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## PCGF NEWS | WINTER 2017

### BigBurgh Gains National Attention

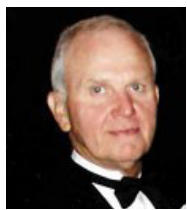
The Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness features BigBurgh.com in its fall 2016 edition of *Uncensored*, a quarterly magazine that provides in-depth information and resources about family poverty and homelessness in the United States. In the article, designer **Bob Firth** of Informing Design, PCGF Executive Director **Pamela Golden** and HCEF Founder **Joe Lagana** discuss the development process for the mobile-friendly app, the user response and plans for the future.

[Click here](#) to read more.



*Left to right: Commander Anna Kudrav, Joe Lagana, and Officer Ron Spangler confer at a press conference on BigBurgh.com. Commander Kudrav led the team of officers who first deployed the service out on the streets.*

### Remembering Jack O'Brien



PCGF extends condolences to the family and friends of **John D. "Jack" O'Brien**, a former Child Guidance Center Board member who passed away in December. An attorney, Mr. O'Brien was the founder of O'Brien, Rulis & Bochicchio, LLC, where he worked until his recent retirement. He also served as solicitor for Shaler Township. In addition to supporting PCGF, he served numerous community organizations and committees. We thank his wife, Joan McGuire O'Brien, and their friends for the contribution to the Foundation in his memory. ■

### Kudos to...

**Maurita Bryant**, PCGF Board member and Assistant Superintendent Allegheny County Police Department, for being honored by the Homeless Children's Education Fund as she celebrates 40 years of service in law enforcement. Throughout her career, she has dedicated herself to building bridges between law enforcement officers and members of the community.

PCGF Advisory Board member **Bill Wolfe**, who has been appointed Executive Director of Ward Home. Ward Home trains at-risk young adults in practical life skills in a nurturing environment, enabling them to live independently as effective contributing members of the community. ■

#### PITTSBURGH CHILD GUIDANCE FOUNDATION 2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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# PCGF at Work in the Community

In 2015, the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation awarded more than \$200,000 in grants to 16 organizations. We are pleased to report [how the organizations leveraged these grants to serve individuals living in western Pennsylvania](#).

**Allies for Children** dedicated the Safe Families Resource Center, a safe, confidential waiting area in the Allegheny County Courthouse for the nearly 4,000 victims and children who seek assistance from the Protection from Abuse Unit each year. The center is a partnership between Allies for Children, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, the Family Court Division, the National Council of Jewish Women and PCGF.

**Angels' Place, Inc.**'s Family Support Program provides parents and children with Early Childhood Education, Parent Education, meals and referrals to services. Throughout the past year, [146 clients benefitted from Angels' Place Early Childhood Education and Family Support Programs](#), all at no personal cost. Staff providing the services received training in the Sanctuary Model of trauma-informed and trauma-responsive care.

**Bethlehem Haven's** Safe at Home Program provides financial relief and agency resources to women, families and single custodial fathers who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless for the first time. The program helped 200 households and [prevented eviction for 65% of families, with 35% relocating to more affordable housing](#). Partnerships with the South Hills Interfaith Ministry, Urban League and North Hills Community Outreach aided families when Bethlehem Haven was inundated with too many requests.

**Beverly's Birthdays** distributed birthday presents to more than 1,300 children, hosted 110 group birthday parties, celebrated the births of 200+ new babies, distributed 1,000 birthday parties in a bag and distributed Classroom Cheer Kits to 400 teachers. The organization [partnered with 54 agencies and nonprofits in the greater Pittsburgh area](#).



*Allies for Children dedicated the Safe Family Resource Center at the Allegheny County Courthouse (left); Beverly's Birthdays celebrated throughout the greater Pittsburgh area (right).*

**Dreams of Hope's** Qamp is a five-day summer camp that provides lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual and allied youth ages 13 to 19 an opportunity to participate in typical summer camp activities such as swimming, hiking, canoeing and archery. Last year, [49 youth enrolled in Qamp and the organization used PCGF funding to provide scholarships](#) to attendees who could not afford the tuition.

**East End Cooperative Ministry** held its five-week summer day camp for more than 250 youth ages 5 to 16 (10% were homeless). PCGF [sponsored enrollment for 25 youth to attend](#) this camp that provides structure, enrichment and recreation for youth across the city.

**Family Promise of Southwestern PA** is [developing full training modules and videos for volunteers to properly equip them to work with families in need](#). The project will include a training module for teen volunteers.

**Grantmakers in Health** is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to helping foundations and corporate giving programs improve the health of all people. [PCGF is a local funding partner of this national organization](#).

**Homeless Children's Education Fund** has [trained nearly 1,700 individuals, outreach workers, police officers, community leaders and politicians in using BigBurgh.com](#), a mobile-friendly app that connects homeless individuals, outreach workers, and law enforcement officers with agencies and resources quickly and efficiently. The website attracted 14,000 visits in a four-month period (launch in August 2016 through November 2016).

**Human Services Integration Fund of Allegheny County** (Jail Collaborative) provides integrated programs that prepare incarcerated individuals to re-enter society through therapy, education, substance abuse treatment, parenting classes and housing assistance. The jail has [piloted a program to provide housing and case management for jail residents who are diagnosed with serious mental illnesses](#). An evaluation of the program by the Urban Institute found that this state-of-the-art reentry program has reduced recidivism rates in Allegheny County by as much as 50%.

**North Hills Backpack Initiative** received a PCGF [grant to feed families with children who are experiencing homelessness or food insecurity](#).

CONTINUED



**Operation Safety Net's** shelter that cares for those experiencing homelessness **received two children's beds purchased by PCGF.**

**Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC)** and the **Office of Child Development (OCD)** **partnered to conduct research and make recommendations to address systemic changes needed for families in crisis to gain access to quality child care.** PAEYC and OCD found that substantial barriers prevent homeless families from obtaining and utilizing available child care assistance. Current efforts in advocating for child care are patchy and difficult to maintain, which decreases activity on a political level while also preventing families' access to information about current programs.

**Tickets for Kids distributed more than 5,000 tickets – valued at \$105,000 – free of charge to 15 organizations and agencies serving homeless children.** The ticket distribution program provides free tickets and admission to cultural, arts, sports and entertainment venues for low-income children and their families.



*Tickets for Kids distributed free tickets and admission to a variety of events and attractions including Laurel Cavern.*

**University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development (OCD)** **conducted an assessment for the mental health needs of young children with unstable housing.** Interviews with providers, parents and researchers revealed that providers should give as much information as possible to parents on the evaluation process and results in order to maintain trust and increase the likelihood of successful service referrals.

**University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development (OCD)** collaborated with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services to continue a training series for social service agency employees to increase awareness of research-based strategies to address the needs of young children and their families. As a result, **102 individuals from 27 community organizations participated in at least one training session** and the department awarded 13 Continuing Education Units for participants. ■

## Mark Your Calendars

We ask Trustees to make every effort to attend these meetings:

### Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 7, 2017  
4 – 5:30 p.m.

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017  
4 – 5:30 p.m.

### Board Meeting/Annual Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017  
4 – 5 p.m. meeting  
5 p.m. reception

*All meetings will be held at the Foundation Office.*