Building on the Legacy of the Sisters of Mercy

The Sisters of Mercy have inspired McAuley Ministries' advocacy through their legacy of working passionately to reduce poverty, violence, racism, and the denial of human rights; reduce the degradation of Earth; reduce the oppression and abuse of women, children, and immigrants; and address the lack of solidarity among people and nations.

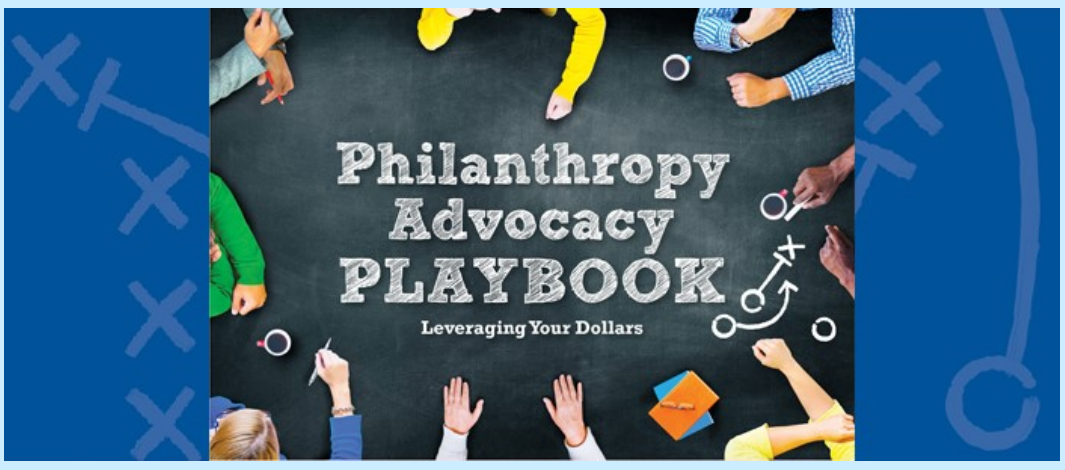
Inspired by the life of Jesus and by our founder, Catherine McAuley, the Sisters of Mercy envision a just world for people who are poor, sick, and uneducated. The Sisters of Mercy are women of faith who commit our lives to God and our resources to serve, advocate, and pray for those in need around the world. Source: https://www.sistersofmercy.org/

Advocacy & Philanthropy

Advocacy is often the most effective strategy in the philanthropy toolbox for effecting long-lasting, broad-based change.

When we provide support to a program that provides a direct community service (e.g., weekend meals, housing repairs, free hearing aids), the impact is seen immediately. There is also value in simultaneously supporting advocacy work that produces changes to laws, regulations, and policies that have long-term impacts and affect generations for decades to come.

According to the Alliance for Justice, *Philanthropy Advocacy Playbook: Leveraging Your Dollars*, foundations are scoring major successes by helping their grantees ...



- ≈ Influence the actions of federal, state, and local agencies.
- ≈ Secure policy victories in state legislative bodies.
- ≈ Win ballot measures.
- ≈ Educate the public and the media about the need for better policies.
- ≈ Encourage more voter participation and candidate debate during election season.

Advocacy Grants 2019-20

In 2019, the McAuley Ministries Board adopted an advocacy strategy that echoes the Sisters of Mercy's *Mercy Taking Action* initiative:

> *To fulfill the Mercy commitment to a more environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just human presence on Earth, we launched this initiative to inspire behavioral, policy, and guideline changes at the personal and institutional levels.*

Mercy
Taking Action

McAuley Ministries will proactively provide operating support for organizations that advocate for policies that align with our core values and strategic priorities: Affordable Housing, Education, Equitable Community Development, Food Insecurity, and Justice.

McAuley Ministries will continue to participate in coalitions and partnerships that advocate for issues that align with our mission and grantmaking priorities.

McAuley Ministries will respond to emerging projects and policy initiatives that align with our mission and grantmaking priorities.

Advocacy Grants 2019-20

Since 2019, McAuley Ministries has awarded grants totaling $385,000 to advance advocacy initiatives.

A+ Schools Pittsburgh Community Alliance for Public Education
$30,000
to engage families, students, educators, and community partners to co-create solutions to the inequities impacting student learning. The approach will highlight examples of successful schools and the lessons learned that will drive policy and practice recommendations.

Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP)
$50,000
to increase voter engagement, education, overall participation, and turn-out of Pittsburgh's Black community.

Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania
$50,000
Allegheny County 2020 Census Action Plan: to ensure a complete and accurate count.

Hill District Consensus Group
$100,000, payable over 2 years
to provide housing justice programs for low- to moderate-income people, helping renters and homeowners navigate public/private resources, legal systems, and supports to prevent homelessness.

Just Harvest Education Fund
$50,000
to reduce barriers to participation in public programs that address hunger and poverty through grassroots organizing and policy advocacy.

Pennsylvania Coalition For Oral Health
$15,000
for campaign to restore the comprehensive adult dental benefit in Medicaid to improve the health of all Pennsylvanians.

The POISE Foundation
$10,000
to support the Human Equity and Justice Fund, which will provide financial support to organizations and movements that are on the front lines responding to crises that significantly impact the Black community, or advancing youth-led social change and community-based intergenerational collaborations and programming.

Regional Housing Legal Services
$80,000, payable over 2 years
to address policy issues in the City of Pittsburgh and prevent the displacement of low-income African-American households from the City, improve housing conditions, and help to close the gap of affordable housing units in the City.

Coalition & Partnerships

McAuley Ministries participates in several coalitions and partnerships that advocate for issues that align with our mission and grantmaking strategies.

GPNP
Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership

Advocates on behalf of the nonprofit sector.

Grantmakers
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
excellence in philanthropy

Monitors legislation that impacts grantmakers and convenes grantmakers on issues impacting the region.

Jail Collaborative
ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Improves the transition of people returning to the community after leaving the Allegheny County Jail by advocating for and supporting housing, training, employment, behavioral health, and diversion strategies.

PHFC
PA Health Funders Collaborative

Advocates for vulnerable populations in the areas of health, welfare, and quality of life of the community.

APOST
ALLEGHENY PARTNERS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

United Way
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Advocates for policies and funding to enhance access and quality in the out-of-school time setting.