March 2026

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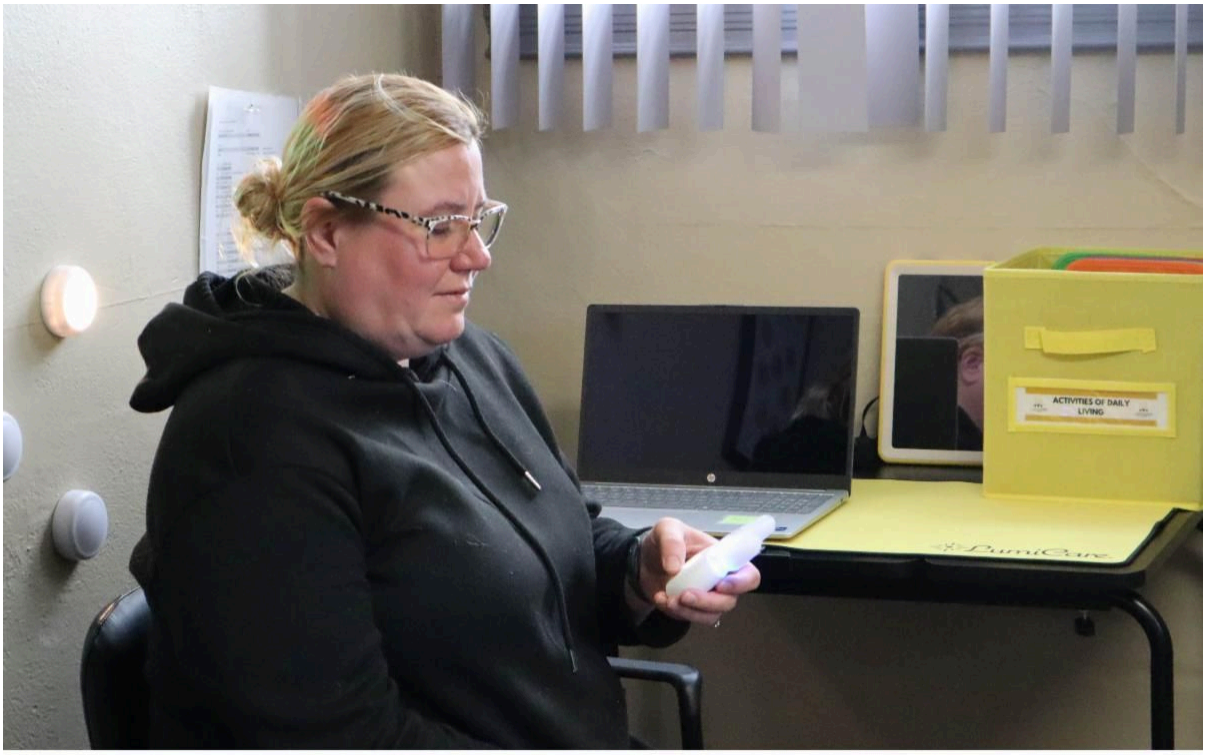
Building a Digital Bridge Toward Independence



Senior Manager for IDD Services Stacy Fitzgerald checks out the electric U-shaped toothbrush, which can be a more friendly dental hygiene option for individuals who find more traditional toothbrush options unpleasant, uncomfortable, or even painful.

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month, and Pittsburgh Mercy is excited to once again announce a partnership with LumiCare, a Pittsburgh-based human services company that connects people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to the technologies that can help them lead safer and more independent lives. Our previous partnership focused on assessing those in our intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) programs to identify where technologies could be used to enhance an individual's quality of life.

Thanks to generous foundation funding, LumiCare and Pittsburgh Mercy have brought the **Digital Bridge Technology Hub** to our Beechview Adult Day Program. It features a suite of LumiCare technology that allows individuals throughout our IDD services and their caregivers to try a range of tools that can be integrated into their day-to-day lives.

“People—our individuals and their caregivers—didn’t really know what was available,” said Gail B. Quigley Smith, senior manager of IDD services. “There are a lot of things these tech devices can help us manage that people may not realize are available. Until you know what’s out there, it’s hard to know what you might want.”

Designed to be hands-on, accessible, skills-focused, and sustainable, the Digital Bridge Technology Hub has seven stations, each with a specific skillset or focus area:

- Health & Safety
- Communication
- Social Components
- Activities of Daily Living
- Sensory
- Exploration
- Community

Here, individuals can “test drive” technology without the expensive upfront investment. More than simply a room with cool tech to explore, the Hub will have regularly scheduled trainings for users as well as on-call support from LumiCare’s RESNA-certified assistive-technology experts, who ensure the tools are working properly, troubleshoot any issues, and cater to individual needs. That's what makes the Hub truly accessible: the support that goes into learning and implementing new technologies into the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, many of whom also have physical disabilities.

Once individuals decide where and how to utilize technology as a means of living as independently as possible, they can access Medicaid funds specifically allocated for assistive technology to pay for their own personal technology devices or upgrades.

“LumiCare is honored to partner with organizations like Pittsburgh Mercy. Their team’s dedication to providing high-quality, person-centered support is evident from the moment you walk into their program center,” said LumiCare CEO Shaleea Shields. “You can truly feel the care and commitment that goes into their services. We have greatly enjoyed collaborating on the creation of the Digital Bridge Technology Hub and are grateful to support their incredible work.”

“We’re excited for our individuals to be exposed to a variety of assistive technologies that have the potential to really enhance their quality of life,” said Quigley Smith.

Brewed with Purpose: 50% of Every Bag Sold Goes to Pittsburgh Mercy

There’s still time to *sip for a cause* with three exclusive coffee and tea blends created just for Pittsburgh Mercy, in partnership with local family-owned business Prestogeorge. **Now through March 31,** enjoy specialty blends that taste great and do good!

Compassionately Caffeinated—A Pittsburgh Mercy Coffee

Unflavored, Medium-Roast
Smooth, mild, sweet, notes of chocolate-covered fruit

Compassion in Every Cup—An Irish Blend (it's Second to Nun!)

Flavored, Medium-Roast

Irish Cream, Butterscotch, Vanilla, and Salted Caramel

Steeped in Mercy—A Pittsburgh Mercy Herbal Tea

Caffeine-Free, Herbal Loose-Leaf Tea
Bursting with red berry and cherry, sweet and tart

Purchase your blends at **Prestogeorge's retail shop** in Pittsburgh's Strip District or **order online for shipping anywhere across the continental U.S.**

These limited blends brighten any morning and make thoughtful and meaningful gifts for friends and loved ones. Share this give-back opportunity with others – and **thank you for pouring hope into Pittsburgh Mercy programs and the people we serve!**

Scan the QR code or click the button below to go directly to the Give Back website!

Buy Coffee & Tea

THANK YOU for Supporting the 2026 Coldest Night of the Year

On an unusually warm and beautiful winter afternoon, 143 participants joined Pittsburgh Mercy and Bethlehem Haven for the 2026 Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) walk, which raises awareness and support for our neighbors facing homelessness, hunger, or other hardships. Thanks to your partnership, we **exceeded our fundraising goal**, raising over **$25,100!** These funds go directly toward shelter, food, and other resources for those in our city who need it the most.

The CNOY walk kicked off with opening remarks from Carlos Flores, WTAE reporter, and Jaime Dircksen, Pittsburgh Mercy President & CEO. Pittsburgh mascots AMO (the Riverhounds SC) and Steely McBeam (the Steelers) got the crowd excited and cheered walkers on at the start and finish lines! After walking one or three miles along the North Shore, walkers were able to enjoy a light meal of soup, bread, and desserts. Throughout the event, they also had the opportunity to learn more about Pittsburgh Mercy and Bethlehem Haven, choose fun swag, and purchase raffle tickets for prizes generously donated by local businesses.

We're thankful for the event sponsorships and in-kind donations from Mosites Construction & Development Company, The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, The Pittsburgh Steelers, Eat'n Park, Starbucks Coffee, Mancini's Bread, Cakes for Care, The National Aviary, The Pittsburgh Pirates, Kendra Scott Jewelry, The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, and The Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC.

This event was successful because of you! Thank you for showing up, for giving, and for spending the afternoon with us. ***Save the date for CNOY 2027: Saturday, February 27, 2027!***

Volunteer with 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 sports event watch party at a behavioral health residential program.
- Creating fun 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.

Donate Now

Pittsburgh Mercy | 1200 Reedsdale St | Pittsburgh, PA 15233 US

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