

Family Fun N'At

An Introduction to Family-Friendly
Fun in Allegheny County



SOJOURNER HOUSE
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Developed in partnership with
Sojourner House and Bridging the Gaps-Pittsburgh
by Michaela Avino and Nicole McCaffrey
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Bridging the Gaps

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Introduction

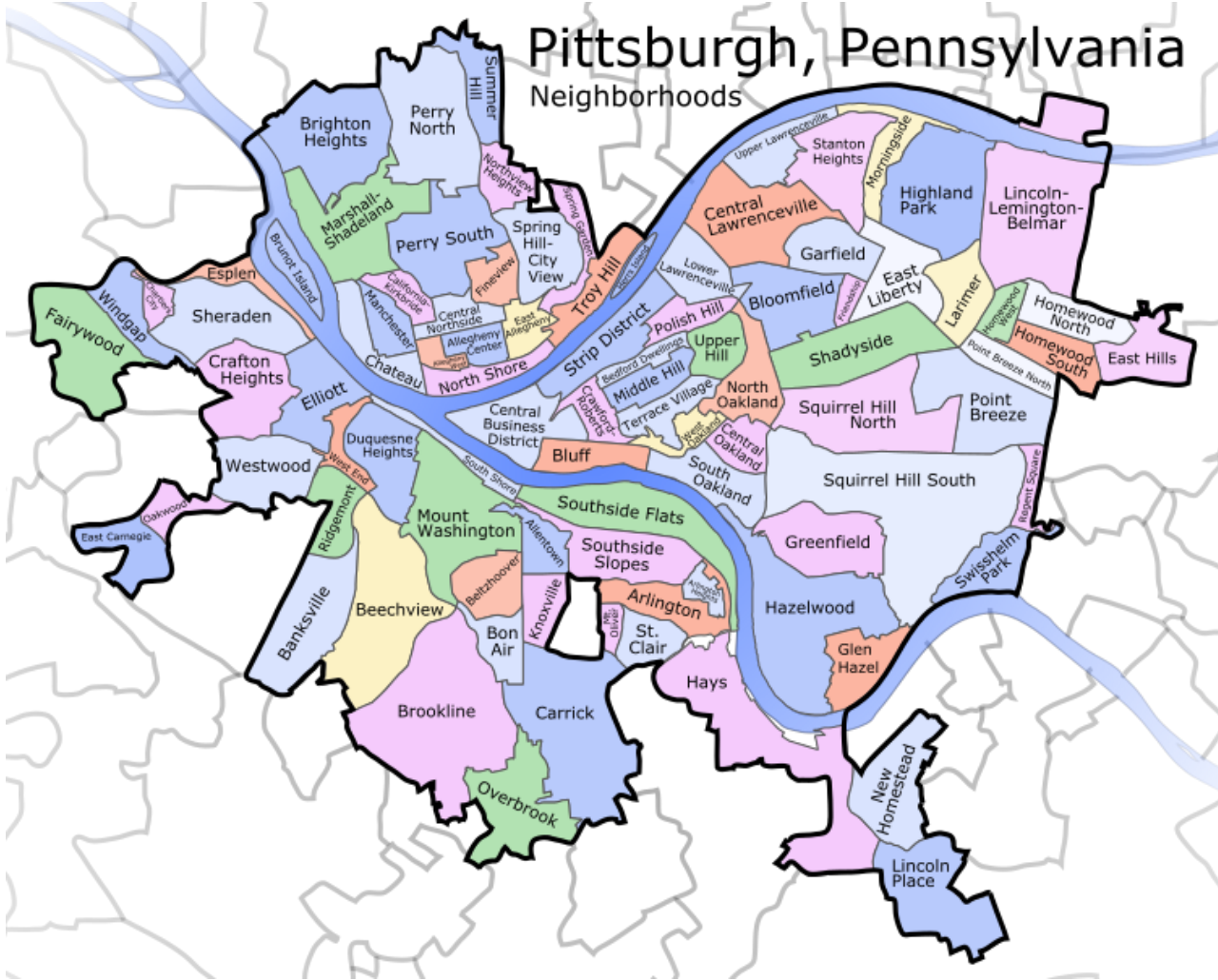
This guide was created by Michaela Avino and Nicole McCaffrey, two University of Pittsburgh students, in Summer 2022. We were working at Sojourner House/MOMS through Bridging the Gaps during this time. As interns, we spent a lot of time getting to know East Liberty, Sojourner House, and the residents. We learned that many people coming to Sojourner House are new to Pittsburgh, and maybe new to being parents! Residents told us that it would be helpful for them to know more about the area and what low-cost, family-friendly activities exist here. We created this guide with that in mind.

Inside, you will find information about parks, family and recreation centers, libraries, museums, and other fun attractions, as well as suggestions for family-friendly festivals. We focused as much as possible on places close to East Liberty and Homewood, near the Sojourner House/MOMS locations. We couldn't fit all the amazing things Pittsburgh has to offer—but we did provide some online resources to help you find more! At the back of the guide, we listed emergency numbers and places to know in this area, plus information about the bus system. Throughout the guide, we also mention what buses stop close to the places we've included.

We are very grateful for the time we spent at Sojourner House and all we learned from the people we met there. The MOMS residents really helped us to make this guide extra special and useful. Even the kids made some drawings for the guide! We hope that residents use and add to this guide for a long time. If you have any suggestions, please share them with the staff!

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Neighborhoods





"I like to play outside!"

Elijah, age 2

Play and Education

In the list below you can find some of the most fun parks near East Liberty and Homewood. Check out CitiParks online and on social media to see what events are coming up at a park in your area!

Parks in East Liberty/Garfield/Friendship/Highland Park area

Liberty Green Park (Larimer/East Liberty)

100 Larimer Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Buslines: 74, 75, 77, 86, 89

- Playgrounds, rope climbing, swings, picnic tables, and charcoal grills

Mellon Park (Shadyside/Point Breeze)

1047 Shady Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Buslines: 64, 71B, 71C, 71D, 75

- Large park with playground, sports fields, spray park, historical gardens, arts events and classes, and a tennis bubble (indoor, air-conditioned tennis courts)

Highland Park (Highland Park)

Reservoir Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Buslines: 71A, 71B

- Large park near Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium with beautiful plants and flowers, and a 2.5-mile trail around the old water reservoir. There are also playgrounds, trails biking and hiking, swimming, fountains, sports courts, tennis courts, and shelters with tables

Parks in Homewood/Larimer/North Point Breeze area

Westinghouse Park (North Point Breeze)

7051 Thomas Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Buslines: 71C and close to Homewood Station on East Busway

- Small park with green space, playground, and walking paths

Paulson Spray Park (Lincoln-Lemington)

1300 Paulson Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Buslines: 74, 82, P17

- Playground and spray park

Play and Education

Family Centers

Homewood Hub & Family Center

7219 Kelly Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Buslines: 77, 86, and close to Homewood Station on East Busway

- Has activities for children up to age nine and individual and group support for parents; diaper bank also available here

East Liberty Family Support

6435 Frankstown Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 (in the Kingsley Association)

Buslines: 71C, 71D, 74, 75

- Has classes and other support for families in Allegheny County, including diaper bank and parent support groups

Recreation Centers

Homewood-Brushton Branch YMCA (Homewood)

7140 Bennett St, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Buslines: 71D, 74, 77, 86, and close to Homewood Station on East Busway

- Has a multi-purpose room, gym, sauna, and weight room
- Offers programs for children and families, including before and after school programs, early learning programs, camps, family support, and sports & recreation activities

Kingsley Association (Larimer)

6435 Frankstown Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Buslines: 71C, 71D, 74, 75

- Has an indoor pool, gym, and exercise equipment
- Offers fitness classes and programs to support youth and families, including Teen LEAD, a program for youth ages 13-19

Play and Education

Culture & Education

Afro-American Music Institute (Homewood)

7131 Hamilton Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Buslines: 77, 86, and close to Homewood Station on East Busway

- Offers boys' choir and music lessons to educate youth on Afro-American music and cultural contributions. Scholarships available for some programs.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church Hope Academy (East Liberty)

116 S. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15206

Buslines: 71B, 71C, 77, 86

- Theater, dance and music classes, private instruction and music groups for children and youth from 3–18 years old. ELPC offers scholarships and reserves class spots for students of low-income and racial, ethnic, and/or cultural minority families.

Pittsburgh Toy Lending Library

5401 Centre Ave (Rear), Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Buslines: 71A, 71C, 77, 86, 87, P1, P3

One unique resource for families here in Pittsburgh is the toy lending library. With a membership, you can borrow toys and use their play area. They also offer play-at-home ideas for free on their website at <https://www.pghtoys.org/play-at-home>

There are two forms of membership:

- **Volunteer membership:** \$50 for one year. You can borrow up to four toys at a time for four weeks and use their in-person play area. With this option, you will need to volunteer for at least one two-hour shift per month.
- **Lending membership:** \$30 for one year. You can borrow up to three toys at a time for three weeks. This does not include access to the play area. You do not need to volunteer for this membership.

The Pittsburgh Toy Lending library also offers a **“pay what you can”** option for families that cannot afford full-price membership. In this sliding scale, a lending membership is available for \$5 to \$29/year and a volunteer membership is available for \$5 to \$49/year (volunteer commitment still required).

Play and Education



Early Head Start (for infants to 3 years old) and Head Start (for children 3-5 years old) are high-quality, educational programs that take place in the home and in classrooms. These programs partner with families to teach young children the skills they need to be successful in kindergarten and in life. These programs are FREE for families who qualify.

Your child is eligible if any of the following are true*

- If your household income is within qualifying limits
- If your child has an eligible disability
- If the child is in foster care
- If the child's family is experiencing homelessness

*Space in the programs is limited. Eligibility does not guarantee placement in the program.

The following organizations manage Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Allegheny County:

Allegheny Intermediate Unit (412) 394-5798	Pittsburgh Public Schools (412) 529-4294	Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center (412) 491-3936
University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development (412) 383-3367		Allegheny County Department of Human Services (866) 214-5437

Each organization may have different requirements and sites, so contact them individually to learn more about registering in their programs!

You can also visit <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator> to search for programs near you.



Library Resources

Libraries have so much more than books! Pittsburgh's public library system is called the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP). Locations offer: public computers and printers, Wi-Fi, meeting rooms, business and nonprofit guidance, career and resume help, virtual services, and more.

The libraries closest to Sojourner House/MOMS are:

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-East Liberty

130 S. Whitfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15206

Buslines: 71A, 71B, 71C, 74, 75, 77, 82, 86, 87, 88, 89, and close to East Liberty Station on East Busway

- Large children's play area that has monthly story times and Kids Club activities
- TeenSpace with recording booth, video games, instruments, 3D printer, and craft supplies
- CareerLink available for assistance in the library a few times per month

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Homewood

7101 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15208





Buslines: 71D, 74A, P1, P2, P3, and close to Homewood Station on East Busway




- Children's play area hosts story times and Kids Club
- Regular Teen Time events with projects for teens
- Educational and community events for adults, teens, and children

To sign up for a library card:

- As a Pennsylvania resident, you can get your own library card AND one for your children under 12 years old. Teens age 13-17 with their own ID can get their own account
- Apply online for adults:
<https://librarycatalog.einetwork.net/MyResearch/GetCard>
- Apply in-person at any CLP location
 - You will need to have a form of photo ID, such as: PA driver's license or other US driver's license, PA identification card, passport, state ID, military ID, work ID, student ID, work visa, or green card. If your license is expired you must also have a proof of address.
 - If your photo ID is not up-to-date, you might need to bring proof of housing. For non-traditional housing, this can be written proof of the current address on your organization's letterhead. A piece of mail like a bill or a bank statement is okay as well.

There are many great apps and resources that you can access with a library card, too!

<p>Allegheny County Libraries</p> 	<p>With the Allegheny County Libraries app, you can access your library account, search the catalog for items, and place holds from your phone. It also has information about events, popular reading, and media resources, like eBooks and the RAD Pass. You can even link your child's library card to your own account.</p>
<p>Libby</p> 	<p>Libby is great for borrowing books (e-books and audiobooks) and magazines with your smartphone! You can send books to your e-reader or use the app on your phone to read.</p>
<p>Hoopla</p> 	<p>Hoopla is an app that lets you borrow audiobooks, eBooks, comics, movies, TV, magazines, or music with a phone or computer. Sign up with a library card to use!</p> <p>One special feature of Hoopla is the BingePass. With BingePass, you can borrow a collection of items and get unlimited access to their content with one borrow.</p>
<p>Little Pim & Mango</p> 	<p>Little Pim and Mango are language-learning tools. Little Pim is an online program for children, while Mango is online or app-based.</p> <p>Sign up with your library card at https://connect.mangolanguages.com/einetwork to use Little Pim and Mango for free. Once logged in, you can use Mango or go to the "Explore" tab and choose "Little Pim" for language-learning videos.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Flipster</p> 	<p>Flipster lets you read magazine issues for free on your phone! Find Flipster wherever you download apps.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BookFlix and TrueFlix</p> 	<p>BookFlix and TrueFlix offer read-along stories, eBooks and games. You can use them on any computer with a Wi-Fi connection or on your phone's browser. BookFlix has fiction and nonfiction books for kids from pre-K to third grade. TrueFlix is focused on history and social sciences education.</p> <p>Follow the links provided at https://www.carnegielibrary.org/kids-teens/eresources-for-families/ and enter your library card information to use to these websites for free.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CreativeBug</p> 	<p>CreativeBug is an online collection of crafting classes with projects for kids and teens. CreativeBug is subscription-based, but your library card grants you free access if you sign up at https://www-creativebug-com.clp-ezp.carnegielibrary.org/lib/carnegielibrary</p>

Remember to double-check your spelling when typing in these websites.

A few different options for **homework help** are available through the library, like live homework help from Tutor.com. Resources may require a library card for access. More information online at: <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/kids-teens/homework-help/>

Another library bonus that will help you explore the city is the **RAD Pass**! The RAD Pass connects you to free or low-cost tickets for museums, theaters, music venues, and classical music events in Pittsburgh. You can go to <https://radpass.org> to reserve a RAD Pass.



Museums and Attractions

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (North Side)

10 Children's Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

<https://pittsburghkids.org/> / 412-322-5058

Buslines: 54C, T (North Side Station)*

- Fun and interactive children's museum. Kids can play with water, make art, use tools, climb, learn about feelings, and more.
- Admission: \$18 adults / \$16 age 2-18 / free to children under age 2
- You can get discounted tickets for up to four people for \$2 each with EBT/ACCESS card

Carnegie Science Center (North Side)

1 Allegheny Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

<https://carnegiesciencecenter.org/> / 412-237-3400

Buslines: T (Allegheny Station)*

- Interactive and exciting science displays that teach about space, engineering, and nature
- Admission: \$20 adults / \$12 age 3-12 / free to children age 2 and under
- Discounted tickets available for up to four people for \$3 each with EBT/ACCESS card (children under three receive free admission)

Carnegie Museum of Art (Oakland)

4400 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

<https://cmoa.org/> / 412-622-3131

Buslines: 67, 69, 71A, 71B, 71C, 71D, 75, P3 (all stop at Fifth Ave and Craig St)

- Shows classic and modern art as well as architectural exhibits
- Admission: \$20 adult / \$12 age 3-18 / Free to children 2 and under
- Discounted tickets available for up to four people for \$1 each with EBT/ACCESS card (children under two receive free admission)

* The T is Pittsburgh Regional Transit's light rail system. It has a free fare zone from Downtown Pittsburgh to the North Side. Many PRT buses stop downtown near T stations, but double-check before getting on!

Museums and Attractions

Carnegie Museum of Natural History (Oakland)

4400 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

<https://carnegiemnh.org/> / 412-622-3131

Buslines: 67, 69, 71A, 71B, 71C, 71D, 75, P3 (all stop at Fifth Ave and Craig St)

- Activities, tours and displays about the natural history of the earth, like dinosaurs, geology, ecosystems and more
- Admission: \$20 adult / \$12 age 3-18 / Free to children 2 and under
- Discounts for Access/EBT card holders available for visitors who email or call in advance (oakadmissions@carnegiemuseums.org or 412-622-3131)

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens (Oakland)

1 Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, PA, 15213

<https://phipps.conservatory.org> / 412-622-6914

Buslines: 67, 69, 71A, 71B, 71C, 71D, 75, and P3 (all stop at Fifth & Tennyson, 15-minute walk from park)

- Beautiful gardens with changing flower shows and displays. Activities for families and kids include Pot-a-Plant Tuesdays, Storytime Wednesdays, and Discovery Stations
- Admission: \$19.95 adults / \$11.95 age 2-18 / free to children under 2. **All tickets must be bought in advance.**
- Discounted tickets available for up to four people for \$3 each with EBT/ACCESS card. Call 412-622-6914 to make reservations.

Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium (Highland Park)

7370 Baker St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 (Butler St entrance to Highland Park)

<https://www.pittsburghzoo.org/> / 412-665-3640

Buslines: 75 and 87 (Baker & Gallatin stop)

- Small zoo and aquarium with special events and educational programs throughout the year
- Admission: \$19.95 adults / \$15.95 age 2-13 / free to children under 2

Museums and Attractions

National Aviary (North Side)

700 Arch St, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

<https://www.aviary.org/> / 412-323-7235

Buslines: 54 (closest to Arch St & Allegheny Middle School); also close to 1, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 16, and 17

- Indoor aviary with birds and mammals from around the world and their habitats
- Admission: \$17.95 adults / \$14.95 age 2-12 / free to children under 2

Kennywood Amusement Park (West Mifflin)

4800 Kennywood Blvd, West Mifflin, PA 15122

<https://www.kennywood.com/> / 412-461-0500

Buslines: 61C and P7. This may be a long trip requiring three buses.

- Amusement park for families with roller coasters, special areas for kids, and nostalgic rides
- Admission: prices change; currently online from \$44.99 for ages 4-64. Ticket price at the gate is \$69.99.

Kelly Strayhorn Theater (East Liberty)

5941 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

<https://kelly-strayhorn.org/> / 412-363-3000

Buslines: 71A, 71B, 71C, 77, 86, and 87. Also close to East Liberty Station on the East Busway.

- Neighborhood theater that offers a creative and community space and centers Black, Indigenous, people of color, and queer voices
- Prices vary for events and classes; classes available for many ages



Events and Festivals

These events happen every year, but dates change each year. Look them up online to learn more!

Spring

Childrens' Theater Festival (May, Downtown)

The EQT Children's Theater Festival brings theater from around the world to the children of Pittsburgh. Professional artists perform for children of all ages.

Summer

Dollar Bank Cinema in the Park (Summer, multiple locations)

In July and August, you can see free movies at parks throughout Pittsburgh. For dates and locations, follow @PghEventsOffice on Twitter, Like @PghEventsOffice on Facebook, or call the Special Events Hotline at 412-255-2493

Pittsburgh Black Music Festival (July, Downtown)

This yearly festival in Point State Park celebrates Black music history in Pittsburgh with free live performances in many genres.

Fall

A Fair in the Park (September, Mellon Park, Shadyside)

An arts and crafts festival in beautiful Mellon Park, with food vendors and live music.

Trax Farms Fall Festival (September-October, Finleyville, PA)

On the weekends in late September and October, this farm in the greater Pittsburgh area offers a fall festival with activities including a corn maze and pumpkin patch!

Winter

Light Up Night (Saturday before Thanksgiving, Downtown)

The yearly Light Up Night begins Pittsburgh's winter holiday celebration with music, fireworks, family activities, and holiday lights downtown.

Highmark Holiday Pops (Dec. 10-19, 2021, select dates, Downtown)

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra offers a musical holiday celebration for the whole family with carols, classics, sing-alongs, and more.



Thachery age 2

Electronic Resources

Allegheny Childcare Tool

You can use this to search for open spots at all early learning, after school, summer camp, and virtual programs in Allegheny County. <https://tryingtogether.org/find-child-care/>

Allegheny Family Network

Provides support and education for families of children with behavioral health needs. Family Support Partners are available by phone Monday through Friday from 9am to 4:30pm at 1-888-273-2361. More information online at <https://www.alleghenyfamilynetwork.org/>

Big Burgh

Big Burgh is a website that helps people experiencing homelessness in Pittsburgh find free and useful services. It is helpful for anyone in need! Check out their directory online at <https://www.bigburgh.com/>.

Brown Mamas

Community support, information, and programs for Black moms online at <https://brownmamas.com/>. Website has guides that can help all families, including a guide for single mothers.

Cost Plus Drugs

Online pharmacy that offers low-cost prescription medications with transparent pricing. Look up your medications online at <https://costplusdrugs.com/>.

Hello Baby

Website at <http://hellobabypgh.org> offers resource guides for health and safety, childcare and development, family support, and essentials. Created by family-focused organizations in Allegheny County.

Kidsburgh

Provides articles, guides, and a calendar for events and activities for kids and families at <https://kidsburgh.org/>

Next Pittsburgh

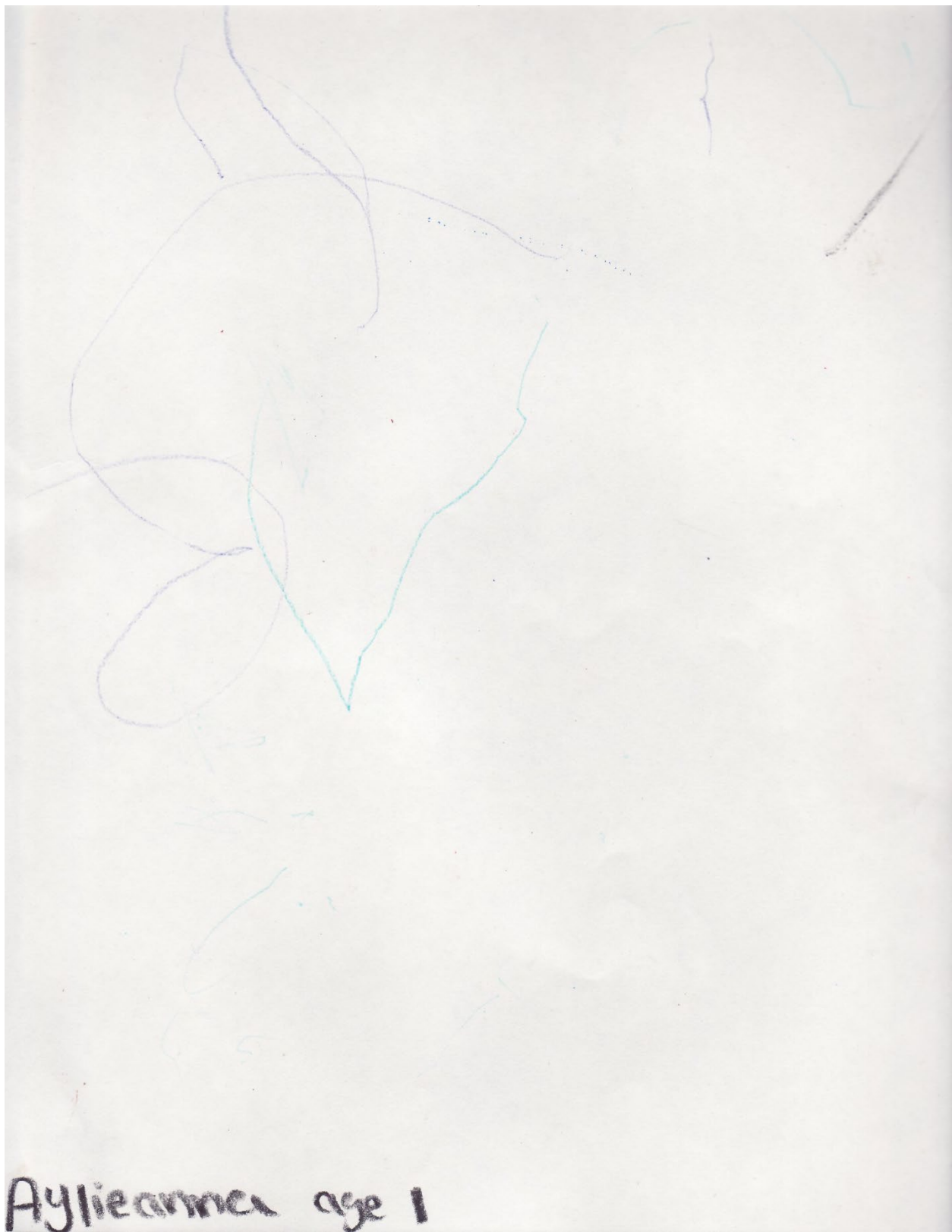
Online source for Pittsburgh news, events, neighborhood guides, and more!
<https://nextpittsburgh.com/>

Pittsburgh Learning Collaborative Family Hotline

24/7 family resource hotline for questions about schools, signing up for summer programs, and finding tutoring and other academic resources. Call 412-256-8536.

Visit Pittsburgh

A comprehensive guide to Pittsburgh from the Visitor Center, available online at <https://visitpittsburgh.com>



Ayllieanna age 1

Getting Around



There are a lot of buses in the area, but it's hard to know how to find the right one. To get started, you should know that our local public transit system is called **Pittsburgh Regional Transit** (formerly Port Authority). You can visit their website at:

<https://www.portauthority.org/>

Some of the **mobile apps** to help you use the bus system are:

- Transit (*you can buy your bus ticket on this app*)
- Whiz
- Moovit
- Google Maps

Fare Structure (as of July 2022)

- Stored value full fare: \$2.75 (valid for three hours with unlimited transfers)
- Cash fare: \$2.75 (Valid for single ride)
- Day Pass: \$7 (Valid from start of service until end of service within a single day)
- 7-Day Pass Full Fare: \$25 (Valid for 7 days after first use)
- 31-Day Pass Full Fare: \$97.50 (Valid for 31 days after first use)
- Children ages 5 and under ride free

You can get a Kid's ConnectCard for half-fare rides for children ages 6-11. Apply online or bring proof of child's age to the Downtown Service Area (623 Smithfield St).

Our local **Travelers Aid** offers a few programs for free or discounted bus passes based on need. You will need a referral for some programs. Visit <https://travelersaidpgh.org> to learn more about each program!

Remember to say thank you to the bus driver—one of our Pittsburgh quirks!

Traveler's Aid programs that may help:

- Behavioral Health Transportation
- CYF Transportation
- Employment Programs
- ICU Baby Program
- Medical Assistance Transportation Program
- Mobile Moms
- Re-entry Programs
- Transportation for Food Assistance
- Trips for Tots



made by: Alexis

age 9

Nearby Places to Know

This list provides a quick look at nearby important places. Ask Sojourner House staff for more suggestions and help connecting with primary care and other services.

In East Liberty:

<p><u>Hospital</u></p> <p>UPMC Shadyside 5230 Centre Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15232</p> <p>West Penn Hospital 4800 Friendship Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15224</p>	<p><u>Urgent Care</u></p> <p>UPMC Shadyside Urgent Care 5231 Centre Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15232 Open 8am to 8pm daily</p>
<p><u>Pharmacy</u></p> <p>Stanton Negley Drug Company 804 N Negley Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206 Open 9am to 4:45pm M-F 9am to 2:30 Saturday 9am to 12pm Sunday</p>	<p><u>Grocery Store</u></p> <p>Giant Eagle Market District 5550 Centre Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15232 Open 7am to 9pm daily</p>

In Homewood:

<p><u>Hospital</u></p> <p>UPMC Shadyside 5230 Centre Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15232</p>	<p><u>Urgent Care</u></p> <p>MedExpress Urgent Care 5201 Baum Blvd Pittsburgh, PA 15224 Open 8am to 8pm daily</p>
<p><u>Pharmacy</u></p> <p>Walgreens 7628 Penn Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15221 Open 9am to 7pm M-F</p>	<p><u>Grocery Store</u></p> <p>Target 6231 Penn Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206 Open 8am to 10pm daily</p>

Other Important Phone Numbers

Health & Safety

Resolve Crisis Services 1-888-796-8226

National Suicide Hotline 988

National Alliance on Mental Illness 1-800-950-6264

Trans Lifeline (877) 565-8860 (24/7)

The Trevor Project 866-488-7386

Warmline Peer and Advocacy Support Network 1-800-641-4546

Pathway to Care and Recovery 412-325-7550 or 1-800-662-4357

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233

Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh 412-687-8005 OR TEXT 412-744-8445

National Eating Disorder Association 1-800-931-2237

Allegheny County Health Department 412-687-2243

Poison Center 1-800-222-1222

Non-Emergency 311

Utilities Emergency

Water and Sewage 412-255-2423

Equitable Gas 412-442-3095

Duquesne Light 1-888-393-7000

Office Numbers

Sojourner House MOMS 412-361-1213

Sojourner House (5460 Penn Ave) 412-441-7783