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# Human Services Center 2007 Annual Report

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## Celebrating 25 Years of *Serving the Mon Valley*

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### Human Services Center Expands in 2007 to Serve More People

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was accentuated by the exciting news of the HSCC's expansion. A brief program captured the Center's history and program successes, and was complemented by a major announcement that the Human Services Center is expanding its facilities with the purchase of a 4,000 square foot building across the street. The agreement of sale was entered into in early January, and the closing was held on August 22. With the purchase and renovation of 413 Penn Avenue, the future construction of a parking lot, and renovations to the HSCC's current facility in 2007, the following goals will be accomplished:

1. Capacity in the KOOL Summer Program will be increased by 25 annually, allowing more children to participate in this popular summer program. As of July 2007, 150 children are being served, easing waiting lists.
2. Annually, 10 more youth will be able to participate in the Youth LIFE After-School Program due to increased space and capacity. Starting in September 2007, 100 youth began to benefit.
3. Annually, five more youth will be served through the Emerging Leaders Program. With July 2007's class, 40 students are enrolled.
4. The Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs, an all volunteer tenant in the HSCC, will increase the amount of food provided in 2008 to more than 200 clients per month by utilizing the basement of 413 Penn Avenue for storage.
5. Much-needed visitor parking will nearly double for the 750 people who access the HSCC daily.

Jim Anderson, HSCC Board President and President of The Techs stated, "It's an exciting time at the HSCC! With the acquisition of our new building, the Center will be able to increase the number of participants in the KOOL Summer Program and Youth Life After-School Program by 25 and 10 children respectively, five more youth will be served in the Emerging Leaders Program, and the Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs can expand their services to the more than 200 monthly clients."



### Over 500 Attend 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Center

For 25 years, area residents have benefited from a wide range of social services available to them at the Human Services Center in Turtle Creek. On Friday, May 18, the Human Services Center celebrated those 25 successful years of service with a free community celebration attended by over 550 people. The celebration took place at the Human Services Center, and featured carnival games, prizes, a balloon artist, moon bounce, and more.

In addition to the fun games and activities, parents, caregivers, and children accessed services and information provided by over 35 social services agencies at the Children's Health and Safety Fair. Free adult health screenings were also conducted at the event by UPMC Braddock, including blood pressure, body fat, pulse oximetry, visual acuity, and bone density.

Over 100 volunteers made this wonderful community event a success!

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## Emerging Leaders Has Exciting Year

With 40 participants in 2007, the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) had a very busy and successful year. Participants Parisse Henderson, D'Anne Olivis, and Nicole Polliard all graduated from high school and went on to post-secondary education. Furthermore, 100% of participants engaged in job-readiness training, registered on the CareerLink website, improved their team building skills, learned how to conduct job searches and college searches online, learned about self-esteem and life skills, and much more. Ten of the students obtained part-time employment, and a number of others are involved in sports, theater, and volunteer activities during after-school hours. The students also benefited from field trips to the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State Greater Allegheny, Rosedale Technical Institute, Goodwill, Mellon Arena for a Penguins game, Carnegie Science Center for the *Women in the Media* event, New Hazlett Theater, WAMO, Gwen's Girls, and PNC Park for a Pirates game. The field trips taught the students about planning for their future and drew them closer as a team.

Other highlights for ELP included receiving a **Recognition Award** from the East Borough chapter of the NAACP. Additionally, an ELP student received an **Outstanding Youth Participant Award** from YouthWorks, Inc. YouthWorks,



Inc. also featured ELP students in a promotional video that will be used to show all that youth are able to accomplish through their support.

It has been thrilling for the HSCC to see ELP grow from a program of only 12 students in 2005, to 40 students in 2007. They are

truly an impressive group of young people. The entire youth staff is eager to see what they will accomplish 2008! In the photo, ELP students cheer on the Penguins at Mellon Arena.

## HSCC Office Relocating in 2008

With the move to 413 Penn Avenue complete, the HSCC's new administrative offices are now located just across the street. The HSCC staff will continue to have an ongoing presence in the main facility at 519 Penn Avenue, and all programs will remain at 519 Penn Avenue. The Youth Programs are located at both 519 and 413 Penn Avenue with the acquisition of over 2,000 square feet of youth space on the first floor of the new facility.

New in 2008, the HSCC will have someone at the front desk at the entry to the main building during most hours of operation. This effort will be spearheaded by a team of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for this front desk position for a couple hours each week, please contact Lynn at 412-829-7112.

A full description of the volunteer position is available on request. The primary functions are greeting people, answering questions in person and by phone, and directing people to the right services in the Center.

## Nearly 4,000 Children Receive Toys

Each year, the Center works in cooperation with the Pantry Network to collect and distribute toys to *thousands* of children.

The average gift for each child is worth approximately \$30. In 2007, volunteer efforts represented well over 2,500 hours. The total value of all the donations was over **\$173,250**. Thanks to the generous support of State Senator Sean Logan, countless individuals, businesses and families, as well as the volunteers, the holidays were just a little happier for **3,850** Mon Valley children with 5,775 toys.

## Current Staff

The Center continues to utilize a variety of creative staffing resources.

### Staff

David Coplan, Executive Director  
 Alicia Andrews, Associate Director  
 Jake Yeager, Building Superintendent  
 Leah Price, Youth Programs Director  
 Lauren Hyslop, Youth Development Director  
 Sunny Medwid, Youth Development Associate  
 Ruth Smith, Collaborative Programs Director  
 Randall Thomas, Holiday Toy Project Coordinator  
 Janiece Rash, McKeesport Collaborative Family Development Specialist  
 Andrea Vlasak, McKeesport Collaborative Family Development Specialist  
 Lynn Andelmo, Receptionist  
 Tiffany Ball, Education Associate  
 Shawnese Brown, Education Associate  
 Barbara Broz, Education Associate  
 Carolyn Burkamp, Education Associate

### Student Interns/Americorps in 2007

Tiffany Ball, Janiece Rash, Ryan Thomas, Andrea Vlasak, and Wei Xiao

### Older Adult Employees

Wilbur Burgess and Ted Thomas

## Capital Campaign Raises Nearly \$1 Million

Marking its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a major expansion would not have been possible without the generous support of the funding community. The following foundations made capital gifts to the Capital Campaign:

- Allegheny County Department of Economic Development (CDBG)
- DSF Charitable Trust
- Falk Fund of United Way
- Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation
- Hillman Foundation
- McCune Foundation
- Richard King Mellon Foundation
- Howard and Nell E. Miller Foundation

Program support was provided by:

- Allegheny County DHS – HSDF Funding
- Frick Fund of the Buhl Foundation
- Grable Foundation
- Heinz Endowments
- The Pittsburgh Foundation

The program support enabled the HSCC to expand its three youth programs in 2007 while expanding facilities at 413 Penn Avenue.

At press time, the only remaining major piece of support pending is a potential grant from the state to assist with the creation of an expanded parking lot at the new facility at 413 Penn Avenue, directly across from the entrance to 519 Penn Avenue. We are hopeful to complete this last piece in 2008, thus providing an additional 64 parking spaces for the 750 people who use the HSCC's facilities daily.

## Americorps Healthcorps Makes a Difference

On November 14, 2007, members of the Pittsburgh Americorps Healthcorps through the Allegheny County Health Department assisted the Human Services Center with its expansion. Volunteers painted over 2,000 square feet of space for the new location of the Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs and the monthly Westinghouse Valley Food Pantry. The project involved the entire basement of the new facility at 413 Penn Avenue, as well as murals to make the space warm and attractive to the 225 families who benefit monthly from the pantry service.



The majority of the Healthcorps participants were from outside of the region, so a part of the day focused on educating them about the Mon Valley, its needs, and the HSCC's services. Demonstrating the HSCC's track record of successful interns, Janet Elder (Director of the Pittsburgh Healthcorps) started her career as a Masters of Social Work student intern with the HSCC is now the Healthcorps Director.

## Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC)

The Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC) is a major project administered by the Human Services Center. Serving residents in 37 Mon Valley communities, the MVPC is an alliance of 75 dues paying human service organizations that collaborate to provide services and solutions to the diverse needs of people.

A separate annual report for the MVPC is published as an insert in the McKeesport Daily News the second week of January each year, and further information is available online at:

[www.hsccl-mvpc.org](http://www.hsccl-mvpc.org)

## McKeesport Collaborative

With over 50 agencies working together, the McKeesport Collaborative has created new linkages for women and children facing problems caused by substance abuse, enabling participants to access many services.

In 2007, the McKeesport Collaborative's staff changed dramatically. When Darlene Salih assumed a full time position with the McKeesport Casa Start, two new Family Development Specialists were hired: Janiece Rash and Andrea Vlasak. Just a few weeks later, Diane George accepted the position as the SNAP Director with Auberle, and Ruth Smith expanded her role with the HSCC to work with both the Collaborative and MVPC. By the end of 2007, the Collaborative's offices were fully established in the new HSCC office with two drop-in days weekly at the McKeesport Family Center scheduled for 2008.

The McKeesport Collaborative remains dedicated to developing and improving services for women affected by substance abuse and their children. Community Service Block Grant funds from Allegheny County help to support case management.

## Another Award Winning Year in 2007

With 10 major awards in 2006, it was hard to imagine that 2007 would bring even more accolades for the Center and its staff. And yet, the fact is that so many of the HSCC programs, staff, and consumers deserve recognition.

- ❑ *Pittsburgh Magazine* and PUMP named Dave Coplan, Executive Director, a 40 Under 40 Honoree, November 2007
- ❑ YouthWorks Inc.'s Outstanding Youth Award presented to one of the Emerging Leaders Program's youth, September 2007
- ❑ NAACP East Borough Chapter Recognition Award bestowed upon the Emerging Leaders Program at the Human Rights Dinner, June 2007
- ❑ McKeesport Healthier Communities Partnership (State Health Improvement Partnership) honors its SHIPmate of the Month awardee, Ruth Smith, Program Associate, Mon Valley Providers Council, March 2007

## How You Can Help the Center

A question we are often asked is, "How can I help the Center?" There are many ways to assist the work of the Human Services Center, but the primary ways to get involved are volunteering, donating, and providing corporate support:

- ☑ **Office volunteers** are needed on a regular basis to assist with the front desk of the Center. This flexible opportunity can be done weekly or daily, and a variety of hours are open. Anyone interested can contact Lynn at 412-829-7112 for a detailed description, or with questions.
- ☑ The MVPC/HSCC **Annual Fund Drive** accepts donations throughout the year. The unrestricted dollars allow us to have flexibility in programs.
- ☑ The **Holiday Toy Project** accepts monetary donations, groups to host a giving tree, or individuals will buy a \$25 gift for a child.
- ☑ **Corporations can sponsor** a variety of events such as the HIV/AIDS Walk of the McKeesport Collaborative, or the MVPC Super Expo.
- ☑ **Tax credits** are another means for corporate support as the HSCC's youth programs are approved to receive Educational Improvement Tax Credits.
- ☑ **In-kind contributions** are accepted for a variety of purposes, and the HSCC does utilize **volunteers** in many additional capacities throughout the year, such as with the library, toy program, pantry, and other critical community services.
- ☑ The Emerging Leaders Program seeks **mentors and site visits** for job shadowing.
- ☑ **Opportunities for internships, Americorps positions, and part time staff** for the youth programs are usually available at the Center. Call for details.

All contributions are tax deductible, and can be sent to the HSCC, attention Dave Coplan. Questions can be directed to Dave or Alicia at 412-829-7112.

## 2008 Tenant Agencies

[All phone numbers are area code 412.]

### FIRST FLOOR

**Eastern Area Adult Services** - Support service to the over 60 population; noon meal, transportation, recreation, socialization. 824-6880

**The Early Learning Institute - Early Intervention Program** - Developmental program for developmentally delayed and disabled preschoolers. 823-6376

**Harmony Learning Center - Child Care Program** Toddler, preschool, pre-kindergarten, and day care services. 823-6376

**Planned Parenthood of W. PA** - Offering complete gynecological care, birth control counseling, pregnancy testing, and lots of answers. 823-5370

### SECOND FLOOR

**Turtle Creek Valley Mental Health/Mental Retardation** - Emergency help, crisis intervention; adult counseling; Unemployment Project. 824-8510

**Alternatives** - Chemical Abuse Program. 824-9300

**PA Representative Paul Costa** - Legislative Service Center to aid constituents with state and other public service matters. 824-3400

**Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments** - Cooperative association of 20 municipalities to provide municipal services and administer community development & other projects. 829-7722

**Allegheny County Health Dept. - W.I.C. Program** Supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children. 823-1333

**Braddock Carnegie Library Extension** - A mini-library providing books, videos, and other services. 829-7112

### THIRD FLOOR

**Allegheny Intermediate Unit - Community School East** - Alternative educational program for court-supervised students, grades 9-12. 464-4043

**Community Outreach Services** - Space, marketing, and coordination is provided for a wide range of services using the Center on an as-needed, on-going, or seasonal basis. 829-7112

**Community Computer Lab** - A partnership between the Center and the members of the Mon Valley Providers Council to provide free computer training. 829-7112

**Turtle Creek Valley Mental Health/Mental Retardation** - Adolescent and youth services. 349-0632

### 413 PENN AVENUE

**Human Services Center Corporation** - Facility management and coordination of the Westinghouse Valley Human Services Center, Mon Valley Providers Council, Youth Programs (Youth LIFE, ELP & KOOL), and McKeesport Collaborative. 829-7112

**Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs** - Food pantry referral and clothing distribution in 20 east suburban communities. 24-hour hotline: 824-0006

## 2007 Key Partnerships for Positive Change

Each year, nearly 100 outreach agencies provide services to **thousands** of Center visitors. It is impossible to list each and every program provided, so a several are highlighted below.

- Hundreds of individuals and families were provided funds for housing through the Urban League's Housing Assistance Program.
- The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program prepared tax returns for **over 100** senior citizens living throughout the Mon Valley.
- Life Line Screening assisted **40** individuals for Carotid Artery Disease, **38** individuals for Peripheral Arterial Disease, **38** individuals for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, and **18** individuals for Osteoporosis.
- Dozens of individuals met at the Center for support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Parents of Murdered Children, and others.
- KidShape, a partnership with Highmark, taught **more than 30 youth** and their families how to live more healthy and productive lives.
- **Dozens** of men were counseled by Domestic Abuse Counseling Center.
- More than **70** individuals received flu shots through the Visiting Nurse Foundation's flu clinic, with UPMC Braddock and Highmark.
- Over **550** youth and adults were educated on various health topics through the Center's Annual Children's Health and Safety Fair, which was held in conjunction with the Center's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.
- Through a partnership with the Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs, **240 families** received free supplemental groceries monthly, and the Emergency Back-Up Pantry assisted **20 to 40 individuals** each month.
- Through a partnership with the Braddock-Carnegie Library and Urban League of Pittsburgh's Mature Worker Program, the Turtle Creek Library provided **hundreds of families and individuals** with books, DVDs, audio books, VHS tapes, and literacy programming.

## Our Supporters

*We gratefully acknowledge the following for their generosity and support of the Human Services Center in 2007. Contributors to the MVPC Annual Fund Drive and individuals who gave through the United Way's Contributor Choice program are recognized in the January edition of The Communicator, which is available on our website at [www.hscc-mvpc.org](http://www.hscc-mvpc.org) or upon request.*

### Operations and Special Projects

Allegheny County Department of Human Services  
CSBG/HSDF/WIA Funding Sources

Anonymous Contributors  
Citizens Bank  
The Forbes Funds  
The Frick Fund of the Buhl Foundation  
Equitable Resources  
G.C. Murphy Foundation  
Grable Foundation  
The Heinz Endowments  
Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield  
Kennywood  
Local Emergency & Shelter Board - FEMA

**THANK  
YOU FOR  
YOUR  
SUPPORT!**

### Operations and Special Projects (cont.)

State Senator Sean Logan  
McKeesport Communities That Care  
McKeesport Hospital Foundation (SHIP)  
Mellon Financial Corporation  
National City Bank  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Respironics  
Ronald McDonald House Charities  
Sam's Club Monroeville  
The Techs  
United Way of Allegheny County  
UPMC Health Plan  
Robert and Mary Weisbrod Foundation  
YouthWorks, Inc.

### Toy Project

AB Specialties  
Allegheny General Hospital  
American Heart Association  
Bayer Foundation  
Century Heritage Federal Credit Union  
Citizens Bank  
Classic Look  
East Pittsburgh AARP  
Electric Heights Housing Community  
Ethan Allen  
FedEx-Monroeville & Moon Township  
Galv-Tech  
Gifts for Kids  
Heritage Agency, Inc.  
Human Services Center Employees  
Jefferson Hospital  
Jones-Lang-LaSalle  
La Barge  
State Senator Sean Logan  
Matthews International  
Mid Atlantic Warehouse  
National Financial Services  
Neishloss & Fleming Inc.  
NexTech  
Nu-tek Steel  
Pepper Hamilton Law Firm  
Per-Se-Technology  
Petraglio-Bosick and Gordon Law Firm  
PNC  
Precision Parts & Machine Company  
Preferred Staffing, Inc.  
Proviano Family  
RIDC - E. Pittsburgh/Turtle Creek  
Sam's Club of Monroeville  
Siemens Power  
St. Colman's Church of Turtle Creek  
Stifel Nicolaus  
U.S. Department of Energy  
U.S. Postal Service East Pittsburgh  
U.S. Airways  
United Way of Allegheny County  
UPMC McKeesport & Churchill  
West Penn Hospital  
Westinghouse - Sci-Tech Department  
Concetta Zapalla

## Youth Learn the Fun in Literacy

Now in its eighth year, the Youth Learning In a Fun Environment (Youth LIFE) After-School Program is continually providing enrichment programming, offering youth an abundance of activities, academic support, social skill building opportunities, recreation, and field trips. Through several partnerships, the Youth LIFE Program provides youth with fun and exciting opportunities. This year, for example, youth have been enhancing their literacy abilities. Reading Is FUNdamental (RIF) Pittsburgh is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide the resources, motivation, opportunities, and skills for children ages two through twelve to read. The Youth LIFE Program is currently partnering with RIF Pittsburgh to bring FREE new books and reading activities to all of our participants through their Book Distribution Program. RIF distributes books to participants throughout the school year. Some of the major highlights from 2007 were:

- **78** youth participated in social enrichment seminars and recreational activities and enhanced their social skills and interactions with peers.
- **88%** of all youth who participated in the tutorial services earned better grades in the grading period following completion of the program than in the grading period preceding enrollment in the program.
- **100%** of all youth who participated in the tutorial services were promoted to the next grade level.
- **100%** of youth increased awareness of community needs through engaging in community service projects.

## KOOL Activities at HSCC

For seven weeks in July and August, 150 youth between the ages of five and thirteen participated in the Kids Outgoing, Outdoing, and Learning (KOOL) Summer Program at the HSCC from 8:30AM-4:30PM Monday through Friday.

Each day the students were provided with a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack. The children also participated in a variety of academic, social, and recreational activities, and attended a different field trip each week. The students were divided into nine classes, which were led by nine highly motivated young professionals seeking to gain more direct experience with diverse groups of children in a classroom setting. Additionally, nine Counselors In Training (CITs) assisted the teachers with planning and carrying out activities with the youth. The CITs were teenagers between the ages of 14 and 17 from the Mon Valley who committed most of their summer to help the staff and participants of KOOL while acquiring work experience and developing their skills. Some of the major highlights of this summer's program were:

- Various cultural and recreational field trips to Pittsburgh Zoo, Carnegie Science Center, Lauren Caverns, Heinz History Center, Beechwood Farms and Nature Reserve, Idlewild Park, National Aviary, and PNC Park through a partnership with the Tickets for Kids Foundation.
- **FREE** nutritious breakfast and lunch served daily through Allegheny County's Summer Feeding Program.
- The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank came on a weekly basis to discuss proper nutrition.
- Expanding from 125 to 150 children served.

## Human Services Center Corp.

519 Penn Avenue  
Turtle Creek, PA 15145  
Phone: 412-829-7112  
Fax: 412-829-4363  
Website: www.hsc-mvpc.org

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

## HSCC Leadership

### The 2008 Board of Directors:

James Anderson, President  
David Priselac, Vice President  
Pam McIver, Treasurer  
Kate Dewey, Secretary  
Ryan Conover,  
Leadership On Board  
Joseph Dombrosky  
Lissa Foster  
Kevin Kearns  
Martin Kenderson  
Beth Lackner  
Vivien Luk  
Darla Poole  
Steve Quick  
Barbara Shore  
Lynn Tatala  
Travis Williams

## 19 Communities Served by the Center:

Braddock	N. Versailles
Braddock Hills	Pitcairn
Chalfant	Rankin
Churchill	Swissvale
East McKeesport	Turtle Creek
East Pittsburgh	Wall
Edgewood	Wilkins
Forest Hills	Wilkesburg
Monroeville	Wilmerding
N. Braddock	