



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PITTSBURGH MERCY'S OPERATION SAFETY NET
TO OPEN WINTER SHELTERS NOV. 15
FOR PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

***Both locations to follow U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
& Allegheny County Health Department COVID-19 guidance and safety protocols***

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (November 10, 2020) – [Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net](#), [Pittsburgh Mercy's](#) award-winning outreach program for persons in Allegheny County who are experiencing homelessness, will open the Winter Shelters for vulnerable persons in Allegheny County who are experiencing homelessness. The Winter Shelters will open for the season on Sunday, November 15, 2020, and will operate from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. seven days a week in two locations again this year:

- **Men's Winter Shelter:** [Smithfield United Church of Christ](#), 620 Smithfield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219 in Downtown
- **Women's Winter Shelter:** [Shepherd's Heart Fellowship and Veteran's Home](#), 13 Pride St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219 in Uptown.

Both of the locations will adhere to public health guidance and safety protocols set forth by the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Allegheny County Health Department](#). If needed, additional capacity will be directed to other homeless service providers or to the Allegheny County Safe Haven Hotel.

For the safety of persons served, only persons served, Winter Shelter staff, and clinical volunteers will be permitted inside the shelter. Housing, behavioral health, and other referrals and linkages will take place remotely by videoconference.

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Meal service will be provided by [Community Kitchen Pittsburgh](#). Meals will be pre-packaged and served grab-and-go style.

Participants will also have access to showers and laundry.

The Winter Shelters are funded in part by grants from [Allegheny County Department of Human Services](#); a City of Pittsburgh Emergency Solutions Grant; the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act); [Highmark BlueCross BlueShield](#); and the [United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania Emergency Food and Shelter Program](#). Additional support comes from [Pittsburgh Mercy](#), [Smithfield United Church of Christ](#), [Shepherd's Heart Fellowship and Veteran's Home](#), as well as through the generosity of donors.

To refer an individual for services, please send them directly to the Winter Shelters during operating hours, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

To make a monetary donation in support of the Winter Shelters, please visit [Pittsburgh Mercy's website](#) and click the [Give](#) button at the top of the page. To make a donation by phone, please call [Michelle Mooney](#) at 412-697-0730. To make a donation by mail, please enclose a check payable to "Pittsburgh Mercy" and mail to Pittsburgh Mercy, Attention: Development Office, 1200 Reedsdale St., Third Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15233-2109. Please be sure to note "Winter Shelters" on the memo line.

To donate gifts in-kind, including new socks, coats, hats, gloves, and boots, and personal hygiene kits, please schedule an appointment. Contact [Maura Wallace](#) or [Caitlin O'Brien](#) at 412-232-5739. Important: Due to COVID, please do not bring items to the Winter Shelters.

For more information, please call Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net at 412-689-6565 or 412-263-2545.

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About Pittsburgh Mercy

[Pittsburgh Mercy](#) is a person-centered, population-based, trauma-informed community health and wellness provider and the region's only [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic \(CCBHC\)](#). We reach out and offer help – and hope – to some of our community's most vulnerable populations: people who have physical and behavioral health challenges; intellectual disabilities; and people who are experiencing addiction, homelessness, abuse, and other forms of trauma. Our mission is to be a compassionate and transforming, healing presence within our communities. Pittsburgh Mercy is a member of [Trinity Health](#) and serves in the tradition of the [Sisters of Mercy](#). With annual operating revenue of \$110 million, Pittsburgh Mercy is one of the largest health and human service nonprofit organizations and employers in Southwestern Pennsylvania. We serve more than 33,000 people annually in 60+ locations and employ 1,400 colleagues. For more information or to make a donation in support of our mission, please visit www.pittsburghmercy.org.