Meet Our Community Partners

- The Corner
- Friendship Community Presbyterian Church
- The Community at Holy Family Manor
- Nazareth Housing Services
- Carlow University
- CCI
- OPDC
- Oakland Planning and Development Corporation
What’s New in West Oakland?

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Oakland Planning and Development is focused on affordable housing in West Oakland: 2520 Wadsworth Street is new construction that is fully accessible for persons with disabilities and offers 24 one-bedroom units and 1 three-bedroom unit. Allequippa Place consists of recently renovated two- and three-bedroom units. The projects were funded through low-income housing tax credits and other private and public investments.

COMMUNITY LAND TRUST
A Community Land Trust (CLT) is a tool to preserve affordable home ownership. A current resident sells his/her house at a price set by the CLT, earning a portion of the increase in the value of the home, while the land trust retains the land. A new resident buys the house at a price that has been kept affordable and agrees to the same resale requirements. Oakland Planning and Development (OPDC) established the Oakland Community Land Trust to save West Oakland as a viable residential neighborhood.

In addition to a $300,000 grant (payable over three years) from McAuley Ministries, OPDC received five-year, zero-interest working capital loans of $500,000 from UPMC and $250,000 from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as $40,000 from each institution as a grant for operating support. To date, OPDC has renovated and sold three houses with income restrictions; they are in the process of renovating a fourth house.
Welcome to West Oakland

THE CORNER

The Corner is a community center that brings together and serves residents of the West Oakland and Oak Hill neighborhoods in Pittsburgh’s East End.

The Neighborhood Council, comprised of local residents with a passion for maintaining and improving the quality of life in the West Oakland and Oak Hill neighborhoods, hosts open meetings the first Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m.

THE CORNER’S VISION

The Corner is a comfortable, welcoming space where neighbors and families experience God’s love by engaging with one another, connecting with resources that address their needs, and participating in community-driven activities.

Since 2008, McAuley Ministries has awarded $2,483,370 to West Oakland Community Partners:

- Carlow University
- Conservation Consultants, Inc. (CCI)
- Friendship Community Church / The Corner
- Holy Family / Nazareth Housing
- Oakland Planning and Development Corporation (OPDC)
Community Partners in West Oakland

Sr. Sheila Carney, special assistant to the President for Mercy Heritage and Service at Carlow University, led groups from Carlow University for Leadership Development: Pilgrimages to Mercy International Centre and other sites in Ireland.

The groups immersed themselves in the Sisters of Mercy roots. Some were students, members of Carlow Mercy leaders, who attended the Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage at Mercy International Centre. The second group was graduates of the McDarby Institute, which included faculty and staff who attended the year-long McDarby Institute and are carrying out their learnings in their work at Carlow.

Their pilgrimages further strengthened their identification with Mercy and their ability to be witnesses to Mercy on our campus.

The pilgrims commented on their trip:

“We were privileged to spend time in the chapel where Catherine took her initial vows and gave over herself and her Mercy mission to God. The tabernacle here is a carved image of a pelican feeding her chicks. A pelican mother will pierce her own gullet to get the food to give to her chicks. Catherine, born into wealth, given an inheritance of a friend of her family, gave to us all she had in the form of Mercy, a tradition that is so simple and compelling that it applies to any time or place.”

- J.R., Faculty

“Not only Sisters of Mercy, but also young adults, are devoting their lives to helping others. It made me realize how many kind, good people there are. This clear depiction of selflessness challenged me to think about ways in which I can contribute to ministries both near and far. It also lifted me, inspiring me to model the leaders in the Mercy community. Their roles have shown me that even the smallest acts of mercy are an integral part in molding and shaping the broken and fractured world that we live in today.”

- A.L., Student
West Oakland is a dense residential community that connects with the Hill District, Oak Hill, and Uptown. Straddling the hill above Fifth Avenue, the neighborhood enjoys beautiful views of the Monongahela River Valley and the rest of Oakland. West Oakland is home to many long-term residents, a growing number of students, Carlow University, and University of Pittsburgh's Upper Campus. The housing stock is mostly brick single-family homes and duplexes.

West Oakland Facts

2,604 Residents
38.5% Black
52.7% White
45.2% College/University Dorm
$23,233 Median Household Income
46.6% with incomes below the poverty level
$63,900 Median Housing Value
31.8% of homes are owner-occupied

Source: 2010 U.S. Census, Neighborhood Allies

Community Partners’ Outcomes

McAuley Ministries: Investing in the West Oakland Community since 2008.

Carlow University Capacity Building:
- University Commons
- Launch of the Mercy Center for Service
- Launch of the Social Justice Institutes
- Leadership Development: Pilgrimages to Mercy International Centre for students and faculty

Oakland Planning and Development:
- Launch of the Community Land Trust; three houses renovated and sold
- $7,650 in façade grants to low/moderate income senior homeowners

The Corner
- Connected to over 3,500 people since 2014
- Hosted 300 community events centered on the arts, social action, and engagement