



YOUR *Gifts* at **WORK**

AWARDED MISSION GRANTS 2023



THANK *you*

Donations to the Home Nursing Agency Foundation offer a hand up for our most vulnerable friends and neighbors. For those facing a health crisis, end of life, grief, pregnancy, or raising a child with developmental delays, **your support matters.**

These individuals and families rely on UPMC Home Healthcare, Family Hospice, the Healing Patch Children's Grief Program, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) nutrition program, and Early Intervention.

Throughout 2023, \$174,950 of your support will be used to make a difference for those who call West Central Pennsylvania home, as you can read in the 2023 Mission Grants shared here. Also included are stories of how previous funds have impacted those in a difficult season of life.

Your gift is at work giving hope and help.



Awarded Mission Grants 2023

January 1 - December 31, 2023

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

Safe Climbing

Diagnosed with Autism, two-year-old Jake* is non-verbal and often on the go—running, climbing, and seeking deep pressure input. His parents were very concerned with his safety as he climbed on furniture, riding toys, and window frames. Early Intervention Occupational Therapist Nicole Gioiosa problem-solved ideas with Jake's parents to find a fun and safe way for him to climb, and your support purchased a set of foam blocks in various shapes and sizes. He climbs on them and loves to run across them when lined up like an obstacle course. Jake lies across them when he's seeking deep pressure and has even used one as a table for a meal. His parents are happy that he has a safe toy to enjoy and his dangerous climbing has greatly decreased.



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

Heartfelt Connection

At family orientation, four-year-old Ellie* displayed significant anger after her mother's death and was apprehensive about joining the Healing Patch Little's Room. Volunteer Coordinator Shalen Steinbugl was concerned about Ellie acclimating to the group, but those worries vanished after only a few sessions.

One group night while making rounds, Shalen stopped at the Little's Room doorway, in awe of what she saw. The volunteers were leading an activity called Magic Carpet Ride. The participants stretch out on blankets donated by the Saint Francis Blanketeers, close their eyes, and listen to a beautiful meditation that guides them on a journey to 'visit their person' on their magic carpet.

"Ellie was crying quietly, lying with her head resting on one of the volunteers, who was consoling her. It was one of the most heartfelt moments I've ever seen," Shalen shared. "From that day on, the anger that I saw in this little girl was gone. She allowed herself to be sad, to open up about losing her mommy, and to share happy memories."

"The volunteer with whom she connected the most had recently lost her own daughter," Shalen said. "I can't help but wonder if the two of them were meant to meet each other someday—to be there for one another and to provide a source of comfort throughout their grief journeys."

UPMC HOME HEALTHCARE

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

\$6,450 to support the following:

- emergency funding of essential items: nutritional supplements, one-time help for utilities or groceries, and safety items
- hospitalization prevention tools for monitoring chronic health conditions at home and supporting the use of telehealth
- infant mannequins for training CPR and Choking

Wheeling Independence

Undergoing a below-the-knee amputation at age 45, UPMC Home Healthcare patient Dave* faced major changes in daily life, along with continued health concerns. Thanks to your support, being able to navigate in his own home was not one of those issues. The wheelchair he was issued was too wide to use in his narrow hallway, and your donations funded the purchase of a slimmer transport chair that allows him to move from room to room.

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 and training pants that encourage participation in WIC after a child reaches one or two years old, which is a critical time for development



Covered in Support

In addition to accessing formula and other nutritious foods, WIC families receive vital education and support, but many families drop out after children turn one or two years old. Recognizing this is a critical time of development for a child, the WIC team strives to keep families engaged and uses Home Nursing Agency Foundation grant funds to purchase diapers/training pants that are distributed on a child's first or second birthday.

"These are a costly necessity for babies/toddlers, and we have received a lot of positive feedback from our clients who are grateful for the help with diapers," says WIC Nutritionist II Amy Gorsuch. Throughout 2022, more than 302 packs of diapers/training pants were given through your support, and continued participation has increased.

FAMILY HOSPICE

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

\$33,500 to fund the following:

- emergency funding for patients' utilities, food, medications, and essential items such as bed sheets
- educational and spiritual materials for patients and caregivers, including large-print resources
- stationery and resources to support bereaved family members
- life-enrichment opportunities like materials for a hands-on project or a special meal
- pill planners and education to support medication management
- recognition of volunteers for their gifts of time and presence
- American flag blankets for patients who are veterans
- specialized support for widows/widowers
- emergency funding for bereaved family members

Monitoring for Peace of Mind

Caregivers sacrifice their energy, sleep, and time for other responsibilities as they care for loved ones at the end of life. The simple provision of a baby monitor, given through your support, offers caregivers the freedom to leave their loved one's bedside to rest or take care of other needs. As one wife shared when she returned the unit, "This was a lifesaver!" Your donation gave peace of mind in a stressful and stretching time.



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

For more information about Foundation Mission
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