



## Your support on August 6th unlocks matching funds

Save the date! Last year your participation in the Pittsburgh Foundation's #OneDay day of giving unlocked nearly \$3,000 in additional matching funds.



# Donor Newsletter

Summer 2024

### Proud Partnerships



Each year during the holiday season, we rely on our community to make sure that we are able to provide gifts to the parents and children staying with us. Through our Amazon Wishlist, and by "adopting" a family for the holidays, our supporters make sure that even those experiencing homelessness feel the love of the holiday season.

The Gucci store employees at the Ross Park Mall joined us this year by providing gifts to one of the families in our shelter.

*"We chose Womanspace East because of their focus on supporting families - something we value so much as a team. We wanted to give back during the holidays to give children and families something to celebrate."*

Nora Nee, Gucci Store Director

Would your company, organization, or family like to provide holiday gifts, Easter baskets, or other needed essentials to a family staying with us? You can contact Associate Director Danielle Hunt to learn more at [danielle.hunt@wseinc.org](mailto:danielle.hunt@wseinc.org).

**Womanspace East is currently providing shelter and services to 20 families including 25 adults and 37 children**



[www.wseinc.org](http://www.wseinc.org)

## Shelter kitchen renovation completed with help of donor support and the community



**Before**

**After**

It has been months in the making, but our beautiful new kitchen is finally complete! This new functional space makes it easier for families staying with us to prepare meals together and experience community with others in our communal spaces. Each family has a personal locking shelf to store their own food, or they can always grab what they need from our on-site pantry.

Like in any home, the kitchen is a core space in our shelter. Previously the space was divided into two spaces by a wall which was removed and creates a more comfortable, functional open space.

We take pride in making Womanspace East a place that honors the families we serve and this beautiful improvement does just that.

This is more than a place to stay, it is a space to grow.

Our kitchen renovation was made possible by a grant from PNC Charitable Trusts, Allegheny County, and donors like you.

As you can imagine, the process of completely gutting and renovating our kitchen was a difficult disruption for our residents - as it would be in any home! We are very grateful to our neighbors at HackPGH who had food delivered to the shelter multiple times for our residents.

We aren't done with the improvements yet! Stay tuned as we continue the process of much-needed improvements to our historic building providing shelter to 26 families.





## Volunteers prepared Mother's Day dinner

Every mother deserves to be pampered on Mother's Day. This year, longtime Womanspace East supporter and cook, Davon Magwood, showed up for the mother's in our shelter by preparing them a very special Mother's Day dinner in our new kitchen.

We asked Davon about the experience and why he supports Womanspace East...

*A friend brought Womanspace East to my attention years ago. I usually do Easter Baskets or gifts for Christmas, I'm not sure why I hadn't thought to do a dinner before because I cook and I love to do it.*

*I remember making breakfast in bed for my mom for Mother's Day growing up and she loved it. She ate it even though it was is not*

*very good, being made by a little kid. I wanted to show up the same for these mothers.*

*I know people who have stayed there. I think it is an important place for the community. It's an important safety net, especially when women are trying to escape abusive situations like my mom was in when I was younger. Especially if they have kids, they need a safe place to go.*

We are incredibly thankful to Davon, and to donors like you, who continue to support the important work of providing shelter and support to families of all types experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County.

## Spaces to Grow

At the same time our kitchen was being finished we were busy having nearly 100 windows in our building replaced. The windows were horribly outdated, creating drafts in the winter months and dramatically raising heating costs.

Thanks to a generous grant from McAuley Ministries, and substantial in-kind support from Windows by Anderson our new energy efficient windows are installed.



Executive Director Toni K. Pendleton

"I can't say enough about how much I appreciated the professionalism of the Windows by Anderson crew," says Womanspace East Executive Director Toni K. Pendleton. "They made this process as easy as possible for us." This is one of several projects being funded by McAuley Ministries, who granted Womanspace East our largest grant in our 48 year history last year.

## The good you create



Mary\* was a young mother of one child who had been attacked by her partner and had to leave her home abruptly in the middle of the night. Mary didn't have a job so she had no way to support her family and did not have anyone to watch her child while she worked.

Pending criminal charges excluded her from getting any type of subsidized housing. Because of these obstacles, she started to get very depressed.

After arriving at Womanspace East, Mary received assistance from a case manager and shelter staff.

With Mary's hard work things started to turn around for her. She found a job and worked very hard. She was able to reconnect with a relative who was willing to watch her child while she worked and she proved to the judge that she had changed for the better, so he granted her leniency and dropped her pending criminal charges.

Once her criminal charges were dropped, Mary was able to qualify to get a Section 8 voucher for housing anywhere in Allegheny County. Finally, after a year of searching and working with shelter staff, she found permanent housing for her and her child.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Staunton Farm Foundation 7 Womanspace East employees were able to get certified in Mental Health First Aid this spring.



Mental Health  
FIRST AID

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
MENTAL WELLBEING