



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACTS: Linda K. Ross
Director of Communications
Pittsburgh Mercy
412-578-6224
LRoss@pittsburghmercy.org

Zandy Dudiak
Communications Coordinator
Pittsburgh Mercy
412-578-6442
ZDudiak@pittsburghmercy.org

**PITTSBURGH MERCY'S NATURE-RELATED PROGRAMMING
TO HOST HARVEST FESTIVAL AT GARDEN VIEW MANOR IN WILKINSBURG**
Public invited to participate in free, family-oriented community event

PITTSBURGH (September 20, 2016) – [Pittsburgh Mercy's](http://PittsburghMercy.org) Nature-Related Programming invites the community to attend its inaugural Harvest Festival. The family-friendly event, free and open to the public, will be held rain or shine on Saturday, October 22, 2016, from noon to 4 p.m., at Pittsburgh Mercy Garden View Manor, 441 Swissvale Avenue, in Wilkinsburg.

Participants of all ages will enjoy family-friendly activities, lawn games, and several creative art projects, including painting inspirational garden rocks, decorating wooden pallet garden benches and rain barrels, and crafting butterflies from recycled soda bottles. Although the garden benches and rain barrels will remain at Garden View Manor, participants will be able to take home any inspirational garden rocks and soda bottle butterflies they create.

Weather-permitting, participants can also learn about and take part in a garlic seed planting activity. Green thumbs of all abilities can get free autumn and winter garden advice from Penn State Master Gardeners at the "Ask the Gardener" table. Kaeryn Silvera of Rosebay Ridge and her animal friends will be on hand to discuss the environmental benefits of goats – no kid-ding!

For a small suggested donation, participants can pick a pumpkin from Garden View Manor's pumpkin patch, one of only a few known urban pumpkin patches. Garden View Manor residents, who participate in Pittsburgh Mercy's Nature-Related Programming, have grown more than 100 pumpkins this season that range in size and color. Pumpkins are available first come, first served and while supplies last. Participants will also be able to learn more about the continued efforts to revitalize the gardens at Garden View Manor.

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Pittsburgh Mercy's Nature-Related Programming to host Harvest Festival Oct. 22 in Wilkinsburg

Page 2 of 2

Pittsburgh-based musical duo Tone/Overtone, featuring flutist Rachel Rue and accordionist Keith Cochran, will entertain guests from noon to 2 p.m. The duo's musical repertoire encompasses genres ranging from French folk and cabaret to tangos and popular American music from the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries, Greek music, fiddle tunes, old-style country, and gospel.

Light refreshments will be served. No R.S.V.P. is necessary.

Garden View Manor is home to 56 residents served by Pittsburgh Mercy since 2008. Erected in 1869 and set on 4.7 bucolic acres, the 4 ½-story Italianate-style building and its elaborate gardens will be featured September 24 as part of the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation's 4th Annual House & Garden Tour.

Nature-Related Programming is a recovery-oriented, therapeutic Pittsburgh Mercy program that promotes holistic wellness, healthy lifestyle behavior, and community inclusion through gardening. Numerous published studies have shown that being exposed to nature can increase authentic social integration and improve a person's overall quality of life. Pittsburgh Mercy is integrating Nature-Related Programming across its many programs and services, benefiting hundreds of individuals of all types of abilities.

The Harvest Festival is the second community event that Pittsburgh Mercy Nature-Related Programming has hosted at Garden View Manor in as many years. Last summer, residents hosted an ice cream social and garden dedication, which included a blessing of the gardens and self-guided tours. More than 300 people participated.

For more information about the Harvest Festival, contact [Benjamin Bishop](#), coordinator of Nature-Related Programming at Pittsburgh Mercy, at BBishop@pittsburghmercy.org or 412-342-4633.

About Pittsburgh Mercy

[Pittsburgh Mercy](#), a part of [Trinity Health](#), serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, is one of the largest health and human service nonprofit organizations and is also one of the largest employers in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh Mercy includes Bethlehem Haven, McAuley Ministries, Mercy Behavioral Health, Mercy Community Health, Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services, Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, Operation Safety Net®, and Pittsburgh Mercy Family Health Center. Together, these Pittsburgh Mercy programs and their 1,700 employees serve more than 33,000 individuals annually at 60+ locations in Southwestern Pennsylvania. To learn more about [Pittsburgh Mercy](#), or to make a donation in support of its important work in the community, visit www.pittsburghmercy.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: To cover this event, please contact [Linda K. Ross](#) or [Zandy Dudiak](#) in advance.

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