



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PITTSBURGH MERCY
INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO THE
4TH ANNUAL BLOOMING ON BAUM PLANT SALE MAY 10 & 24**
Proceeds benefit programs that serve adults with intellectual disabilities

PITTSBURGH (May 7, 2019) – Want to grow your garden and help the community this spring? [Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services' Alternative Training & Employment Center](#), a day support, employment, and training program which serves 40 adults who have intellectual disabilities, invites the public to attend the **4th Annual Blooming on Baum Plant Sale**. The event will be held **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** on **Friday, May 10, 2019, and Friday, May 24, 2019**, at the Center, 4749 Baum Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (Bloomfield).

The sale will feature plants and vegetables that program participants grew from seeds and cuttings. Featured items will include several varieties of tomatoes, sweet and purple basil, herbs, coleus, geraniums, spider plants, and air plants (plants that thrive from the sun and the moisture in the air). The Center's colleagues and gardeners will be on hand to share growing tips and advice with newer green thumbs.

The requested donation is \$1-6 per plant. Proceeds from the event will benefit programs that serve adults with intellectual disabilities.

"Offering opportunities to interact with nature is one of the many innovative ways that we at Pittsburgh Mercy promote whole-person well-being, healthy lifestyle behaviors, and community inclusion for the persons we serve," stated [Jeff Bisdee](#), program supervisor at Pittsburgh Mercy's Alternative Training & Employment Center. "Our participants take great pride in nurturing the young plants from seeds and cuttings, watching them bud and grow, and seeing others enjoy the fruits of their efforts."

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Gardening and other nature-related programs help promote multiple dimensions of well-being. Gardening offers a stimulating environment, increases physical activity, encourages social integration, and promotes emotional well-being by improving mood and behavior.

For a fourth consecutive year, gardeners from Pittsburgh Mercy will work alongside first responders to plant and care for a community garden at City of Pittsburgh EMS Medic 9 & Rescue 1 Station at 836 South Millvale Avenue in Bloomfield, a half-block away from the Center, noted Bisdee. Past harvests from the garden have been used to prepare healthy snacks for Center participants.

"The gardeners really enjoy getting out and giving back to the community," stated Bisdee. "People also tend to appreciate and enjoy the food more when they've grown it themselves."

For more information about the 4th Annual Blooming on Baum Plant Sale, please contact [Jeff Bisdee](#) at 412-661-8916.

About Pittsburgh Mercy

[Pittsburgh Mercy](#), a member of [Trinity Health](#), serving in the tradition of the [Sisters of Mercy](#), is a person-centered, population-based, trauma-informed community health and wellness provider. Pittsburgh Mercy is one of the largest employers and the only Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh Mercy includes Bethlehem Haven, McAuley Ministries, Pittsburgh Mercy Behavioral Health, Pittsburgh Mercy Community Health, Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services, Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program, Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net®, and Pittsburgh Mercy Family Health Center. Together, these Pittsburgh Mercy programs and their 1,700 employees serve more than 33,000 individuals annually at more than 60 locations in Southwestern Pennsylvania. To learn more about Pittsburgh Mercy or to make a donation in support of its important work in the community, visit www.pittsburghmercy.org.

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