

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Volunteers Ready to Serve Patients at Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh  
Free Dental, Hearing, and Vision Clinic**  
**Additional volunteers sought to support annual humanitarian event**

**PITTSBURGH, PA (Oct. 2, 2025)** — Nearly 2,000 volunteers—including dentists, clinicians, opticians, ophthalmologists, nurses, imaging technicians and general helpers—will come together to provide free dental, vision and hearing care at this year’s [Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh](#) (MOMPGH). The annual event is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 24, and Saturday, Oct. 25, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh.



The clinic is completely free and open to adults and children ages 2 and older. There are no income, insurance or eligibility requirements. Doors will open at 6 a.m. daily and close when capacity is reached. Patients will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Free Care Services Available**

Patients may receive a wide range of services, including:

- **Dental**—Exams, cleanings, fillings, extractions, root canals, x-rays and oral hygiene instruction. Pediatric dentists will provide specialized care for children.
- **Vision**—Eye exams, eyeglass fittings and free prescription eyeglasses.
- **Hearing**—Hearing screenings, fittings and free hearing aids.
- **Health Screening**—Patients with high blood pressure will receive free home monitoring devices and education from the American Heart Association.

**A Community That Cares**

“This year’s clinic will once again help those individuals who suffer in pain because of lack of insurance or financial hardship,” says Daniel Pituch, DMD, MD, co-founder of MOMPGH and Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at UPMC Mercy and UPMC Shadyside. “The entire building will be filled with compassionate people who donate their time, their energy and their talents for one purpose: to provide access to vital care for our most vulnerable neighbors in the community.”

For many patients, Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh is their only touch point with health care all year. Some haven’t seen a dentist in decades. Others arrive with advanced infections that, without intervention, could lead to an emergency room visit or hospitalization.

Richard M. Celko, DMD, MBA, Chief Dental Officer at UPMC Health Plan and a co-founder and board member of Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh, notes that “Here, patients find relief and dignity. Dental teams restore oral health. Vision and hearing screenings restore quality of life. Most importantly, patients feel like someone cares about them and that they matter. It’s why UPMC Health Plan is honored to sponsor MOMPGH again this year.”

Kenya T. Boswell, Senior Vice President of Community Affairs for Highmark Health and President of the Highmark Foundation, emphasizes the clinic’s impact: “The fact that people eagerly anticipate this annual event for access to dental, vision and hearing services speaks volumes. The Highmark Health family of companies are proud to support Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh’s commitment to helping the underserved, by offering a lifeline to those who may otherwise go without essential medical treatment.”

### **Addressing Critical Needs**

The need for free care in the region continues to increase. In 2024, 58 percent of MOMPUGH patients had no insurance and 35 percent arrived with dental pain, with one-third of those patients living with that pain for more than a year. Hearing aids and eyeglasses remain unaffordable for many, often costing thousands of dollars out-of-pocket.

MOMPUGH helps fill a gap. In 2024, the nonprofit organization served 1,676 patients and conducted 9,374 dental procedures. Additional services provided in 2024 included conducting 693 eye and 402 hearing exams and distributing 552 free pairs of eyeglasses and 586 free hearing aids. All told, Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh delivered \$2.37 million in services last year with the help of 1,978 volunteers.

“We aim to serve as many members of our community as possible each year,” adds Keith Young, Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh Board Member. “This humanitarian event truly represents the soul of the city, and we are thankful for the compassionate and caring volunteers—both new and returning—who give their valuable time to make this all happen.”

Since its founding in 2017, Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh has delivered \$9.2 million in free care to 8,941 patients.

### **More Volunteers Needed**

Dental volunteers, including physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners and hygienists, are still needed for this year’s clinic. Many dental volunteers can receive up to three hours of Continuing Education credits for their work with MOMPUGH. To learn more or to register as a volunteer, visit [MOMPgh.org/volunteer](https://MOMPgh.org/volunteer).

**View the “Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh 2024 Event” video [here](#).**

**View the 2024 “Soul of a City” video [here](#).**

### **MEDIA NOTE:**

**Media are invited to attend the clinic on Friday, Oct. 24, from 9 a.m. to noon.**

Interviews with dental, vision and hearing health care providers, as well as lead sponsors, will be available. Interviews with patients also can be coordinated that day. Please use the contact information below to RSVP with Shannon Wolfgang by Thursday, Oct. 23.

### **Media Contact:**

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Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh is a project of A Call to Care, a Pittsburgh-based 501(c)3 organization.  
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