April 2026

DONOR Connection

PITTSBURGH MERCY
A HERITAGE OF HOPE

Recognizing Our Amazing Volunteers!

At Pittsburgh Mercy, volunteers make our mission possible. Their ongoing dedication and generosity strengthen our connection with both the individuals we serve and the broader Pittsburgh community.

On Sunday, April 19, we were pleased to host a volunteer appreciation event to recognize their efforts. More than 60 volunteers attended. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jack Todd Wahrenberger gave a beautiful opening prayer before inviting everyone to enjoy the delicious food catered by eLLe's Taste. After lunch, Mission Leader Bill Connolly; VP of Community and Wellness Services Mike Turk; and Operation Safety Net Founder and Street Medicine Program Director Dr. Jim Withers expressed their gratitude and shared insights into the very real impact volunteers have.

The event gave attendees a chance to connect with volunteers doing similar work and find a sense of community in their volunteerism. Some groups, many representing religious organizations, have been making meals for Pittsburgh Mercy and Bethlehem Haven for decades, while others got involved more recently. Being able to meet and talk with like-

minded people was a great opportunity, while also learning more about our programs through a fun Pittsburgh Mercy and Bethlehem Haven trivia game.

More than **300 people** volunteered with Pittsburgh Mercy this past year. Since July 2025, these wonderful community groups and individuals have contributed more than **13,000 meals**, an additional **$45,000 of in-kind donations**, and more than **1,300 hours** to our mission. By providing home-cooked meals, clothes, and a friendly supportive presence, volunteers bring dignity and respect to the people we serve—many of whom lack any other support.

“Pittsburgh Mercy and Bethlehem Haven focus on community health, and our volunteers make that a reality every day,” said Mr. Connolly. “I’m reminded of the quote from Mahatma Gandhi: *‘The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.’* We’re truly blessed to have this incredible level of support.”

Here's how some volunteers describe their reasons for serving:
“Seeing the smiles on the faces, the level of appreciation, and feeding the souls of individuals in these spaces.”

“Volunteering with Pittsburgh Mercy and Bethlehem Haven is a great place to bring a diversity of resources to individuals--food, clothes, crafts, personal items, conversations, time, the list continues. The door is open for you, too...”

“Everyone deserves kindness, everyone deserves to feel cared for, and everyone deserves to feel like they matter. This is a chance to let people know they aren't alone.”

Thanks to everyone who attended the event and to all of our volunteers! If you’d like to get involved, contact our Volunteer and Engagement Coordinator Brendan Copp at **412-897-8822** or email **Brendan.Copp@pittsburghmercy.org**.

Volunteers and staff at Pittsburgh Mercy and Bethlehem Haven get together for a group photo at the 2026 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Come Work With Us!

At the volunteer luncheon, we announced that we are looking to hire a new volunteer and engagement coordinator. Want to make a tangible impact in the lives of people experiencing hardships in our community?

Learn more about the role here

Sip, Sip, Hooray!

We are excited to share that our March fundraiser with **Prestogeorge Coffee & Tea** raised **over $2,200** for Pittsburgh Mercy programs! That represents about 260 units sold and more than 10,000 cups of coffee and tea to be enjoyed. Your support helped make this a real success!

We hope to continue building partnerships with local businesses and offering similar give-back opportunities across our organization. If you have ideas for future fundraisers or partnerships, contact Jen Spratt in the Pittsburgh Mercy Development Office at **412-240-7573** or email to **jennifer.spratt@pittsburghmercy.org**.

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**.

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