

# YOUR *Gifts* at WORK

AWARDED MISSION GRANTS 2022



YOU ARE GIVING HOPE AND HELP.

# Thank you

Awarded Mission Grants 2022 - January 1 - December 31, 2022

Donations to the Home Nursing Agency Foundation impact daily life for our most vulnerable friends and neighbors. These people are facing seasons of life with which we can all identify: health crisis, end of life, grief, pregnancy, and raising children who have special needs. These individuals and families rely on the services of Family Hospice, UPMC Home Healthcare of Central PA, Early Intervention, Pediatric Home Connection, the Healing Patch Children's Grief Program, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) nutrition program, and the AIDS Intervention Project.

## Your support matters.

Throughout 2022, \$181,670 of your support will be used to make a difference for those who call West Central Pennsylvania home, as you can read in the 2022 Mission Grants shared here. Also included are stories of how previous funds have improved life for someone in a difficult season of life. **Your gift is at work giving hope and help.**



## FAMILY HOSPICE

*Physical, emotional, and mental health care for patients with life-limiting illnesses and their caregivers*

**\$31,900** to fund the following:

- emergency funding for patients' utilities, food, medications, and other essential items such as bed sheets
- educational and spiritual materials for patients and caregivers, including large-print resources and pill planners
- stationery and resources to support bereaved family members
- photographer expenses to capture family photos
- life-enrichment opportunities like materials for a hands-on project
- licensed therapists to perform music, massage, and other therapies
- recognition of volunteers for their gifts of time and presence
- American flag blankets for patients who are veterans
- specialized support for widows/widowers
- comfort items for patients receiving inpatient care
- emergency funding for bereaved family members

### *A blooming celebration*

Family Hospice patient Shirley and her husband Ernest marked 72 years of marriage last year. Your donations purchased a beautiful bouquet to help the couple celebrate this special anniversary.

## UPMC HOME HEALTHCARE

*Specialized care including nursing and therapy after an injury, illness, or surgery impacts quality of life*

**\$6,750** to support the following:

- emergency funding of essential items: nutritional supplements, one-time help for utilities or groceries, and safety items
- private duty (non-medical) services for patients who do not have family support and need assistance (pilot program)
- hospitalization prevention tools for monitoring chronic health conditions at home and supporting the use of telehealth

### *Independent nutrition*

In the peak of physical health, Eric\* enjoyed weightlifting and pushing his body to the limit. A tragic accident at age 23 left Eric paralyzed and facing serious complications from his injuries. With UPMC Home Healthcare assisting, he returned home more than a year after the accident. He currently relies on tube feedings, and he wanted to mix his own feeds to control his nutrition. Your donations purchased a small refrigerator for him to keep his feeds separate and accessible. Your support is enabling him to be as independent as possible in this unexpected and challenging time in his life.

## EARLY INTERVENTION

*Therapy-based service for children ages 0-3 with developmental delays*

**\$3,000** to provide feeding equipment, communication boards, and developmental, therapeutic, educational, and safety items

### *Bearing rings and independence*

Early Intervention babies and toddlers often need specialized equipment to help them work toward developmental goals. Families appreciate being able to borrow from Early Intervention's lending library of resources, built by your donations. Last summer, two-year-old Jackson\* was preparing to be the ring bearer in his relative's wedding. His family thought his motor delays would prohibit him from walking down the aisle, but he quickly mastered the borrowed walker that his physical therapist introduced. Thanks to you, he was ready to go down the aisle himself on the big day!

## PEDIATRIC HOME CONNECTION

*Care of medically fragile children who are technology-dependent or dealing with chronic and life-limiting conditions*

**\$3,500** to cover additional shifts of nursing care for family respite and therapeutic items, such as special cribs and high chairs, that support the child's comfort and education

### *Walking in style*

Before she was born, Sophie's family knew she was going to have spina bifida. What they didn't know was how her spunky personality would allow her to face this chronic condition with determination and a smile. A challenging aspect of Sophie's life is wearing shoes that accommodate her braces. Your support purchased a stylish pair of BILLY shoes with zippers. Sophie's parents and her Pediatric Home Connection nurse Janine, or "Neener" as Sophie calls her, can more easily put on her shoes and encourage her to walk with her walker.



## HEALING PATCH

*Free support services for grieving children and their families*

**\$117,000** to fund family group sessions, in-school groups for children who could not attend family groups, other grief resources, and recognition of volunteers who are vital to the program's operations

### *Learning to love again*

After Crystal's mom passed away, Crystal and her daughter Abby were struggling to process their grief. A friend referred them to the Healing Patch Children's Grief Program, and they began attending family sessions at the Cambria center in Fall 2021.

"We needed to talk to somebody to learn how to get through this," Crystal shared. "In the Adult Room, we have such close relationships. We all help each other in any way, shape, or form we can. At first, my daughter was very shy and scared in the Tween room, but she opened up quickly and learned how to grieve my mom. It has been amazing to watch her go from what she was to what she is now. My daughter is very caring, but after we lost my mom, she was mean and hateful. Going to Healing Patch, she learned to love again and not be mean."

Crystal recently shared her passion for crafting with Adult Room participants. She donated angel wing ornaments for her peers to decorate in the last session prior to Christmas. Using her own art supplies, Crystal led the activity with love, care, and compassion as tears of grief, hugs, and support were shared by all.

"Crystal utilized her gift of crafting and her huge heart to help fellow grieving hearts during the holiday season," shared Healing Patch Coordinator Melody Ray. "This is the power of peer support."



## AIDS INTERVENTION PROJECT (AIP)

*Supportive program and case management for adults with HIV/AIDS*

**\$4,520** to assist with transportation, utilities, and personal and hygiene products for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS and living below the poverty level and to fund incentive items for participation in nutrition initiatives

### *Fueling healthy cooks*

AIP nutrition class attendance grew throughout the year as clients learned about healthy meal preparation and earned kitchen items as incentives for coming. Declan\* lives by himself and prepares his own meals despite having a tremor. He said having a sharp knife has made cooking easier. Christina\* loves cooking and chose a liquid measuring cup, remarking that she didn't have one at home. Attendees also received one entry per class for a raffle prize. Although drawn randomly, the raffle winner Norman\* was facing a broken oven and unresponsive landlord. He was "tickled" to choose a two-in-one air fryer and InstaPot to support his healthy cooking efforts.

*\*Names have been changed.*

## WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

*Nutrition education and provision for pregnant women, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and children under age 5*

**\$5,000** to purchase diapers that encourage participation in WIC after a child turns 1 year old, which is a critical time of growth and development



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To make a gift today, please call or go online: 1-855-GIVE-HNA | HomeNursingAgency.com

For more information about Foundation Mission Grants please contact:  
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