

# EAST END COOPERATIVE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

2021 | FALL ISSUE

EECM.ORG

## EECM ANNOUNCES THE GOLDEN GALA!

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE EECM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED SUSTAIN IT OVER FIVE DECADES.



50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
GOLDEN GALA

May 21, 2022

Rodef Shalom Congregation

6 pm – 11 pm

It promises to be an unforgettable bash! Pittsburgh's hottest band, *No Bad Juju*, will jam the night away. Fogo de Chao will serve the finest, and tastiest food. Above all, we will come together to celebrate 50 years of the life-saving work of East End Cooperative Ministry, changing the lives of people facing the impacts of poverty.

And while the pandemic forced our Golden Gala to be postponed in 2020, which was our 50th Anniversary year, we refuse to let this milestone pass without a momentous event honoring our important member congregations that have been a critical part of our organization. Mark your calendars and Save the Date for May 21, 2022.

Our honorary event chairs are three of EECM's legendary leaders who made their mark on the agency's success over the years. They are Myrna Zelenitz, Phil Hallen, and Mark Bibro. EECM CEO Carole Bailey said, "we can't wait to celebrate our impact of 50 years while honoring our dedicated and generous congregations and those who sustained EECM over five decades."

In the coming months, we will have details about event ticket sales. Event sponsorship packages are now available for corporations and donors. Please visit:

[www.eecm.org/goldengala](http://www.eecm.org/goldengala)  
for sponsorship information.



OPPORTUNITY



TRANSFORMATION



HOPE

# EAT'N PARK SMILES AT EECM



Here at EECM, volunteers are at the heart of what we do and how we serve those experiencing food insecurity and homelessness.

On August 5th, CEO Carole Bailey welcomed 11 very generous and hard-working volunteers from the Eat'n Park Corporation who were lending a

helping hand during their 6th Annual Day of Smiles. They got right to work with painting, gardening, and serving in our Pantry and Kitchen.

Our staff was ever so grateful for our Eat'n Park friends being here, and of course leaving behind plenty of SMILEY Cookies!

If your corporation is interested in sending a volunteer group to EECM, please email: [tracyh@eecm.org](mailto:tracyh@eecm.org)



## CAROLE'S CORNER

While pandemic precautions continue here at EECM because of the Delta variant and related uncertainties, be assured that our staff and volunteers press on with delivering food and housing to our vulnerable clients. I want to thank our generous donors for continuing their support through the pandemic, as well as our Board of Directors for inspiring us in these historically difficult times. Our staff and volunteers vow to fulfill our mission of changing the lives of people facing the impacts of poverty.

When I recently found out that I'm being honored by the *Pittsburgh Business Times* as a 2021 Outstanding CEO, my first thought was that I share this with all of you who make EECM a beacon of hope for our clients. Thank you for all that you do!

We are pleased here at EECM that our 50th Anniversary Celebration, "EECM Golden Gala," is back on track despite the pandemic. Our celebration will be

held May 21, 2022 at Rodef Shalom Congregation. We are finalizing details for invitations and tickets, and we look forward to celebrating our 50th with all of you.

I invite you to always search our newly designed website, [eecm.org](http://eecm.org), for updates regarding our gala, our upcoming coat drive and holiday gift giveaway, as well as ways to donate or volunteer. You can always go to our website for information!

As I write this, our Children and Youth division just completed a very successful COVID-safe 2021 Summer Camp. 130 children came for numerous educational and social activities, all ending in a fantastic stage performance attended by very proud parents and staff. Congrats all!

Thanks to all of you for helping sustain EECM through these uncertain times.

- CAROLE BAILEY, PRESIDENT & CEO



# SUMMER CAMP 2021

Summer Camp was a success! Our five-week Summer Camp works to address what young people in at-risk and disadvantaged communities need educationally, emotionally, behaviorally, culturally, communally, and through extracurricular activities. The theme of this year's camp was *Don't Stress, Be Your Best*. This theme grew from our staffs' experience during COVID working with school administrators, teachers, parents and students equipping the students to address and cope with the multitude of social and emotional problems magnified by the pandemic.

All aspects of the camping educational mission were designed to address the issues of child and adolescent pressure and stress. For example, campers discussed the challenges of living through a pandemic and the personal stressors they face. They discussed the obstacles that they, their families and their peers faced; and then learned strategies to be strong and resist the urge to give in, give up and quit. The challenges of apathy run high among our youth. Our camp sought to restore

and cultivate hope, and motivate youth to make intentional efforts to combat discouragement and apathy with regard to issues such as parent's problems, fatherlessness, family addictions, poverty, education, loneliness, illness, death, and neighborhood violence.

The weeks were packed full of activities as well as life learning and reinforcement of alcohol, tobacco and other drug avoidance. Recreation and cultural excursions included the Highland Park Swimming Pool, Pittsburgh Zoo, Kennywood Park, hiking and horseback riding, just to name a few. The drama, music and arts departments worked collaboratively to use the creative arts to reinforce life skills and principles culminating in the traditional end of camp production. This year's Day Camp Production was entitled *The Fight to Be Your Best!* The campers sang and danced to an audience of family and friends promoting a strong message teaching youth and families how to face life stressors throughout the coming year with communication and not aggression.



# GIVE BIG PGH (GIVING TUESDAY)



## GIVE BIG PITTSBURGH - GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN IS NOVEMBER 30!

Mark your calendars for "Give Big," the Pittsburgh community's day of giving – an opportunity to unite our community around causes in which we truly believe and help nonprofit organizations connect to the larger community.

[GIVEGAB.COM/NONPROFITS/  
EAST-END-COOPERATIVE-MINISTRY](http://GIVEGAB.COM/NONPROFITS/EAST-END-COOPERATIVE-MINISTRY)

## THANK YOU!

EECM raised \$34,390 on #ONEDAY! A huge Thank You to all of our donors that participated in this year's **Critical Needs Alert**, sponsored by The Pittsburgh Foundation, who matched a percentage of all donor contributions. **EECM ranked 5th out of 174 nonprofits that participated in #ONEDAY.** Only nonprofits that provide direct services in child care, food and nutrition, housing, physical & mental health, or transportation in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties were invited to participate.

# HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVES

## THANKSGIVING GIFT CARD DRIVE

EECM's Thanksgiving gift card drive is back! If you are interested in donating a grocery store gift card of \$25 for families to purchase a Thanksgiving dinner, please mail or deliver to EECM by November 1, 2021. Please note "Thanksgiving" on the correspondence.

## HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE FOR CHILDREN

Make the holiday special for a child in need and sponsor a child(ren) this holiday season! Participants can provide the gifts, or give a monetary donation and EECM will purchase the gifts. If you are interested, please fill out the participation form that can be found at [eecm.org/drives](http://eecm.org/drives) and return via mail or email by October 22, 2021. If you want to purchase a gift, Rev. Tracy Hudson will contact you with a specific child's wish list this holiday season.

## CAROLE BAILEY NAMED OUTSTANDING CEO



The *Pittsburgh Business Times* has announced that our own Carole Bailey has been named one of their "2021 Outstanding CEO" honorees. Carole will be honored at a reception on September 17. Congratulations, Carole from our staff, Board, volunteers and donors!

# MEET OUR STAFF



**LAILA D. CARLO** has been working at EECM in our Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program since 2014. She initially worked as a supervisor, moving to the position of Program Manager to oversee the day-

to-day operation of the PSH program after two years. In 2019, our PSH program, FAITH (Families Achieving Independence Through Housing) doubled in the number of families served (24 families to 51) when it took over a similar program previously serviced by another agency. Laila was instrumental in implementing a smooth transition of the new clients. Through her time at EECM Laila has demonstrated her ability as a critical thinker and problem solver, always taking initiative to assist our clients above and beyond standard care requirements. She has excellent time management, communication skills and proven her ability to multitask.

This summer, Laila was promoted to Co-Director of Housing and Employment Service at EECM. Our FAITH program falls under this division as well as our Emergency Shelter (21 beds), Recovery House (30 beds) and our Education & Employment program. In her new role, Laila is involved in the day-to-day supervision of these additional programs along with her co-director. Laila was chosen to take on this role because she is an emerging leader here at EECM.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

FIRST HARVEST MAKES A VARIETY OF GREENS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY.

Our community garden, located near Entrance G, is in full bloom! The community is encouraged to pick greens for their own use. The first harvest of the season yielded kale, chard, and three buckets of basil,

which were offered to our clients in the food pantry. The community garden is a project to encourage sustainable food practices and to promote gardening education among our clients.





EAST END  
COOPERATIVE  
MINISTRY

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



### LESLIE SPRINGS

During the end of 2020, Leslie moved within walking distance of EECM. While she was visiting our Food Pantry, she inquired about volunteer opportunities. She initially came two days a week, but that

quickly turned into five, as she became a steady and critical volunteer in our Community Food Services department.

She is a constant, smiling presence, and is always willing to step in and help out in the kitchen as well. Prior to volunteering at EECM, Leslie was a Food Rescue Hero at 412 Food Rescue. Leslie said she is simply following in her mother's footsteps who always told her, "Remember there is always someone in need."



## SHARE THE WARMTH

Please join EECM in collecting new and gently used winter coats. EECM will be distributing them to community members in need. If you would like to donate new coats, leave all tags on and drop them off at EECM by October 15, 2021. If you would like to donate gently used coats, we are again partnering with Strong II Dry Cleaners who will provide free dry cleaning for any donated coats as well as discounts for participating families' personal dry cleaning as a thank-you (please indicate that the coats are for the EECM coat drive). You will need to bring your used coats to Strong II between September 7 and October 13 and Strong II will deliver the cleaned coats directly to EECM.