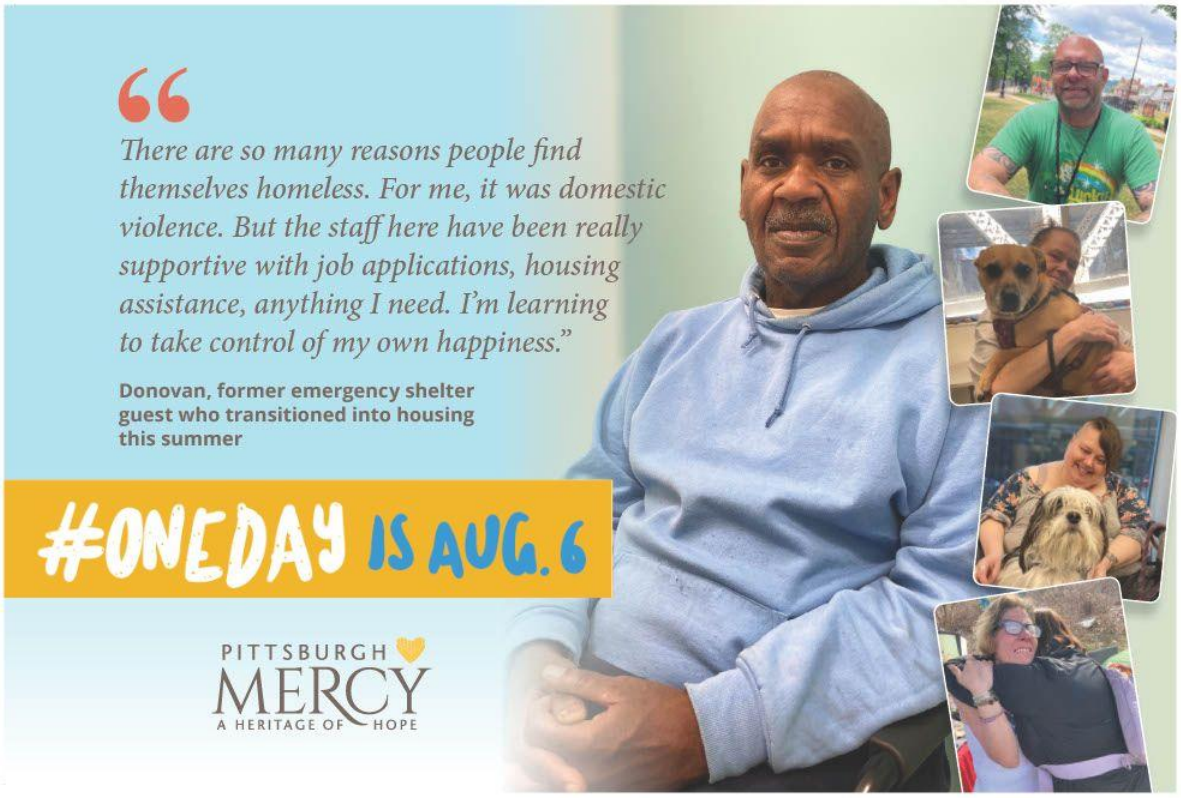
July 2024

DONOR Connection

PITTSBURGH MERCY
A HERITAGE OF HOPE

#ONEDAY: The Best Time to Support Pittsburgh Mercy's Homeless Services



On Tuesday, August 6, 2024, is **The Pittsburgh Foundation's annual #ONEDAY Critical Needs Alert**, a one-day online giving campaign to help local organizations meet basic needs and provide essential services to some of our community's most vulnerable people. Pittsburgh Mercy's homeless services, including Operation Safety Net (OSN), are part of the #ONEDAY campaign.

Why give during #ONEDAY?

Every gift made during the August 6 campaign activates a prorated matching gift from The Pittsburgh Foundation. That means your donation goes further—translating to more resources for Pittsburgh Mercy.

Mark your calendars for August 6 and help Pittsburgh Mercy provide more help and healing to the far-too-many individuals experiencing homelessness and housing instability in the Pittsburgh area.

Here's how you can help:

- On August 6, go to Pittsburgh Mercy's Critical Needs Alert webpage **HERE** to make your gift. No amount is too small to make a difference—especially with the match!
- Share **Pittsburgh Mercy #ONEDAY** links on your social media accounts to spread the word about this once-a-year giving opportunity.
- Forward this newsletter to your family, friends, and professional networks to raise awareness and encourage others to participate.

Thank you in advance!

Pittsburgh Mercy's Emergency Shelter offers care to all, including our guests' beloved pets.

When Debby moved from Georgia back to Pittsburgh, she struggled to find a job as an elementary school teacher.

Her struggles became more acute when she was hospitalized with a blood infection.

After leaving the hospital and reuniting with her dog, Baxter, she sought relief at Second Avenue Common's overflow shelter in February 2024. "When I was coming down here," Debby recalls, "I didn't know how I was going to feed him."

"Since I was a little kid, I've always had the belief that pets haven't done anything to be in a position like this," Debby says of her difficult situation. "So, I always feed him before me. I've gone without food, but I made sure he ate. That was my prime concern. And then when I got here, it just snowed puppy love!"

After the fire at Second Avenue Commons, Debby was reunited with Baxter and provided with everything she needed to keep Baxter well cared for at the temporary shelter locations. With pet supply support and some friends at the shelter who offered to watch Baxter while she is away, Debby has been able to find a new job. She is excited to be in a position where she can better care for herself and Baxter.

"I am so grateful for the care shown to me and my dog Baxter before and after the fire at Second Avenue Commons. He's been thriving here, and that of course has allowed me to thrive as well."

A Truly Generous Steeler

Earlier this month, Pittsburgh Steeler Alex Highsmith brought both star power and incredible generosity to our temporary shelter at the gymnasium in our Reedsdale Street location. More than 100 guests were thrilled to receive t-shirts, sweatpants, and backpacks from Dick's Sporting Goods, along with a delicious catered meal served by Alex and his wife Alyssa—providing a wonderful respite for people who were displaced by the fire at Second Avenue Commons. **Thank you, Alex, for your kindness and community spirit!**

Want to join Alex in making life a little easier for these struggling individuals? Cash donations are still urgently needed during the transition as Second Avenue Commons is repaired. Make your donation **HERE**

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