

Abiding Missions

*2023-2024 City of Pittsburgh STOP the
Violence Community Investment Grants*

Abiding Missions

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FollowUp Form

Quarter Three Activities Update

Greetings, STOP the Violence grantees!

As the City of Pittsburgh prepares to update our stakeholders on the impact of this process, we need to gather some evaluation-focused information about your programs. Please answer the following survey about your services and activities from the third quarter following receipt of your grant award.

Thank you!

Organization Name*

Please enter the name of your project/program in the box below.

Abiding Missions

Did you spend any of your STOP the Violence grant funds during this period?*

Yes

How did you spend the funds?*

Please check all categories that apply.

Staff Compensation (including benefits)

If you chose "other", please describe.

Tell us how many people your organization/group served from the following age groups during this period.

Ages 0-17*

75

Ages 18-30*

50

Ages 30+*

100

Programs and Services*

Provide a brief description of any programs or services your organization or group provided in alignment with your STOP the Violence proposal.

Abiding Missions 2024-2025 Afterschool year started in September. We operate 4 days a week, offering a full schedule of programming, daily meals, and homework help. We have enrolled 28 students this year, and we are currently working through our waiting list to find ways to add more students. Our monthly themes so far have been empathy and friendship, and we are working with Chelsea Freeman to provide social-emotional programming on Wednesdays this year. Our middle school group meets twice a month, and we look forward to seeing that group grow.

In August, Abiding Missions hosted Allentown's National Night Out event, and we had a couple hundred people attend the public block party on Excelsior Street. We played volleyball, ate cotton candy and popcorn, and hung out on a firetruck. We were very happy with how the event turned out, especially after being rained out and rescheduling the event.

Did you partner with any other organizations or groups during this period?*

Yes

Did your organization intentionally engage officers from the Pittsburgh Police during this period?*

Yes

Did you use STOP the Violence logos in marketing and media (social or traditional)?*

Yes

Give a brief description of your STOP the Violence during this period*

Abiding Missions continues to engage with our young people on a daily basis, investing and building relationships with them and their families. This looks like homework help, talking through disagreements, finding ways to de-escalate big emotions, and how to be good neighbors with each other. We have also been ensuring our families' basic needs are met.

Currently, our street work has focused on significant disagreements and altercations between 5 households near our office. There is a household that is instigating and aggravating other houses near them: bullying children, shouting obscenities from their porch, throwing things at others, reporting neighbors to CYF and the police. The conflict between the neighbors has led to cases before the magistrate and (at least) weekly 911 calls. We are working with Chrisarah Johnson and Zone 3 in regards to these issues.

Is your organization planning any public activities in the next few months?*

Yes

If "yes", please provide a brief description.

Our All Saints Aints and Souls Event is October 26th, 1pm - 4pm at our building. It is a public fall festival and memorial service. A parade through the neighborhood follows with the Perry Marching Band.

Does your organization need capacity-building support?*

Yes

On what areas of focus would you like your capacity-building support?

Board Recruitment/Board Development
Financial Management/Accounting
Fundraising
Marketing
Social Media

Share Your Stories*

Upload a clip or provide text to share one or more specific stories (please avoid using full names of clients/participants) that illustrates the impact of your work.

Gmail - Abiding Missions Summer Newsletter.pdf

I've attached a copy of our most recent newsletter with stories from our summer.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Gmail - Abiding Missions Summer Newsletter.pdf



Jordan Shoenberger <jrshoenberger@gmail.com>

Abiding Missions Summer Newsletter

1 message

Jordan Shoenberger <AbidingMissions@mailman.bloomerang-mail.com>

Fri, Sep 27, 2024 at 11:47 AM

Reply-To: team@abidingmissions.org

To: Jordan Shoenberger <jrshoenberger@gmail.com>

[Donate](#)

Your Compassion Makes a Difference

Dear Jordan,

Welcome to our new email newsletter! This summer was such a whirlwind. We tried new projects, we took trips, we developed new routines, we worked on our building, and we met new neighbors.

One of the biggest changes for Abiding Missions this summer, was Chaplain Christine moving on from her daily role at the organization. She remains a board member and volunteer, but she is no longer here in a day-to-day role.

As we put this newsletter together, the template we chose had placeholder text throughout it. The placeholder title was "Your Compassion Makes a

Difference". I could not bring myself to change the title, since it is a perfect encapsulation of what Chaplain Christine's mission has been for Abiding Missions and our neighborhood.

Not only has Chaplain Christine showed compassion to everyone around her (including some tough love), but that compassion was inspirational and a catalyst for so many around her. Not only does Abiding Missions exist to be a good neighbor, but we exist to MAKE neighbors. This is a different level of compassion that inspires others to take action.

We asked our neighbors to share some short thoughts and memories of Chaplain Christine:

"I don't know how she did it all. She's always been there. I miss her as a pastor and a human being."

"She always visited me and prayed with me at home and in the hospital."

"She was a dear friend and I miss her very much."

"I'll never forget what she did for my husband when he was ill. He really looked forward to her visits."

"I met Pastor Chris when she was taking wagons around. She is the modern day Mr. Rogers, caring for her neighborhood."

"She came over and helped me clean out my house and fix my ramp. I miss her and hope she is good."

Like the compassion showed by Chaplain Christine, may the compassion we show others inspire those around us to make a difference in our communities.

--Jordan Shoenberger
Executive Director

Around Town

Hilltop Unity Festival



We loved joining our partner agencies across the Hilltop at the Unity Festival at McKinley Park this August. Thank you to Roy Blankenship Jr. and B-PEP for putting on such a great event bringing our neighborhoods together!

Pirates Games



Our youth had an eventful summer attending two Pirates games this year! They enjoyed Dollar Dog Night at PNC Park and watched the Pirates take on the Padres and the Cardinals. Our youth love nights out at PNC Park and we can't make it happen without Tickets for Kids Charities!

Thunderbirds Game



Professional Ultimate Frisbee?! Our youth and adults enjoyed an afternoon at Highmark Stadium to cheer on the Pittsburgh Thunderbirds in their game against the Indianapolis Alleycats! The day was hot, but the game was interesting. We can't wait to go again next year!



Hilltop County Fair

On August 10th, Bottlerocket Social Hall hosted their annual Hilltop County County Fair. It featured lots of good fun: vendors, hot dogs, live music, beauty pageant, and live wrestling. So many laughs and good times!

Abiding Missions hosted the dunk tank and sold cotton candy at the event, as we raised money for our youth programs. We will definitely be out and about in the neighborhood with our new cotton candy machine, so stay tuned!

Thank you to Mistick Construction who sponsored the dunk tank and to Councilperson Bob Charland who braved its cold waters!

National Night Out Block Party

Abiding Missions was honored to host Allentown's location for National Night Out. Because of storms on August 6th, we ended up hosting the block party on August 21st. National Night Out is a way to gather communities with our public safety

night! We closed down the 700 block of Excelsior Street, set up a volleyball net across the street, and served hotdogs and popcorn all night. We had a couple hundred neighbors come out, and there were so many kids running up and down the street.

United Methodist Church for assisting with preparing the food. We were joined by staff from the City of Pittsburgh, and the Mt. Washington Fire Department sent down a truck for the kids to climb on.

It was truly an example of what

departments to connect and have some fun. It was such a great

Thank you to the Allentown CDC for providing food and Hill Top

a great summer night should be!



Set up monthly donations!

Abiding Missions recently updated our donor systems, and *it is now easier than ever to set up a recurring gift* to help us as we build neighbors across South Pittsburgh! **A monthly gift as little as \$5.00 a month helps us:**

- provide snacks to our after school kids, so they have full stomachs
- service our furnace, so we have a warm space for our Winter Warming Center
- cook sausage and eggs, so we have a great meal to gather around on Wednesday mornings
- repair our wagons, so our youth can learn how to be helpful neighbors and deliver fresh produce door-to-door

Set up a monthly donation!

Deep Creek Service Trip

In July we traveled to Deep Creek, Maryland for our annual Middle School service trip, which was an opportunity for our youth to get out of the city, experience camping, and most importantly, find ways to engage with and serve those around them.

Throughout the week, youth participated in three different service projects. At Zion Lutheran Church they learned about Braille and how they press books to send overseas. Our youth formed an assembly line and printed copies of a book called "Today's Light" that will be sent to Africa. Youth also the youth paired up and walked the trails around the Lions Club to pick up trash. Our final project was water testing in a creek with our friends from St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Our youth worked hard, but the trip would not be complete without some fun! Our first night in Deep Creek was half-off night at the Garrett County Fair, where we had an amazing time riding rides, eating yummy fair food, and seeing lots of animals. We also went to the Deep Creek State Park Discovery Center, fished for a bit, and swam in the lake! We cooked our meals outside each day and had lots of fun making s'mores and mountain pies around the campfire while singing songs with our friend, Rachel. We also had a great time learning how to play disc golf from Mr. Jordan!

The local Lions Club were wonderful hosts who let us set up camp and use their grounds for free. There were thunderstorms our last night, so we packed up camp and moved over to our gracious hosts at St. Peters Catholic Church. We were able to sleep in their education building for the night, and we played a rousing game of late-night Sardines in the dark.

After returning to Allentown, our youth shared what a positive experience this was and even requested we extend the trip by one day next year. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn and serve together and can't wait to see what next year's trip brings!

[Check out our photo album on Facebook!](#)



Neighbor Makers Food Pantry

Did you know that each quarter at our food pantry....



Thank you to our supporters and partners:



Spread the Word



We always need snacks and supplies! Check out our Amazon Wish List for some ideas:

Join us on October 26th for a memorial service and some fall fun followed by a parade through the neighborhood!

[Amazon Wish List](#)

[Event Page](#)



Our Contact Information

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