

THE INSIDE STORY



Community Comes Together to Help Its Neighbors

Since long before the Allegheny County [Department of Human Services](#) (DHS) was established, residents, businesses and foundations in Allegheny County have been generous when it comes to helping the less fortunate among us. DHS has tapped into that largess, expanded and grown these relationships, and directed the returns primarily toward the children who receive services through the Department.

Three annual opportunities generate more than \$300,000 in cash or in-kind donations each year.

The DHS [Holiday Project](#) had its modest beginnings in the 1980s when child welfare caseworkers decided to purchase holiday gifts for the children on their caseloads who would otherwise go without. In the past 29 years, the Holiday Project has expanded to a community-wide effort and provides thousands of children and youths involved in the child welfare system a meaningful gift to brighten their holiday.

The [Allegheny County Music Festival Fund](#) (ACMFF) was started in 2000 as a means of making life-enhancing opportunities and items available to children and youth served through DHS. The ACMFF Committee reviews requests and grants those deemed worthy. To date, the Fund has fulfilled the requests of well over 1,000 children.

The most recent addition, [Project Prom](#) relies on the generosity of the community as well. Donors contribute gently-worn or new formal attire and accessories so that young women served through DHS can select a gown and ensemble to enhance their prom experience. Monetary donations and sales proceeds from remaining gowns are used to purchase gift certificates for tuxedo rentals.

Contact: Karen Blumen 412-350-5707 kblumen@alleghenycounty.us or Kathy Burk 412-350-2777 kburk@alleghenycounty.us