

MAY 2023



## DONOR CONNECTION

### **Making An Impact!**

#### ***Six Months of Progress at Second Avenue Commons***

Since its opening last November, Second Avenue Commons has made a significant positive impact on our city and region. Managed by Pittsburgh Mercy, the Commons is a unique year-round 'low-barrier' shelter that provides comprehensive services to those experiencing homelessness, helping them move toward wellness, greater independence, and permanent housing.

The Commons represents a monumental step to address the growing demand for shelter services in our community. The facility builds on Pittsburgh Mercy's extensive experience serving those who face homelessness – including 20 years managing the Severe Weather Shelter at Smithfield United Church of Christ and more than 30 years running Operation Safety Net that provides Street Medicine and Outreach services.

*“As the number of people who experience homelessness continues to rise in our communities, we are grateful to have this unique location which provides a hub for a variety of services that work to improve both health and wellness as people move toward permanent housing,”* said **Michael Turk**, vice president of community & wellness services at Pittsburgh Mercy.



LOW BARRIER SHELTER  
AND ENGAGEMENT CENTER

## Second Avenue Commons

### Our Six-Month Scorecard

(NOV. 2022 - APRIL 2023)

#### MEETING BASIC NEEDS



**281** total persons served in year-round shelter,  
**527** people served in winter overflow shelter



**37,400** meals served at the shelter (240 per day average)



**85** people per day average used the Engagement Center for meals, showers, laundry, and mail pick-up



**576** meals provided to pets staying with their owners at the shelter

#### LINKAGE TO CARE



**213** connected to primary care services at UPMC Second Avenue Commons Health Center



**115** connected to behavioral health services.



**18** people moved into permanent housing



**176** individuals connected to treatment for substance use disorder

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### Celebrating Dr. Withers' 30 Year Anniversary!

On Friday, May 26, Pittsburgh Mercy colleagues, friends, clients, and community

members came together to celebrate Dr. Withers' 30 years of providing care to those who experience homelessness and the life-saving work of Street Medicine.

The event included food from the Scorch Garden's Food Truck, homemade cookies, games, and many stories shared by patients and those who worked or currently work with Dr. Withers. In addition, Dr. Withers was presented with a tribute scrapbook that captured many of these stories, photos, and memories. We are so honored to have Dr. Withers' leadership at Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net and are grateful for his continued work in our community.



*Dr. Withers with his colleagues from Operation Safety Net.*



*Dr. Withers taking a peak at the many photos, stories, and memories shared in his scrapbook.*

**Want to make a donation in honor of Dr. Withers? Click [here](#).**



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