Progress and spirits are blooming at Glen Hazel!

A limestone walking path, koi pond, new landscaping, refurbished garden beds, lighting for the gazebo, and a picnic table are some of the recent enhancements to Pittsburgh Mercy’s Glen Hazel Extended Acute Care facility, thanks to a generous grant from McAuley Ministries. The facility’s three-quarter-acre Emanon Garden now provides even more opportunities for residents to actively connect with the natural environment.

“We’re committed to including the horticulture component into our programming,” said Thom Shaneyfelt, a clinician at Glen Hazel who leads the gardening efforts. “It’s part of the valuable therapeutic work we do in our mental health residential program. As residents participate in everything from planting to harvesting, it helps build hope and optimism – two key aspects in successful, evidence-based recovery outcomes.”

During their stays, which can range from a few weeks to 180 days, residents find that the garden and gardening tasks provide benefits like better health from physical exercise and a sense of purpose and accomplishment. And, as they tend the gardens, fill the bird feeders, and feed the goldfish, residents share experiences and knowledge while also learning how to utilize the outdoor space to cope with various symptoms and daily stressors, Shaneyfelt said. “Because it’s a collaborative, communal activity, gardening helps to foster socialization and communication while building a positive therapeutic rapport.”

Glen Hazel is one of 18 behavioral health residential programs operated by Pittsburgh Mercy. These programs include a variety of support and treatment options for those with behavioral health needs, substance use disorders, and mental illness. For example, our Central Recovery Center (CRC) provides short-term residential and supportive care for those with immediate behavioral health needs, while Glen Hazel provides long-term residential and treatment services. Last year, these community-based programs served 548 individuals throughout Allegheny County, providing a safe and caring residential setting while also offering therapeutic care and supportive services to help with life
Ask Congress to Make Affordable, Quality Health Care a Priority

Now through September 2, Pittsburgh Mercy and Trinity Health are running an advocacy campaign asking Congress to support policies that expand affordable, value-based health care programs and demand fair payment for providers.

Why is this important? A few facts:

- **The current fee-for-service model is outdated.** Yet commercial insurers, including those participating with Medicare Advantage, have been slow to shift to payment models that reward providers fairly for delivering value-based care.
- **Commercial insurers routinely set up barriers to timely and fair payment.** They often unexpectedly change the rules to deny or decrease payment, resulting in delayed care and higher administrative costs.
- **Health care systems and social service organizations need fair payment** as they work to recover from COVID-19 financial losses, rebuild the workforce, and prepare for the next pandemic.

To make health care affordable for all and significantly improve community health, we must embrace new health care payment models that reimburse for the total cost of care and hold providers accountable. As a leader in value-based care, Pittsburgh Mercy knows that total cost-of-care models improve patient health by focusing on quality outcomes and innovation, *not* quantity.

*Take action today and make your voice heard!* Visit this [link](#) to urge Congress to prioritize affordable, high-value health care for all.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all of our generous donors for supporting Operation Safety Net.
during The Pittsburgh Foundation's #ONEDAY. We met our goal: $7,603 in support of homeless services!