alongside children ages 7 to 17 who are from the most challenging neighborhoods of Pittsburgh to make a transformational lifelong impact through two programs: the one2one Mentoring Program and Promise Camp. One2one provides a long-term mentoring experience with a trained Christian adult who offers a listening ear, friendship and consistency in a child’s life. Promise Camp, located on 112 acres in Beaver County, offers weeklong overnight summer experiences that allow children to be seen and affirmed for who they are. Thanks to a high camper-to-staff ratio, the children enjoy cabin chats, worship time, campfires, swimming and other camp activities all while learning about the promise of Jesus Christ. Funds would help Family Guidance recruit more mentors for its wait list of more than 175 children and more counselors for Promise Camp.

PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED Allegheny

POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY Family Guidance has 145 active mentoring matches and will serve about 300 children at Promise Camp.

BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

WISH REQUESTED $5,000

Not every child is able to get to a doctor for checkups or health questions. The Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation can bring the doctor’s office to their neighborhood through the Care Mobile, a pediatric health clinic on wheels. The Care Mobile brings vital medical services to underserved communities in and around Allegheny County. Pediatricians, nurses, nurse practitioners and respiratory therapists provide medical care to children and adolescents. Care Mobile staff also provide information about community-based resources and services, and offer health education classes to children and adolescents, parents and caregivers. The Care Mobile visits schools and out-of-school programs, early child care centers, family centers and more. Funds will help the Care Mobile visit more neighborhoods.

PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED Allegheny

POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY The Care Mobile sees more than 1,000 kids at 40 sites for checkups, immunizations, dental exams, asthma care, sick visits and healthy food.

BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

WISH REQUESTED $5,000
First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

The First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh purchases food and toiletries from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Sam’s Club to distribute to anyone who needs them. The church also provides free lunch one week each month when the food pantry is open. The church purchases food items and assembles small grab-and-go bag lunches for distribution to anyone who knocks on the door throughout the week needing emergency food. The number of people who are working poor and those experiencing homelessness in downtown Pittsburgh is growing, and so is their need for services. These individuals view the church as a haven where they can obtain food and referrals to other services. Funds will defray the cost of non-perishable food items and toiletries.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The organization serves an estimated 2,000 individuals per year by distributing more than five tons of food and toiletries to those in need.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

First Step Recovery Homes Inc.

First Step Recovery Homes is a temporary housing facility for people recovering from substance misuse who are also homeless. Many also suffer from mental health disorders. When participants are in a comfortable, safe and habitable living environment, they are more likely to respond well to the support services offered during the recovery process. Due to COVID-19 social distancing protocols, the agency was forced to run at half capacity. Now, inflated costs of food and gas have caused a tremendous financial burden. Due to this financial strain, the organization is requesting support for daily operating expenses, utilities and maintenance that could not be completed during lockdown. These include bathroom plumbing, roof repairs, electrical work and vehicle maintenance.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** First Step serves up to 52 homeless individuals each year ages 18 to 62 and older of whom 74% are Black and 26% are white.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Footbridge For Families Inc.

Footbridge For Families fills the gap for those facing unexpected financial crises that, if left unresolved, could lead to exponentially worse circumstances. By addressing these crises, Footbridge reduces household stress, diverts individuals and families from expensive human services systems, and promotes intergenerational health and well-being. Footbridge works to fulfill unique gaps in a matter of hours. Through payment to third-party vendors, Footbridge helps people avoid eviction, utility shutoffs, job loss due to unresolved transportation issues, or skipping important medical appointments and services. Child welfare is often pulled in when these consequences manifest as physical neglect of a child or children. Because inflation has increased referrals threefold, Footbridge seeks support to help stabilize families in their most vulnerable moments.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** Footbridge For Families serves 200 to 300 families annually.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000

For Good PGH

For Good PGH works to create positive experiences for people who are underserved and meets community needs through collaboration. The organization's flagship initiatives, the Hollander Project and Free Store 15104, focus on filling gaps by providing essential resources to residents who are facing hardship. The store provides food, clothing, household goods, vaccines, pet supplies, holiday gifts and more. Each month, through the Fairy Fund, six local families are selected to receive either $250 to be paid directly to their utility bills or a Giant Eagle gift card for food and other essentials. For Good PGH has consistently found that this support makes an immediate difference by reducing stress on families whose resources are already stretched thin. Funding will expand these programs in 2023.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** The organization serves 10,000 people annually.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000
Foster Love Project shows love in action to children affected by foster and kinship care by providing goods, services and support. Youth in foster care continue to experience a high level of stress as they juggle the challenges of the effects of the pandemic, going back and forth between biological and foster families and court appearances while also desiring permanence. Since Foster Love Project moved to a larger facility last fall, it has seen an increase of more than 20% in the number of kids who shop at the center. Youth who come through are welcomed and have the opportunity to select high-quality items free of charge. These include clothes, shoes, toiletries, bedding, diapers, toys, books, car seats, baby gear and more. Funds will allow Foster Love Project to meet requests for higher-value items such as car seats, cribs, beds, strollers and bikes.

**Primary County Served**: Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**: In 2021, Foster Love Project served 465 families, and nearly 3,200 youth received resources.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**: Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested**: $5,000

Garden Home Ministries provides holistic care for women who have been victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking due to substance-use disorder. As part of the organization’s mission, it provides much-needed low-cost housing for women. Items used frequently have not been updated for years and need to be replaced. The organization is seeking money to replace worn-out items and make the environment feel more like home. Items needed include comforter sets, sheet sets, pillows, rugs and vacuum cleaners.

**Primary County Served**: Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**: Garden Home Ministries currently serves 12 women in its household and raises awareness in the local community about sex trafficking.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**: Black- and/or Brown-led

**Wish Requested**: $5,000
Greater Hope Restoration Ministries helps at-risk youth ages 9 to 25 who need help with school, are from low-income families or have an unsafe environment at home. Many are from single-parent homes. The program also serves youth who have been identified by social services as having experienced violence, abuse and neglect, or homelessness, those in alternative schools or the juvenile justice system, and those at risk of human trafficking. Its after-school programs include athletics, performing arts and life skills in preparation for employment. It also offers drug and alcohol recovery services, entrepreneurial programs, and an emergency youth shelter program for homeless youth, runaways and youth in danger of abuse or human trafficking. Funds will support the relaunch of Raze Youth for the 2022–2023 academic year.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The church serves about 100 families and 75 children annually.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

Hair Peace Charities helps local women experiencing hair loss due to cancer treatment. Because cancer treatment often involves significant expense, even for those with insurance coverage, the purchase of a wig can be financially burdensome. This year, Hair Peace Charities will provide more than 400 women and girls in southwestern Pennsylvania with $250 toward the purchase of a wig. The impact of a wig on the lives of these women and their families is significant because the wigs allow them to go about their lives without broadcasting their health status to the public or loved ones. Funds will help the organization assist 20 local women and girls with the purchase of a wig.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Hair Peace Charities serves 425 local women.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** N/A

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Hopebound Ministries supports emerging social services programs. Its Mooncrest neighborhood program has increased food access in response to a community need. Mooncrest is an isolated, primarily rental community located on a hilltop that lacks public transportation to a grocery store. The ministries’ programs provide weekly food distribution at the Mooncrest Community Center, delivering local food pantry boxes, a daily meal for children from Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and an on-site community garden. Hopebound utilizes a local greenhouse to increase produce yield for families. Funding would help pay a stipend to a graduate intern in a related field to manage the greenhouse and also would help fund greenhouse upgrades that will lead to more fresh vegetables for families.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**  The Mooncrest Neighborhood Programs help feed 1,000 people.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**  Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested**  $5,000

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Hopebound Ministries Inc.

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Homeless Children’s Education Fund supports the educational needs of children experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County. With some additional funding, the organization will expand its services, particularly the mobile learning program. Plans for mobile learning include purchasing a vehicle and equipping it with educational tools, books and technology to enhance community-based services. The fund will partner with the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh to work on the internal design of the vehicle. In addition to the organization’s mobile learning program, this summer the fund launched a pilot Teen CEO (Career Exploration Opportunity) program for young people in unstable housing. This program provides real-world work experience and equips teens with the necessary soft skills to continue their career of choice.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny


**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**  Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested**  $5,000

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Homeless Children’s Education Fund
Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community believes that spiritual needs are best met when one’s physical well-being is also sufficiently satisfied. Hot Metal Bridge provides meals to individuals facing food insecurity. Its bi-weekly community meal, The Table, serves 50 to 80 people on average, including deliveries in partnership with 412 Food Rescue to those with mobility challenges. It also offers a free in-house therapist who provides counseling to attendees, so they can receive both physical and emotional nourishment at the same location. The nonprofit also offers clothing, toiletries and other necessities as needed through its Care Closet. It added an outdoor sink and closet so people living outside can access safe water and non-perishable food and toiletries 24/7. Funding will help the organization make sure that all these opportunities are well-staffed and stocked.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED**  Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY**  An average of 120 meals are served each week.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING**  N/A

**WISH REQUESTED**  $5,000

Jubilee Association aids those facing food insecurity and more. Using organizational resources, community networks and limited financial aid, Jubilee’s homelessness prevention program helps those in crisis. The program provides access to food, clothing, utility assistance, transportation assistance, child care, financial assistance with back rent and security deposits, and burials. The association also provides assistance with going back to school and identifies job training, job search and family preservation support. Within five miles of Jubilee, more than 17,299 people live at or below the federal poverty rate. With cutbacks in federal pandemic assistance and inflation, many low-income individuals and families need assistance to remain housed. Low-income households spend on average 77% of their income on basic necessities.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED**  Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY**  Jubilee serves 1,500 people. Its Homelessness Prevention Program serves 150 individuals and at least 48 families at risk of housing insecurity.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING**  Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED**  $5,000
LeMoyne Community Center’s primary focus is on the need for youth to have a positive outlet for their energy and creativity. The center’s Homework and More, Camp Challenge and Nutrafit programs serve and feed hundreds of kids annually. Homework and More operates from September through May as an after-school program serving K–12 youth from school districts in Washington County. In addition to homework completion and a nutritious meal, it also provides enrichment, including book clubs, STEAM programs, tennis lessons, Zumba, African drumming, Girl Scouts, cooking classes and sports. This program improves academic performance among the youth who participate. Demand for the coming school year is quickly growing, and funding will assist in hiring additional staff.

**Primary County Served**  Washington

**Population Served Annually**  The LeMoyne Community Center serves 700 youth through programming annually and many more through community events.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**  Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested**  $5,000

Mighty Penguins Sled Hockey has established a strong local and national presence in the disability community since 1998. It serves athletes who have physical, cognitive and intellectual disabilities and provides opportunities in an environment adapted to each athlete’s abilities. Mighty Penguins ensures the continued involvement in sports of youth and adults living with disabilities. It promotes physical activity and improves the quality of life for participants and their families. The benefits of participating in sports are especially important for people with disabilities, who may be more restricted in their participation, and may have lower levels of fitness and higher levels of obesity than peers without disabilities. Annual ice rental fees create a financial challenge for the program. Funds will support continued access and expand outreach to individuals living with disabilities.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**  Mighty Penguins Sled Hockey programs serve 79 athletes on six teams, offering therapeutic and competitive opportunities.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**  N/A

**Wish Requested**  $5,000
My Brother’s House Recovery Services Inc.

My Brother’s House, comprising five homes in eastern Pittsburgh communities, is a small volunteer-run nonprofit that supports individuals in early recovery. The organization’s homes are kept clean and family-like. My Brother’s House encourages members to obtain employment, attend 12-step meetings, address physical and behavioral health needs, and maintain a clean and supportive environment for all in recovery. Initially, COVID restrictions greatly limited the intake of new members and affected the fee-based organization’s ability to function efficiently. The nonprofit managed to keep the doors open but had to forgo needed property updates and improvements. With the lifting of pandemic restrictions, there has been an influx of individuals coming from rehabilitation centers. Funds would support maintenance and repairs and help meet the increasing demand.

PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED  Allegheny

POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY  My Brother’s House Recovery Services Inc. supports 50 members annually.

BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING  N/A

WISH REQUESTED  $5,000

Mother of Sorrows in Murrysville offers a community food pantry and is a food pantry member of the Westmoreland County Food Bank. Its food pantry distributes food each month to people in need from Westmoreland County. The program is a collaboration of nine community churches and operates with about 70 volunteers a month. The pantry provides 12,000 pounds of food to families and seniors monthly, as well as frozen meat and fish, fresh produce and dairy products that Mother of Sorrows Parish purchases above what the Food Bank provides. Funds will support the continued procurement of additional food items to supplement the staples provided by the Food Bank.

PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED  Westmoreland

POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY  Mother of Sorrows Community Food Pantry provides food for more than 300 people each month and 100 families per year.

BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING  N/A

WISH REQUESTED  $5,000
Brown Mamas is an organization of Black moms for Black moms that trains mothers to be social impact ambassadors. In alignment with its values, the nonprofit empowers Black mothers to lead in the communities they care for. Once recruited and trained, these social impact ambassadors serve as informal but essential mental health supporters who host support group meetings in communities across the city, organize social gatherings, represent Brown Mamas at community events, run its online community and refer moms to local service providers. Brown Mamas would like to increase the number of mothers it reaches in person by hiring more women from the community to serve as social impact ambassadors. Working on behalf of Brown Mamas and its community partners helps women bridge unemployment gaps, engage in meaningful work without child care barriers, and build confidence and self-efficacy.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Annually, Brown Mamas serves nearly 150 moms with in-person services and more than 5,000 moms online.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led and serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

NASH EDUCATION Corp. works to increase public awareness of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. The organization has created a Spanish-language website, www.higadograso.org, to provide nutritional and disease prevention information to Hispanics and Latinos, who are at a disproportionately high risk for non-alcoholic liver disease. This grant would help fund activities targeting this population. The vision of NASH is to enter into partnerships with local community organizations to attend or sponsor public events that attract those of Hispanic and Latino origin.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The organization provides information to thousands of people.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Nicolina’s Wishes works to improve the lives of youth and families who are affected by mental health issues and illness. The foundation creates a culture of understanding, support and connection and offers multiple programs to help local youth. These programs include mental health clinics, training a therapy dog to serve as an ambassador at public and school events in and around Aliquippa and Beaver County schools, mental health services to those who are uninsured and more. The organization plans to train and develop a certified peer-to-peer youth support program. Funding would allow the continuation of these programs and support additional training as well as build data around program outcomes.

**Primary County Served**  Beaver

**Population Served Annually**  In 2021, about 400 youth and families received support.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**  Black-and/or Brown-led

**Wish Requested**  $5,000

North Hills Affordable Housing/HEARTH provides a range of supportive services and housing to empower women experiencing homelessness and their children, who are survivors of domestic violence or other trauma, to become independent, economically self-sufficient and adequately housed. HEARTH aims to enhance the head of household’s economic mobility through life skill training and education and to address barriers that prevent families from achieving education and employment goals. One of the main barriers to successfully transitioning from poverty to self-sufficiency is lack of transportation. Funds would help HEARTH continue to provide access to consistent and reliable transportation for residents through the purchase of weekly and monthly Pittsburgh Regional Transit ConnectCards for adults and youth, Uber Credit and gas gift cards.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**  HEARTH’s housing programs serve 31 families through a supportive community and apartments for up to two years.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**  Black-and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested**  $5,000
Off The Floor Pittsburgh strives to strengthen families and reduce the pain and indignity of extreme poverty in the area by recycling and delivering gently used furniture free of charge to families in deepest need. Many families sleep on the floor, eat meals on the floor and study on the floor because they can’t afford furniture. Off The Floor helps close this gap by providing furniture, allowing families to use their limited income on other essentials such as rent, food and medical costs. Funds would help Off The Floor Pittsburgh keep up with shortfalls due to recent inflation, especially to pay for gas and truck repairs.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** In 2021, Off The Floor served 338 households, a total of 769 individuals, of whom 62% were people of color and 85% single mothers.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000

OMA Center for Mind, Body, and Spirit creates programs with a variety of healing and therapeutic modalities related to wellness, fitness and health. Its educational programs include Art in the Garden summer camp; the You Are Not Alone forum to heal from trauma; a monthly holistic lecture series; trauma-sensitive training workshops in conflict resolution, restorative justice and mindfulness for adults and youth; and the Inflexion Point podcast, which focuses on racism, personal transformation and accountability. OMA’s programming includes mental health services, learning with an emphasis on LGBTQ consciousness, story sharing, expert knowledge, and deep conversations about racism. OMA programs continue to expand, primarily operating during volunteer hours and on a donation-only basis. Funds will help OMA manage expenses and continue to make programs free or affordable to all.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** Lectures served 436 people; You Are Not Alone, 98; Art in the Garden, 152; Inflexion Point, 2,000+; Trauma Sensitive training, 57.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000
Pittsburgh I.C.E., Inclusion Creates Equality, is an NHL Hockey is for Everyone™ program committed to offering children of all socio-economic backgrounds the opportunity to learn the game of ice hockey. The Hockey is for Everyone initiative leverages hockey as a catalyst to help children learn essential life skills, education and the core values of hockey: commitment, perseverance and teamwork. Although hockey is the primary mission, its other goals are to teach leadership skills and foster commitment to education and community service. Funds will help the program grow and reach more youth. Over the next year, the program hopes to enroll 30 new participants and increase diversity within the program and in the sport of hockey.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** 87 participants were served for the 2021–2022 season.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000

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Open Field works to create positive experiences on and off the soccer field for youth in five neighborhoods. It requests support to ensure that 400+ immigrant and refugee youth have access to safe, free Soccer + Life Skills programs in their neighborhoods. These provide soccer equipment, team uniforms, transportation and school supplies. Open Field leverages the passion and character-building attributes of team sports to create positive outcomes beyond the field and uses a trauma-informed approach. Because soccer is an integral part of culture around the world, it provides a sense of familiarity, belonging and opportunity that many foreign-born youths living in Pittsburgh do not feel in other spaces. Soccer + Life Skills sessions include a personal check-in, warmups, life-skills topics, soccer skills and play. The program employs teenagers as youth leaders, providing the training and experience they need to be successful.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** Open Field serves 400 immigrant and refugee youth from low-resource, marginalized neighborhoods in Allegheny County.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000
Protohaven

Protohaven’s mission is to engage people in the process of making things to enrich individual lives, build thriving communities, and contribute to a vibrant, sustainable society. Protohaven’s shop requires safety upgrades, including improvements to its ventilation system, spray booth and plastics area. A fixed ventilation system would allow the organization to work toward reopening its work area in the safest way possible. As Protohaven works to increase and diversify membership, it must also create a safe environment where people can work, learn, build, create and grow as part of an amazing maker community.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** Protohaven serves 200 members, 300 to 500 class participants and 3,000+ visitors through public event demonstrations.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving** Black- and/or Brown-led

**Wish Requested** $5,000

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Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program

Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program develops leaders in the direct service of improving health, promoting well-being, and advancing social and environmental justice for at-risk, underserved communities. It immerses a diverse cohort of graduate students in mentored experiential learning and servant-leadership. The program increases health equity knowledge and skills, and strengthens fellows’ commitment to more effectively address the health needs of underserved individuals and communities in accordance with the legacy of Dr. Albert Schweitzer. Students design and implement sustainable health-focused community-based prevention and intervention projects. Funds will provide fellows with art and printing supplies, books, educational toys, hygiene products and personal protective equipment.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** Each year, the program engages up to 24 diverse graduate students who provide services for about 1,200 people from underserved communities.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000
Rainbow Kitchen Community Services

Rainbow Kitchen Community Services is committed to improving the quality of life for low-income families and individuals through programs that address hunger, child nutrition and supportive services. The low-income communities served by the organization are struggling from the effects of the global pandemic and increasing inflation. Its food pantry program has seen a significant and ongoing increase in participation since the beginning of the pandemic. With this ongoing increased need for assistance, Rainbow Kitchen has seen a critical loss of resources, volunteers and revenue. Funds would help keep the program running.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** Rainbow Kitchen serves 2,000 individuals, including struggling families and people who are elderly, disabled, homeless, unemployed or underemployed.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000

Reading Is Fundamental Pittsburgh

Reading Is Fundamental Pittsburgh addresses critical needs by providing children with access to self-selected books, creating positive environments that motivate children to develop a lifelong love of reading, and engaging families in literacy practices in the home. Across its programming, the organization highlights titles by Black and multicultural authors that promote racial equity and resonate with the primarily Black neighborhoods it serves. Support will help relaunch in-person programming to pre-COVID levels and help Reading Is Fundamental make even more stops with the Storymobile, its library-on-wheels, furthering the organization’s mission to provide high-interest, diverse books, positive experiences, and tools to ignite a love of reading in Pittsburgh’s children.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** Reading Is Fundamental serves nearly 20,000 children, predominantly Black youth, in seven high-need neighborhoods across Pittsburgh and Wilkinsburg.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000
Reading Ready Pittsburgh supports the healthy development of young children by increasing access to books and encouraging family engagement through reading. The team provides a book bag rotation program for 21 child care sites and programs in Homestead, Swissvale and Braddock. Each child can take home a bag of four books each week during the school year so their parents have a variety of books on which to build their daily reading routines. Reading Ready Pittsburgh provides educational tags for parents. The tag includes a picture of each book within the bag and parent engagement materials. All of these materials are printed and laminated in the office on small printers and personal-size laminators. Funds would help purchase office equipment that could provide a higher-quality product for families and make the job of preparing the materials less arduous.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The nonprofit served 1,227 children through Dolly Parton Imagination Library and 136 parents through Ready4K Texting, and provided 708 book bags through Raising A Reader.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

Emmaus Haven of Venango is a temporary shelter for men who are experiencing homelessness in Venango County and encourages men to rebuild their lives personally and spiritually in a safe and warm setting. Admission to the shelter is immediate, and three meals a day are provided along with clothing, hot showers and a laundry facility. A resident can stay for 45 days, flexible around working on a housing plan and housing availability. Services are provided by trained staff to help the individual find safe and affordable housing. The housing program director develops a service plan to identify ways to improve financial stability, budget management and development of life skills. Funds would help the shelter purchase food for the men in its care through Second Harvest of Northwest Pennsylvania.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Venango

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Emmaus Haven served 50 men from Venango County from April 2021 through June 2022 with an average stay of 47 days.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** N/A

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Sojourner House provides compassionate, faith-based residential recovery services to mothers and children. The organization envisions improvements for its MOMS Green Play Yard, which includes flowers, sensory gardens, and a place to run and play. Since 2011, the garden has been a safe place for creative play, art making and learning, and an essential gathering place for parents in recovery and their children. The need for social distancing options during the coronavirus pandemic confirmed that MOMS Green required updates. A lead project partner, Homeless Children’s Education Fund, has led after-school and summer camp activities in this carefully designed space. Funding will help Sojourner House prepare to construct a shelter and fund tables, benches, plantings and an ADA-compliant walkway at the garden, where more celebrations, discovery and compassionate caring can occur.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The organization serves 200 people in 65 families.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black-and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

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Shepherd’s Heart Fellowship Ministries, through its emergency funds program, helps people, including veterans and those experiencing homelessness, with basic food, clothing and health needs. Staff and volunteers at each Shepherd’s Heart location distribute emergency funds to those who need them. In all, 68% of Shepherd’s Heart beneficiaries are African American. Shepherd’s Heart Fellowship Ministries is requesting funds to purchase gift cards that will allow the organization to provide basic needs such as food, clothing, shoes and bus passes.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Shepherd’s Heart helps 2,000 men, women and families each year.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
The Open Door is a nonprofit organization lending a hand to under-served communities experiencing stigma and prejudice. The organization helps those living with HIV, housing instability, substance use, mental illness and criminal histories. It operates a residential building that houses 14 clients while helping many more access services. These services include managing Social Security benefits, non-medical case management, housing/medical referrals, support groups and more. Funds would help cover the cost of staffing. The Open Door plans to expand its client list and offer residents quality-of-life events such as movies, sporting events and shopping opportunities that help improve the outlook on life for people it serves.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The organization assists 83 individuals annually, including 14 occupants in the residential building.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

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SPHS Connect, through its Washington Family Shelter, provides hygiene products, cleaning supplies, bedding and household goods to shelter guests, many of whom arrive with little to no means to purchase these items on their own. The organization hosts emergency shelter and intensive housing case management programs to families and single women who are homeless. It also provides intensive case management to families and single women. The shelter is free to all guests and does not charge for its services. The shelter is requesting funding to allow for the continued operation of its programs, and to support the cost of furniture, hygiene supplies, office supplies, personal protective equipment, staff salaries and other necessary items.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Washington

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The shelter serves approximately 80 people per year, including 30 families with children and 25 single women.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
The Way helps to bridge the gap between the youth from different neighborhoods in the South Pittsburgh Hilltop communities. It uplifts these youth by providing access to nature through its local community garden and educating the youth on the values of a nutritious diet. The Way is requesting funds to bring back its toy giveaway and dinner program during the holiday season. Toys and dinners will be made available to youth in South Pittsburgh. Funds will help The Way to expand its impact and benefit even more families and young people.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The Way serves 250 to 300 children in more than 100 families.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

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The Pittsburgh Project is a faith-based community development organization that provides after-school and summer programming for approximately 200 North Side students in kindergarten through 12th grade. In its makerspace, called the DREAMlab, students explore a variety of disciplines such as sewing, design, woodworking, coding, web design, knitting and electrical work. The nonprofit encourages students to think creatively, solve problems, iterate ideas, collaborate with peers and persevere through setbacks. Committed to equity, the project serves primarily African American and Latinx students, many of whom come from low-income families. The project now offers after-school programs free of charge. Daily access to the DREAMlab will unlock hands-on learning experiences that are too often reserved for families with significant disposable income.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The Pittsburgh Project serves approximately 200 students in kindergarten through 12th grade each year.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
The United Methodist Church Union serves children in the Greater Pittsburgh area, focusing especially on Black communities in the Northside. The Church Union’s Kids Meal Network provides meals to more than 1,000 kids who experience hunger every summer, while its Reader-Mentor program provides one-to-one reading help as well as caring adult mentors for hundreds of elementary schoolchildren at 10 nearby public schools that predominantly serve African American children from low-income households. United Methodist Church Union is requesting funds to expand its outreach so it can serve more children through a new Learning Hub based in Northview Heights. The Learning Hub serves as a place where kids can get homework help, and as a safe space where they can come to talk with caring adult staff and volunteers, receive encouragement, and build positive relationships across race and generations.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Church Union serves approximately 1,400 children each year.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank distributes diapers to families of low-income or poverty levels to ensure that babies in need are clean, healthy and dry. The Diaper Bank also adopted period poverty advocacy as part of its programs to better serve the two out of five menstruators who cannot afford the basic necessity of period supplies. In addition to offering supplies to its partners through its regular bi-monthly distributions, the Diaper Bank also hosts the Period Project, a paid opportunity for teens to learn about health and social and economic justice, and how to advocate for themselves and others. The goal of the program is to increase awareness of period poverty, de-stigmatize periods and help students manage their period symptoms. Funding would enable the Diaper Bank to host the 2023 Period Project class.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED**  Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY**  Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank serves more than 12,000 families annually in Allegheny, Fayette and Westmoreland counties.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING**  Black- and/or Brown-led

**WISH REQUESTED**  $5,000

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Vintage is a senior community center located in the heart of East Liberty and offers connection to community resources to meet basic needs, daily hot lunch, one-to-one technology coaching, group classes, daily bingo and other games, and various discussion groups. The center also provides access to a fitness studio, restaurants, shopping and cultural trips. Vintage was the first senior center in Allegheny County to reopen for in-person activity in 2021 and is now open five days a week. Vintage averaged 102 participants per day in fiscal year 2022 and is striving to get attendance back up to pre-COVID levels. Operating support would assist in purchasing the supplies needed to keep its 17,000-square-foot facility in good working order as a welcoming place for older adults to access amenities that support their physical and mental health.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED**  Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY**  Each year, Vintage serves approximately 1,000 adults age 60 and over with programming that enhances physical and mental wellness.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING**  Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED**  $5,000
Wilkinsburg Community Ministry helps low-income families have access to basic necessities, such as food, diapers and clothing. The ministry’s food-sharing program provides food to members of the community in need. Nearly 45% of the food it distributes is produce from Giant Eagle, Market District, Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods. It also distributes food from local garden projects, including from its own demonstration garden at Medicine Way and Franklin Avenue and from 412 Food Rescue. More than 40% of those served are seniors, 35% have children in the household and 70% have a medical issue. More than half have a disability. Wilkinsburg Community Ministry would like to offer a wider variety of foods, including meat. The ministry no longer receives much meat through the food bank, so it must be purchased directly by the ministry. Funding would allow the ministry to provide a wider range of food to the community.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Wilkinsburg Community Ministry serves 800 to 900 families monthly, 60% of which include people over age 62.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

Womanspace East helps prevent abuse, protect families and change lives through empowerment and a safety net of supportive services. It is currently operating at capacity, housing 85 individuals, 47 of whom are children. For these families, Womanspace East is more than a place to stay — it’s a space to grow. Womanspace East hopes to continue to provide more than just housing to those in need in Allegheny County. It provides vital case management, tutoring, career counseling, financial responsibility classes and other services to families facing homelessness in Allegheny County. This year, the nonprofit is replacing its aging HVAC system as well as making updates to the shared kitchen that families use. Funding will allow the organization to invest in the well-being and security of the most vulnerable families in the community.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Womanspace East provided housing for 123 families representing 353 individuals in 2021.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Youth Advocate Programs provides community-based alternatives to youth incarceration, congregate placements and neighborhood violence. The organization wants each youth to feel that they and their families have the support they need to thrive. The program offers access to healthy snacks, transportation and activities that help youth to feel a part of their community. Funding would help the organization achieve its mission by providing activities for youth to engage in with their advocates, as well as meals and transportation for the youth and gas for advocates driving youth to appointments, court, therapy or other necessary appointments.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Youth Advocate Programs serve approximately 700 youth annually, of which 90% are youth of color.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black-and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

Young Adult Survivors United has the largest community in western Pennsylvania for young cancer survivors, providing them the ability to cope and thrive through emotional, social and financial support. Young adult cancer survivors face financial toxicity and food insecurity as they grapple with the costs of medical bills in addition to utility bills, home and family care costs. Young adult cancer survivors who meet the application criteria are eligible to receive up to $500 annually as a helping hand. It is support they cannot access anywhere else. Funding will help offset the financial burden and reduce stress for young cancer survivors by providing basic needs assistance in the form of grocery and fuel gift cards. This year the nonprofit expects to provide more than $50,000 in financial assistance to cancer survivors for basic needs, which will reduce financial toxicity and improve mental well-being of YA cancer survivors.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Young Adult Survivors United serves more than 400 individuals annually.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** N/A

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Zellous Hope Project breaks the cycles of homelessness, incarceration and violence by reducing generational poverty through peer support, resources and community partnerships. These partnerships are made up of at-risk members of the community and leaders who serve those who are struggling to break out of these cycles. With a strength-based and trauma-informed approach, the project helps move individuals from a state of hopelessness to one of hope and productivity. This trauma-informed approach transforms individuals, families and communities. Funding would help Zellous Hope meet the increased demand that inflation has caused.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** 76% of Zellous Hope Project’s services go to single mothers, of which 48% are white, 46% are Black and 6% identify as “Other.”

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving** Black- and/or Brown-led

**Wish Requested** $5,000
Nakeena Hayden sets up for Women Write on Wednesday, a program she oversees at When She Thrives, p. 55. When She Thrives empowers single mothers to move their families from poverty to prosperity through education, advocacy, and personal and professional development. Photo by Kitoko Chargois.
ECONOMIC MOBILITY

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The Aaron Donald 99 Solutions Foundation works to change the trajectory of Pittsburgh’s most vulnerable youth by providing resources in a free, safe environment where young people can excel academically, socially and athletically. Approximately 35% of students who enter college will drop out during the first year, and only 40% of African American students who enroll will graduate. It is essential to identify and help remove the barriers faced by low-income minority students and first-generation college students so they can succeed. Providing a scholarship for move-in expenses, first-semester books and incidentals helps eliminate the first immediate financial burden the students face. The foundation wishes to provide $1,000 scholarships to five of the graduating seniors in its Prep Forward program to ease their financial burden as they prepare for college.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** Since January 2022, the foundation’s Community Engagement and Prep Forward services have helped about 4,100 youth.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000

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25 Carrick Ave Project offers audio basics courses and live sound apprenticeships to provide historically underserved students with the skills and training needed to work as audio engineers, stagehands and A/V technicians. It has three main program focus areas: Educational Audio Resources (EARS), Tech25 and The Carrick Community Pavilion. EARS provides classroom-based workshops that focus on technical training and create awareness of the entertainment technology industry. Tech25 provides workforce development training for teens and adults looking to enter the event and broadcast industry. The Carrick Community Pavilion is an outdoor event space that hosts farmers markets, community block parties, movie nights and ongoing community engagements. Through corporate partnerships, the project creates entry-level training, apprenticeship opportunities and access to jobs to help fill demand in the growing event technology and commercial broadcast industry.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** There are more than 70 trainees in the audio basics courses. Live Sound 1 apprenticeships and in-school workshops serve more than 500 students.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000
Breakthrough Pittsburgh is a tuition-free, six-year academic program for middle and high school students. Currently, 89% are students of color, and 70% are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Breakthrough Pittsburgh’s six-week summer program offers academic courses taught by exceptional college students, which creates an opportunity for younger students to benefit from real-life examples of success. School-year programming includes academic enrichment, tutoring, high school options counseling, college-bound mentoring and workshops. Bus transportation is provided year-round. Funds will create opportunities and provide additional support to prepare for and succeed in higher education.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny  
**Population Served Annually** Breakthrough Pittsburgh serves about 170 students in grades 7–12.  
**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving  
**Wish Requested** $5,000

Charles Street Area Corp. sponsors activities of the Charles Street Area Council neighborhood community group on Pittsburgh’s Northside. The council created a housing development plan in the 1980s that resulted in construction of 31 new, affordable for-sale single-family homes. It planned for construction of 40 to 50 more homes along North Charles Street. The current work of the organization includes sponsoring a homebuyer certification program, educating residents about community development, engaging residents in community advocacy and developing 21 new affordable for-sale homes. Funding is needed to support ongoing engagement efforts, such as marketing, printing, outreach, meetings, surveys and data analysis to maintain a level of resident awareness and active involvement in the neighborhood development and revitalization process.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny  
**Population Served Annually** The Charles Street Area Corp. serves 120 households, mostly families and seniors, in the Charles Street Valley.  
**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving  
**Wish Requested** $5,000
New Century Careers Inc.

New Century Careers, a technical training organization, trains its MANUFACTURING 2000 Pre-Apprenticeship program students to work for regional companies. Through modern safety equipment at locations in Pittsburgh and Latrobe, students learn the integral part safety plays while also learning what it will be like to work in manufacturing. To continue ensuring the safety of these students, New Century Careers is seeking financial support for items such as high-quality safety glasses and safety glass cleaning wipes, lens cleaning stations and sterile eye wash fluid, emergency stop covers to prevent accidental and unintended stoppages of the machines, and medical supplies such as bandages and antibiotic ointment. The organization takes safety very seriously to prevent injuries and integrate appropriate measures into the curriculum.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** New Century Careers trains approximately 50 students each year, most of whom are from Allegheny and Westmoreland counties.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** N/A

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

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New Sun Rising for Digital Bridges

Digital Bridges prioritizes teaching technology skills, entrepreneurship, leadership social–emotional learning skills as a means to reduce poverty, build equity, improve employability and nurture strong social connections. Students include youth and adults from underserved communities, job seekers and people returning from incarceration. At the beginning of the pandemic, the organization donated all of its computer equipment to Hazelwood youth to support the sudden shift to virtual learning. That donation aligned with its mission to deliver programs that use basic technology to empower education. Key to the organization’s success are trusted relationships with community partners who are responsive to the needs of residents and meet people where they are. The list of prospective partners is much larger than the organization’s current capacity to serve. Funds will help Digital Bridges rebuild its mobile computer lab and deliver more programs in 2023.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** More than 200 students participate in high-impact skill-based programs each year.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Pittsburgh Hires Veterans

Pittsburgh Hires Veterans improves veteran hiring outcomes by providing free career readiness support to U.S. military veterans and current service members, including National Guard and Reserves, and spouses without regard to discharge status or era served. As veterans and their spouses find employment, families and communities become more stable, local businesses benefit, and fewer government resources are needed to support veterans and their families to make ends meet. Funding will enable Pittsburgh Hires Veterans to increase its ability to connect veteran talent with local employers. Funds will support software to enhance data input and reporting, prioritizing and targeting services to underserved populations among veterans.

**Primary County Served**: Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**: In 2021, Pittsburgh Hires Veterans met with 142 veterans, aided 94 veterans with finding work and connected with 72 employers.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**: N/A

**Wish Requested**: $5,000

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Open Hand Ministries Inc.

Open Hand Ministries empowers Black families in Pittsburgh to build multigenerational wealth through improved financial management skills and support on the path to achieving their financial goals. The organization also facilitates affordable homeownership opportunities by acquiring vacant properties and rehabilitating them to superior energy and quality standards for families who want to own their own home. During the pandemic, Open Hand moved in and out of office spaces several times due to multiple closures of its host building, which took a toll on the aging office printer and other equipment. Funds would help replace and upgrade technology to support the financial literacy program. Up-to-date technology is critical to operating weekly educational programming, coordinating hundreds of construction volunteers and managing the intricate processes for property acquisition.

**Primary County Served**: Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**: Open Hand serves 150 people annually, with typically two to three families ready to purchase homes and 30 families and 50 individuals in the program.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**: Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested**: $5,000
Prototype PGH

Prototype PGH works to build gender and racial equity in tech and entrepreneurship by providing affordable access to high-tech tools and equipment, offering workshops that center the experiences of women and underestimated communities, and cultivating a professional support network. The Prototype PGH Incubator is a one-year program focused on supporting emerging entrepreneurs who identify as women, are people of color and are low-income. Funding would allow Prototype PGH to run the incubator for 2023, providing stipends for incubator workshop instructors, food, transportation, child care during workshops, honoraria for incubator participants, and materials for entrepreneurs to make their own products and merchandise using a laser cutter, 3D printer, vinyl cutter and screen printing equipment.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Prototype PGH serves an average of 350 people each year through its workshops, incubator and coworking space.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

Sister Thea Bowman Black Catholic Education Foundation

Sister Thea Bowman Black Catholic Education Foundation seeks to support young African American students in Catholic universities. For 31 years, the foundation has provided scholarships to African American students and offered young people the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree to gain independence, employment and success. The foundation offers every student a chance to participate in an enrichment program to read works of literature and theology with African American Catholic scholars. The foundation operates with one full-time employee and one part-time employee. Funds will support program, social–emotional counseling needs and supplies for scholars.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The foundation generally serves 15 to 20 scholars annually and supports their families when they are in need.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
When She Thrives is an organization dedicated to empowering single mothers to move their families from poverty to prosperity through education, advocacy and personal and professional development. The nonprofit takes a multigenerational and holistic approach to its mission by looking beyond finances to mental, emotional, physical and financial prosperity for mothers and their children. Through the pandemic, the founder/CEO was the sole staff person managing increased demand for all offerings. In 2022, the organization was fortunate enough to hire program staff to assist. Funding will allow When She Thrives to increase capacity by purchasing laptops and a client database for staff to manage information and data so they can serve the community more efficiently and reach even more families.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** When She Thrives serves more than 500 people annually, a third of whom are African American mothers ages 25–47 with an average of three children.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black-and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team, p. 59, provides supplies and equipment to rescue and assist pets and livestock in crisis situations. Andy O. Gurdalak, Renee Barnes and Peanut, the Yorkshire terrier, stand ready to offer assistance. Photo by Renee Rosensteel.
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

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**Nine Mile Run Watershed Association**

Nine Mile Run Watershed Association promotes ecological stewardship, green infrastructure, clean water and climate justice. Its UpstreamPgh program works to identify smart solutions for the environment that help people live better lives. For over 20 years, UpstreamPGH has advocated for and stewarded Nine Mile Run in Frick Park. Increasingly, its focus has been on the upstream communities of Homewood, East Hills, Wilkinsburg, Edgewood and Swissvale, where the water quality problems in Nine Mile Run originate. Support would help UpstreamPgh expand programming while responding to threats within the Nine Mile Run watershed. Over the next year, UpstreamPGH plans to grow its Climate Justice Collaborative, which connects residents over environmental issues, and continue responding to the Fern Hollow Bridge collapse. UpstreamPGH hopes to engage with residents and stakeholders to develop a formal vision plan for accessibility and the ecology of Frick Park downstream of the bridge.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** UpstreamPgh serves more than 2,000 people, mostly Nine Mile Run watershed residents, each year.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

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**Friends of Killbuck Lodge**

Friends of Killbuck Lodge is dedicated to the preservation of Killbuck Lodge and its grounds, educating the community about its history and heritage, and supporting local youth organizations. The lodge was originally built in the 1700s. After renovations in 2015, the lodge was used as a local gathering place for up to 60 people. It offers a free place for Scouts and other youth groups to meet. Support would help Friends of Killbuck Lodge add a permanent restroom and a kitchenette in a separate building adjacent to the lodge. This addition would significantly increase the usability of the property, which benefits the community as a whole. A portion of this project is already completed, and the organization’s goal is to complete the entire project in spring 2023.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Currently, more than 150 people, mostly Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and families, use the lodge for community meetings and activities.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team responds to emergencies related to animals, including domestic, agricultural and equestrian. Disasters don’t affect just people, and in times of crisis, such as a fire, a flood or a tornado, a family may lose everything they own except for their pets. The team works to assist and support animal care during a crisis and can create a customized “Pet Care Kit” to prevent families from having to give up beloved pets. On average, the team distributes over a dozen Pet Care Kits a month. Support would help with purchasing items used to stock Pet Care Kits, including food, treats, toys, bedding, pee pads, litter boxes/scoopers, pet shampoo, bowls, collars/leashes and other pet maintenance items such as carriers, crates and puppy pens, and supplies for smaller or exotic pets.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny  
**Population Served Annually**  The team handles emergency calls from Westmoreland, Fayette and Allegheny counties, and serves an average of 75 to 150 clients per year.  
**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving**  Primarily Black- and Brown-serving  
**Wish Requested**  $5,000

Landforce hires people who are struggling to enter the market economy, works with them on ecological restoration projects throughout the region, and provides training and support to enable them to find and keep good-paying, permanent jobs. The organization assists people returning from incarceration, those with substance abuse disorders or mental health diagnoses, and those facing generational poverty and minimal prospects. In November 2020, when Landforce’s crew members left for new jobs, their average wage was $15.90/hour. Twelve months later, all of these former crew members were still employed and had received raises, with their average wages having risen to $19.13/hour. Support would help Landforce continue its work, hire 25 crew members a year, and provide additional skill-building opportunities so that more people can benefit from the Landforce experience.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny  
**Population Served Annually**  Landforce serves 45 people annually.  
**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving**  Primarily Black- and Brown-serving  
**Wish Requested**  $5,000
Steel Valley Trail Council provides long-term stewardship of the Great Allegheny Passage, including the provision of trail amenities that benefit cyclists, walkers, bird watchers and others. The Steel Valley Trail lacks public restroom facilities in some areas, which detracts from the enjoyment and comfort of those who use it. The council currently rents multiple comfort stations along the trail and is requesting funds for the annual rental of three comfort stations, one of which is handicapped-accessible. The stations are located near the Pittsburgh Hays Eagle viewing site and the section of trail below the Steel Curtain roller coaster at Kennywood Park. The rental of these stations will allow more users of all ages to enjoy the trail for longer durations.

**Primary County Served**: Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**: Annually, the Steel Valley Trail is used by more than 75,000 people of all ages, abilities and ethnicities.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving**: Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested**: $5,000
Friends of Killbuck Lodge, a free place for Scouts and other youth groups to meet, seeks funding to improve facilities. Pictured here, L–R, are Nazeer Willis, Connor Gillpatrick, Alexia Klisavage, Pranav Mantraratnam, Pranav Kunaparaju, Turner Lutz and Finnegan Stoker. Photo by Renee Rosensteel.
Westmoreland Diversity Coalition, p.68, brings people together to promote diversity, generate understanding and acceptance, and help create opportunity through advocacy and education. Pictured here are Jean Slusser, Carlotta Paige and James Galik. Photo by Jason Cohn.
RACIAL AND CIVIC JUSTICE

100 Black Men of Western PA Inc.  64
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Young Black Motivated Kings and Queens (YBMKQ) supports Black youth throughout Pittsburgh by providing them with the tools, resources and support they need to become the leaders of tomorrow. Funding will allow the nonprofit to maintain its youth-centered programming. This will include running its YBMKQ community day, which provides backpacks and school supplies along with a bouncy house and other amusements. YBMKQ is also securing event locations, updating learning materials and paying staff to ensure that the organization can continue delivering quality programs and events without worrying about canceling or delaying for lack of funding. Additional funding will also help keep the programs well-staffed and able to provide offerings of thanks and love to the many volunteers helping at events.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** Young Black Motivated Kings and Queens serves approximately 30 students over the summer, 30 to 40 students during the school year and more than 200 families.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000

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100 Black Men of Western PA provides mentoring to at-risk and underserved African American youth from the greater Pittsburgh area. It is committed to increasing digital literacy and access to quality STEM education. The organization is designing an innovative STEM component to augment its academic enrichment program to ensure that participants have a strong foundation of 21st-century skills that will prepare them for postsecondary education and are empowered to pursue careers in science and technology. Support will help 100 Black Men of Western PA purchase 10 Chromebooks at $419 per unit for its Signature Saturday program. Chromebooks will be used for STEM projects, including robotics and coding, as well as for financial literacy and entrepreneurship sessions, and will benefit 35 to 40 youth annually.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Allegheny

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** The organization mentors 35 to 40 African American youth in grades 8-12 every Saturday and engages 200 in cultural programs.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Abolitionist Law Center uses litigation, community organizing, media production and its Court Watch program to protect people’s rights and minimize the harm encountered in the criminal courts and the jail in Allegheny County. The center brings lawsuits to address the jail’s inhumane and extreme control measures and its failure to provide safe living conditions and adequate physical and mental health care. The Court Watch program places trained observers in criminal courtrooms to document proceedings, monitor for judicial bias or misconduct, and share actionable information with legal and organizing teams, policy makers and the public. Its communications and organizing teams influence policy makers and educate and mobilize the public. The center also produces media, hosts public events, and organizes direct relief for court and jail-involved people.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**  Abolitionist Law Center advocates for thousands of people encountering courts and the jail in Allegheny County each year.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**  Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested**  $5,000

The Allegheny County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program speaks up for abused and neglected children in Allegheny County. Advocates are assigned to the most severe and egregious cases among 3,500 children who are in the family court system due to neglect or abuse by a parent or caregiver. Advocates talk with case workers, medical personnel, family, friends and educators, and make recommendations for medical, educational and behavioral services that will stabilize a child’s situation. Funding will help the program recruit, train and supervise volunteers, who work directly with a child and serve as a trusted adult and a consistent presence, a first for many kids. Volunteers are supervised by staff who meet with them at least twice monthly to help support and brainstorm solutions to challenging situations. With funds for additional advocates, the program can serve more children, potentially changing their life’s trajectory.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**  In fiscal year 2022, the program served 97 youth and added 23 volunteers. Of the children served, 60% identified as Black or Brown and 55% as female.

**Black- and Brown-led or Serving**  N/A

**Wish Requested**  $5,000
Christian Immigration Advocacy Center offers immigration-related legal services for immigrants and refugees in the Pittsburgh area, around the country and across the world. Private attorneys can charge up to 10 times the legal fee charged by the center for services such as citizenship and green card applications, family reunification, and asylum. The demand for services — including free translation and interpretation in any language and compassionate care with referrals for a variety of social-related services such as trauma therapy and case management — has increased each year since the center’s opening in 2017, with more than 350 clients served in 2021. The organization is planning to expand its mission by hiring additional staff to train as legal representatives, with a focus on hiring immigrants and refugees. Funds will support replacing failing printers and computers.

**Primary County Served** Allegheny

**Population Served Annually** The Center serves 400 people each year.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving** Black-and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested** $5,000

CASA of Westmoreland’s child advocates visit their court-appointed case children in their out-of-home placement (foster home, kinship home, group home, shelter placement, regional treatment center, etc.) every month. Volunteer advocates are the “eyes and ears” of the judge or hearing officer confirming each child’s well-being and advising about whether emergent or chronic needs are met. During visits, advocates use “Kiddo Engagement Bags” that contain items from books and blocks to magnetic building platforms, balancing games, Uno and Slinkys. These items stimulate the development of motor skills, STEM skills, object identification, reading comprehension and fun! They help children relax and enjoy the personal attention of their advocate and enable the children to build trust and better communicate their needs. Bags need replenishment as a child progresses or new children enter the program. The organization utilizes more than 170 bags monthly, each of which costs $80–$100.

**Primary County Served** Westmoreland

**Population Served Annually** Court-appointed special advocates served 177 of 374 children in care in 2021.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving** N/A

**Wish Requested** $5,000
Let’s Get Free: The Women & Trans Prisoner Defense Committee works to end death by incarceration, builds pathways out of prisons through commutation reform, and supports successful possibilities for mainly women and trans prisoners. Funding would enable the publication of one issue of the group’s new magazine, “Daughters,” edited by Prison Advisory Board Member Sarita Miller of the SCI Muncy prison facility for women. Its theme: Though for now we are confined, our spirits and voices soar free. The magazine shares perspectives of women experiencing the crisis of mass incarceration in this country and addresses mental health, domestic violence, sexual violence, reentry and healing. “Daughters” connects readers inside and outside of prison walls to the work of Let’s Get Free. Costs for one issue of the magazine include graphic design, printing and postage. Offsetting these costs would enable Let’s Get Free to direct funds toward advocacy programs for incarcerated Pennsylvanians.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**  “Daughters” magazine reaches a mailing list of 700 incarcerated and 100 non-incarcerated people.

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving**  Primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested**  $5,000

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Reimagine Reentry is a program for men and women returning home to Allegheny County from incarceration. Funds will help achieve the organization’s mission to reduce recidivism. It does this by meeting increased demand for its reentry coaching program and multi-craft core curriculum pre-apprenticeship training program. The organization supports strengths-based, holistic mentorship of formerly incarcerated clients and is expanding its efforts by cultivating community among clients and families. Funds will also help support the workforce development Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) program, certified by North America’s Building Trades Union, and costs associated with this program, including guest speakers, stipends, equipment, transportation and client costs.

**Primary County Served**  Allegheny

**Population Served Annually**  Reimagine Reentry serves about 50 people, 35 through the Reentry Coaching program and 30 in the MC3 program (with some overlap).

**Black- and Brown-Led or Serving**  Black- and/or Brown-led; primarily Black- and Brown-serving

**Wish Requested**  $5,000
Westmoreland Diversity Coalition brings people together to promote diversity, generate understanding and acceptance, and help create opportunity through advocacy and education. Funding would help the organization professionalize its operations. The coalition recently upgraded to a larger office that includes a gathering space, but it is in need of new equipment. The coalition also needs a new website to continue spreading the word of diversity, equity and inclusion. It also seeks to create training workshops on topics that include Introduction to Judaism, Understanding Transgender People, LGBTQ 101, and Racial Bias and Profiling. It also will present a film festival that will focus on behavioral health, domestic violence and other issues. COVID temporarily diverted the organization from pursuing its mission, and it is now working hard to catch up.

**PRIMARY COUNTY SERVED** Westmoreland

**POPULATION SERVED ANNUALLY** 1,500 people.

**BLACK- AND BROWN-LED OR SERVING** Black- and/or Brown-led

**WISH REQUESTED** $5,000
Let's Get Free: The Women & Trans Prisoner Defense Committee, p.67, builds pathways out of prisons. Its magazine, “Daughters,” shares perspectives of those facing incarceration. Pictured here is etta cetera, one of the two co-editors, who holds a photo of co-editor Sarita Miller, who is working on the publication while incarcerated.

Photo by Renee Rosensteel.
In its DREAMlab makerspace, The Pittsburgh Project, p.42, provides after-school and summer programming for 200 North Side students in grades K–12. Pictured here are StaLea Chapman and Geoni Lee. Photo by Renee Rosensteel.
ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Since its founding in 1945, the Foundation’s values have been evident in the deep relationships its people have forged in the region. As new strategies are developed to improve quality of life for everyone, the staff has identified these values and pledged to follow them in our work. **Accountability:** We act with transparency and integrity, fulfilling our commitments and owning the outcomes of our decisions. **Collaboration:** We unite in our work together to increase impact in our community for the collective greater good. **Community:** We embrace the opportunity to learn from those we serve and those who serve us to help shape solutions. **Racial Justice:** We work to enact fundamental systemic changes by eliminating policies, laws, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race. **Trust:** We have faith in our communities and earn their confidence by demonstrating competency, honesty and positive intent.

Many thanks to the entire Wish Book 2022 team, especially the 100 nonprofits whose wishes and images are published in this book. All images are used with permission. Additional nonprofit profile images are by Renee Rosensteel, Kitoko Chargois and Jason Cohn. Design is by Rachel Arnold Sager of Second Block Studio. Writing and editing is by Zoey Angelucci, Karen Carlin, Julia Maruca, Carol Pickerine, Jennifer Rignani, Kiserian Spence, Emma Truscott and Liam Waters. Wish Book 2022 is organized by Kitty Julian, Taren Lumley, Jenn Sloan, and Kelly Uranker through the Center for Philanthropy. Special thanks to the Wish Book Committee. This book was printed by CDI Printing, a minority-/veteran-owned company, as part of the Foundation’s ongoing effort to support the region’s Black business community.
Carnegie Free Library in Beaver Falls, p.9, seeks funds to update technology for serving library customers. Pictured here are Tabitha Ward and daughter Mary Ward. Photo by Renee Rosensteel.