**November 2025**

# DONOR Connection

PITTSBURGH MERCY
A HERITAGE OF HOPE

## Giving Tuesday Countdown: 7 Days

It's that time of year again! ***Giving Tuesday***, the biggest annual international day of giving, is one week away, and Pittsburgh Mercy needs your support now more than ever.

Healthcare and human services organizations are under unprecedented strain. Changes to Medicaid coverage, which 80% of the people we serve rely on, will dramatically impact their health care access.

At the same time, the need for care continues to grow. More people are turning to us in crisis with untreated illnesses, mental health struggles, and no safe place to sleep.

At Pittsburgh Mercy, we're committed to showing up for people in moments of isolation, fear, and uncertainty with compassion, dignity, and the unwavering belief that everyone deserves quality care, no matter their circumstances.

That's where you come in. We depend on your support to continue doing this work. Every donation makes a difference:

- $25 provides food and other pet supplies for guests with pets at Pittsburgh Mercy's emergency and overflow shelters.
- $50 purchases wound care and medications for those experiencing homelessness.
- $200 supports outings for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- $500 provides a day of street medical care for those experiencing homelessness.

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, December 2**, and help make Giving Tuesday 2025 a day full of community, compassion, and hope.

Visit our Giving Tuesday Profile

# For Mark, Pittsburgh Mercy's Family Health Center is More Than a Primary Care Provider

From left: Darnay Simmons, medical assistant; Mark, patient; Kara Peterson, nurse practioner; and Ronald Moran, community health worker. Moran, Simmons, and Peterson are the core of Mark's care team at Pittsburgh Mercy's Family Health Center.

Upon release from a decades-long prison sentence, Mark had nowhere to go and no one to turn to for help re-entering society. Without a network of support, and hoping to avoid a crowded shelter environment, he had been homeless for years, moving from one temporary location to the next as the need arose. Meanwhile, he suffered chronic illness related to years of rough living, mental health struggles, and substance use disorder.

Mark was able to connect with Pittsburgh Mercy's Family Health Center in 2022, where he has since become a regular patient. His trust in the Family Health Center has proven particularly crucial in the last year. After undergoing abdominal surgery, Mark was diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer and given a year to live. His surgery left him dependent on a colostomy bag, which he struggled to manage while homeless and battling several chronic health conditions. At first, his only option for help changing the bag was at emergency rooms, which he would visit several times a week—sometimes daily—to meet this need.

To better serve Mark and encourage good stewardship of the medical system, Mark's care team at the Family Health Center stepped up to provide him with the care and dignity he deserves: his primary care provider secured a month-long stay at Bethlehem Haven's

medical respite program; a medical assistant learned how to change colostomy bags in order to handle that at Mark's twice-weekly appointments at the Family Health Center; and a community health worker regularly transports Mark to and from his appointments and continues to help him meet basic needs such as clothing, obtaining social security disability benefits, and securing permanent housing.

More than a year after his diagnosis, Mark continues to rally, thanks to the support of Pittsburgh Mercy's Family Health Center. Of his care team, Mark says, "They're the best. They're the only family I've got."

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## Congratulations, Maisie Taibbi, RN, Named to Pittsburgh's 40 Under 40 Class of 2025

From left: Maisie Taibbi, Danielle Schnauber Jones, and Dr. Jack Todd Wahrenberger attend the reception celebrating *Pittsburgh Magazine* and *PUMP* 2025 40 Under 40 honorees.

Pittsburgh Mercy is proud to share that Maisie Taibbi, RN, a behavioral health nurse on the Operation Safety Net (OSN) team, has been named to the *Pittsburgh Magazine* and *PUMP* **40 Under 40 Class of 2025**.

Now in its 27th year, the program recognizes emerging leaders across the region who demonstrate exceptional professional achievement and a deep commitment to community service. This year's class was selected from more than 250 nominations by an independent panel of business, nonprofit, health care, and community leaders.

### A Leader in Street Medicine and Compassionate Care

Taibbi is known throughout Pittsburgh Mercy and the region for her dedication to serving individuals experiencing homelessness. In her role with OSN, she supports physicians, nurse practitioners, and psychiatrists during street rounds and shelter visits, providing wound care, medical assessments, and skilled behavioral health support.

Taibbi's journey with Pittsburgh Mercy began in 2019 in our low-barrier winter shelter. She joined OSN as an outreach worker the following year and was in school to earn her degree in nursing, driven by a desire to expand the care she could provide. She later transitioned to OSN as a nurse in 2023, bringing clinical precision, empathy, and a strong voice of advocacy to the team.

Dr. Jack Todd Wahrenberger, chief medical officer at Pittsburgh Mercy and one of Taibbi's 40 Under 40 co-nominators, shared that he has had the privilege of working alongside her for the past seven years in street medicine. "I can say without hesitation that she is one of the most gifted, courageous, and compassionate individuals I've encountered in my career."

"Maisie has a rare and remarkable ability to walk beside the most vulnerable individuals

regardless of age, race, gender, or appearance, and instantly creates a space where trust and dignity can emerge," said Dr. Wahrenberger. "I've watched her enter encampments under bridges and highway overpasses and immediately engage those living there with warmth, respect, and a listening ear. It's not just a skill, it's a superpower."

According to Dr. Wahrenberger, what truly distinguishes Taibbi is her character. She leads with honesty and integrity, shows up with perseverance and grace, and brings hope to people and places where it is often in short supply. "She embodies what it means to offer presence over judgment and accompaniment over solutions," he said.

Danielle Schnauber Jones, an OSN nurse practitioner and co-nominator for Taibbi's 40 Under 40 honor, said when she started at OSN in 2021, Taibbi quickly became her mentor for compassion on the streets.

"Maisie has a vast knowledge of how to navigate trauma and how to interact with others on their hardest days with grace and humility. I am still in constant awe for how she makes every person in front of her the priority," said Schnauber Jones.

She explained that Taibbi makes individuals feel heard and seen in their darkest, most difficult moments, and brings a safe space to those around her, not just persons served but colleagues as well.

"Maisie embodies truth and being present to those she cares for. I feel incredibly blessed to work alongside someone with such a beautiful spirit," said Schnauber Jones.
Taibbi's recognition as a 40 Under 40 honoree is a celebration not only of her achievements, but of the values she lives every day: compassion, courage, equity, and respect.

***Congratulations, Maisie, on this outstanding accomplishment! Thank you for the extraordinary care and humanity you bring to our community.***

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## Volunteer at Pittsburgh Mercy

At Pittsburgh Mercy, our volunteers provide a truly meaningful and enriching experience for community members in need. ***Thank you to our compassionate and inspiring volunteers!***

Would ***you*** like to make a difference in the lives of the thousands of people served by our programs? Pittsburgh Mercy offers numerous ways to get involved.
**Consider these volunteer opportunities:**

- Serving food at Second Avenue Commons.
- Hosting a sporting event watch party at a behavioral health residential program.
- Making arts and crafts at our adult day programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Making PB&J sandwiches for persons served at Pittsburgh Mercy's Engagement Center at Second Avenue Commons.
- Sorting donated clothing and basic hygiene supplies for people experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, or other crises.

For more details or to sign up, contact Pittsburgh Mercy's Volunteer and Engagement Coordinator Brendan Copp at **Brendan.Copp@pittsburghmercy.org** or 412-897-8822.

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