



A New Year, Continued Impact

Safe Passage is sending warm wishes and positive energy as 2026 begins. We hope the new year finds you healthy, safe, and surrounded by those you care about after a joyful holiday season.

Over the past few months, Safe Passage has been busy making meaningful impact. From our Safety Ambassadors and Safe Passage Coordinators continuing their vital work to interrupt the transmission of the disease of violence in our schools, to hosting engaging events and connection-building opportunities, we are proud to be deepening our partnerships across school communities and throughout Pittsburgh.

Read on for highlights and updates from the start of the school year through the holiday season—we're excited to share what we've been working on!

FEATURED SPOTLIGHTS:

Safe Passage Scoop

Program Data Updates

Información Disponible en Español

Safety Ambassador Spotlight

Safe Passage Resources



Safe Passage is a school-based anti-violence program rooted in treating the disease of violence using a public health approach and the Safe Passage Safety Model. It is currently implemented at Allderdice High, Brashear High, UPrep 6-12, Obama Academy 6-12, Perry High, and Westinghouse High to reduce the transmission of the disease of violence among Pittsburgh Public Schools students and their communities.

Safe Passage Scoop



Safe Passage Kickoff and Proclamation

Safe Passage hosted a Safe Passage Kickoff and received a Proclamation from the Mayor's office recognizing November 10, 2025 as Safe Passage Day. This was in honor of Safe Passage's contributions towards creating safer schools and more connected communities.

Read WESA's article here: [Violence has decreased across Pittsburgh's seven Safe Passage schools](#)

October-December at a Glance:



280

mediations conducted to interrupt the transmission of the disease of violence



949

community resources sent to Safe Passage participants

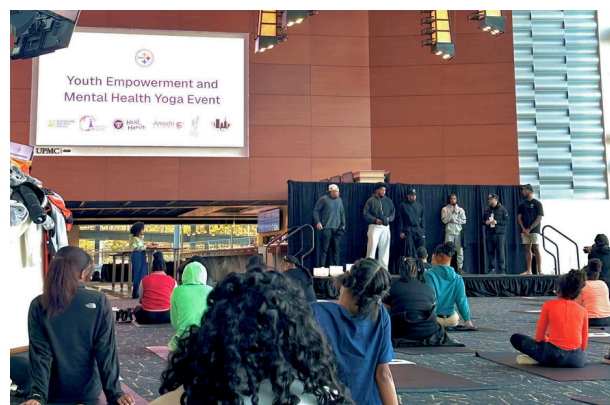


Exploring Opportunities at Duquesne University

Safety Ambassadors took their leadership beyond their local neighborhoods with an empowering visit to Duquesne University.

Safety Ambassadors participated in an Admissions presentation, explored campus alongside University Ambassadors, and met with Dr. Chris Harris and the Office of Community Engagement to learn how education and community partnerships drive positive change.

This experience reflects the four pillars of Safe Passage's violence prevention model. By connecting youth to opportunities for growth, leadership, and education, Safe Passage continues to empower young people to be visible role models and peacebuilders in their communities.



Learning Wellness from the Steelers

In October, Safety Ambassadors were invited to Acrisure Stadium to take part in a Youth Empowerment and Mental Health Yoga event hosted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in partnership with Neighborhood Resilience Project, Just Heal Bro, and Steel Smiling.

Alongside other youth from the community, Safety Ambassadors learned the importance of caring for their mental health and building safer communities. To make the experience even more meaningful, Pittsburgh Steelers players shared first-hand strategies for maintaining their own well-being and even joined the youth on the mat for yoga!

Safe Passage Scoop (cont.)

Información Disponible en Español

El Folleto de Safe Passage y Modelo de Safe Passage también están disponibles en español en nuestro sitio web bajo "Program Information":



Season of Community Initiative

Throughout November, Safe Passage schools led a winter clothing drive, collecting coats, scarves, socks, hats, and other essential items for the Light of Life Rescue Mission and Kane Community Living Center.

Nearly 300 winter clothing items, hygiene products, and canned goods were donated to support seniors and individuals experiencing homelessness. To close the drive, Safety Ambassadors and their families were invited to help organize donations and write holiday cards for the recipients. We were grateful to be joined by the Neighborhood Resilience Project and Community College of Allegheny County, who shared resources with attendees.

This initiative furthered our mission to promote peace, safety, and positive identities among youth and our communities. Special thanks to the Kingsley Association and everyone who helped make this drive a meaningful success!



Cities United Convening 2025

This past October, Safe Passage team members traveled to Louisville, Kentucky for the 2025 Cities United Convening. While this marked Safe Passage's third year participating in the convening, it was the first time the program received recognition for its contributions to Allegheny County's comprehensive public safety ecosystem. Pittsburgh's former Mayor Ed Gainey was also honored with a 2025 Founder's Award in recognition of Pittsburgh's commitment to building safe, healthy, and hopeful communities.

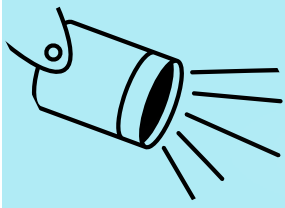
Holiday Cheer at Brashear

During the holiday season, Safety Ambassadors at Brashear, in collaboration with Casa San Jose, decorated holiday trees to celebrate culture, connection, and spread joy throughout the school. Additionally, one student hired a family friend's taco truck to cater lunch for the whole student body as a way to express gratitude for his Brashear community. These efforts were a meaningful way for students to come together, honor cultural traditions, and create a welcoming environment for all.

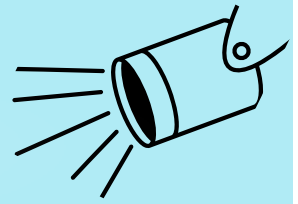


Shoutout to Safe Passage Alum: Mekhi Butler-Luckett!

Mekhi graduated from Allderdice High School in 2025 and has already achieved another major milestone by graduating from the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh. Congratulations Mekhi!



SAFETY AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT



Our Safety Ambassadors work hard every day to create positive, supportive school communities. We asked our Safe Passage Coordinators to spotlight a few who are going the extra mile. We are so proud of you all!

**Allderdice:**

Patrick Germaine

In Recognition of:

As a 12th grader, Patrick is the most improved Safety Ambassador at Allderdice through his exemplary positive behaviors.

**Brashear:**

Nicole Perez-Morales

In Recognition of:

Nicole is a great leader and plans to be a successful businesswoman! Every Thanksgiving, she and her family prepare 500 meals for people within the community.

**Obama:**

Talib Johnson

In Recognition of:

Talib's consistent leadership, respect for others, and willingness to serve both as a Safety Ambassador and Environmental Program supporter make him a true example of what it means to show up, show out, and help create safe, positive spaces in our school community.

**UPrep:**

Daimere Adair
Stephon Malloy
Damondtae Stevenson
Melaun Stamper

In Recognition of:

Daimere, Stephon, Damondtae, and Melaun were part of the USO Football team that won the 2025 City League Championship. Congratulations!

**Perry:**

Heaven Gatewood
Chaz Jackson
Anthony Jefferson
La'Nya Jones

In Recognition of:

Heaven has received scholarships to IUP, PITT and Cal - U.
Chaz is Perry's most valuable student for every sport.
Anthony is Perry's most improved student.
La'Nya has been a Straight A student for 3 years.

**Westinghouse:**

Shamara Smith
Jaylen Stanford

In Recognition of:

As a freshman new to Safe Passage, Shamara had the highest GPA for Q1 - passing 90% of her classes with all A's & B's.
Jaylen has been accepted to 15 colleges thus far and is enrolled in CCAC's Dual Enrollment program, on the Intro to Business track.



Voices from the People We Serve

Molly O'Malley-Argueta
Principal of Perry High School

"If there's something in the community, our Safe Passage coordinator is alerted and then we are able to get students at the door, have conflict resolution or mediations as we start the school day so that it doesn't fester."

Source: [Violence has decreased across Pittsburgh's seven Safe Passage schools](#)



Upcoming Programming

Monthly Safe Passage Parent Meetings

Virtual (Zoom)

Each month, Safe Passage hosts a virtual meeting to connect with parents and guardians of Safety Ambassadors and share critical updates about the program. Parental involvement is strongly encouraged and highly valued!

Please reach out to your school's SPC for details.

College Tour Field Trip

TBD
Pittsburgh, PA

Eligible Safety Ambassadors will visit a local university to explore post-secondary opportunities, campus life, and identity development through engagement with campus leaders.

Additional details will be shared soon.

End of Year Peace Event

TBD
Pittsburgh, PA

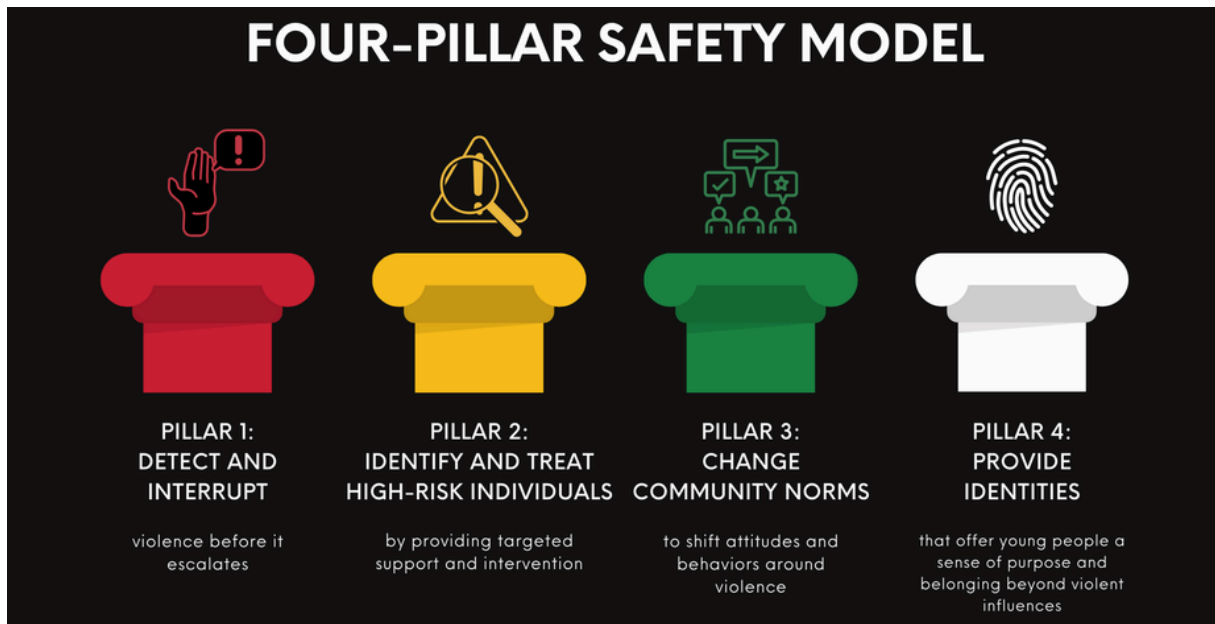
Safe Passage will host an end-of-year celebration focused on peacebuilding, community connection, and embracing the Safe Passage Safety Model.

Additional details will be shared soon.



Safe Passage Resources

FOUR-PILLAR SAFETY MODEL



Safe Passage Website:
[Click Here](#) or
Scan QR Code:



NewEra412 Community Resources: [Click Here](#)

Operation Better Block Website: [Click Here](#)

Pittsburgh Public Schools Website: [Click Here](#)

Register to Vote: [Click Here](#)

Stakeholders and Partners

This program would not be possible without the collective support and trust of our stakeholders and partners. Thank you so much!

African American Leadership Association	The Buhl Foundation	Eden Hall Foundation	Memorable Experiences	PCTV	Thrive18
Allegheny County	Carnegie Mellon University	Hugh Lane Wellness	Mercy Behavioral Health	Phoenixx Helsel Family Foundation	University of Pittsburgh
Alloy26	Casa San Jose	Homewood Children's Village	My Brother's Keeper Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency	Wesley Spectrum
Auberle	City of Pittsburgh	FashionAFRICANA	1Nation Mentoring	Pittsburgh Public Schools	
August Wilson House	Community College of Allegheny County	Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence	The Neighborhood Resilience Project	Planned Parenthood	
Birth of Ahava	Dollar Bank	Jubilee Association	OneNorthside	Project Destiny	
Boys & Girls Clubs of Western PA	Duquesne University	The Kingsley Association	Operation Better Block	Rowan University	