November 2024

DONOR Connection

PITTSBURGH MERCY
A HERITAGE OF HOPE

# Reopening of Second Avenue Commons!

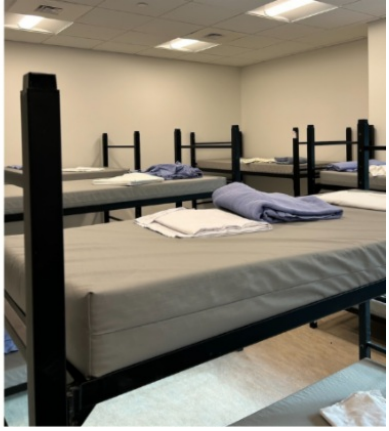
Five months after a three-alarm fire disrupted operations, 92 individuals and their pets were delighted to be welcomed back home to Second Avenue Commons on October 28. Pittsburgh Mercy colleagues and guests are grateful to return to this uniquely designed, low-barrier shelter, where we continue providing shelter services, meals, showers, case management, and access to medical and behavioral health services that are so critical for these vulnerable individuals.

Pittsburgh Mercy colleagues stop for photo during move back day.

While repairs were underway, Pittsburgh Mercy stepped up to provide an interim solution at our Reedsdale Street location. “It was a challenging time, but we’re very proud of being able to offer temporary shelter and ensure that the move-back day went smoothly for our shelter guests,” said **Mike Turk**, vice president of community wellness services. “The guests showed incredible strength, resilience, and patience during the entire transition.”

On November 15, the overflow operations at Second Avenue Commons reopened, providing capacity for up to 40 additional guests who are unsheltered and need a warm, safe place to stay.

Homelessness is often rooted in complex causes like trauma, unexpected losses, and health challenges. Second Avenue Commons remains a cornerstone of Pittsburgh Mercy’s 70+ year commitment to guiding individuals toward housing security and healthier lives.



## Join Us for #Giving Tuesday

On December 3, Pittsburgh Mercy invites you to join us for **#GivingTuesday**, a global day of giving and gratitude. Together, we can bring hope, healing, and joy to those in our community most in need.

Your support can be life-changing. Every donation enables us to support those experiencing homelessness, struggling with mental health challenges, or living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Whether it's through our low-barrier shelter at Second Avenue Commons, behavioral health programs, or Operation Safety Net's street medicine program, your gift empowers people to build healthier, more resilient lives.

This year, the need is greater than ever. The number of homeless individuals in Allegheny County is on the rise, and the holidays can be especially hard when dealing with anxiety, depression, or substance use disorders. Every donation, large or small, makes a difference, bringing compassionate care to someone in crisis and reminding them they are not alone.

Visit Pittsburgh Mercy to make your gift today or find us at Give Big Pittsburgh. Together, we can spread hope this holiday season. ***Thank you!***

## With Grateful Hearts

This Thanksgiving, we at Pittsburgh Mercy are filled with gratitude for our incredible supporters. Your generosity—whether through donations, time, or talents—touches the lives of those we serve every day. Because of you, individuals experiencing homelessness find warmth and shelter, those facing health challenges receive compassionate care, and vulnerable neighbors rediscover hope.

Thank you for being part of our mission and community. Your kindness and compassion embody the true spirit of Thanksgiving—sharing abundance and uplifting one another. Together, we're building a brighter future for all.

***Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and blessed Thanksgiving!***

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