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Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh Announces New Collaborative Structure

PITTSBURGH, PA (July 7, 2022): Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh is excited to announce its new structure with three supporting partners: Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging (SWPPA), Chatham University and University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Together, the partners will guide the project’s strategic direction and engage people of all ages—residents, students, professionals, community leaders—to make our region a better place to grow old.

“This is a tremendous milestone for us,” said Laura Poskin, Executive Director of Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh. “Soon, one in every five Allegheny County residents will be 65 or older. This new collaborative structure will extend our reach and help us meet the demographic moment.”

Part of the World Health Organization’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh brings people of all ages together to rethink how our neighborhoods are built, and to advance equity through advocacy, education and innovation. The initiative was founded by SWPPA in 2015, with anchor funding from Hillman Family Foundations.

“For more than 30 years, we’ve convened leaders in aging who are committed to improving quality of life for older generations,” said Beth Mulvaney, Board President of SWPPA. “We’re proud that SWPPA and the Pittsburgh region have been pioneers in the age-friendly movement over the past decade, as well as leaders among 650+ age-friendly communities nationwide. The addition of Chatham and Pitt School of Social Work means that it will continue to grow and thrive.”

Chatham University will serve as host, housing Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh's staff at their Chatham Eastside location. This host partnership creates collaboration opportunities with Chatham's School of Health Sciences and Center for Women's Entrepreneurship, and builds upon Chatham's longstanding commitment to multigenerational learning as well as diversity and inclusion.

"Chatham is a place for all learners, young and old and in between," said David Finegold, President of Chatham University. "Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh will provide more opportunities for students and faculty to work across sectors to address the challenges and opportunities of an older population."

Pitt School of Social Work will serve as research coordinator, with Associate Professor Ray Engel, PhD, as Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh's Director of Research. Engel and his team will track the initiative's impact over time, particularly in the 2022-2024 Age-Friendly Neighborhoods of Clairton, Coraopolis and the Hill District.

"Aging is central to our program," said Betsy Farmer, Dean of Pitt School of Social Work. "This new partnership with Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh will enhance our work in gerontology and intergenerational community-building, while also underscoring our commitment to equity throughout the life course."

Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh and its supporting partners are excited to implement this unique new structure that will lead to sustained culture change in our region, and build upon the strengths and collaborative spirit of these entities.

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About Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh:

Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh brings people of all ages together to rethink how our neighborhoods are built and to take action to make them more inclusive and respectful of every generation. Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh is an initiative by Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging, Chatham University and University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. It is made possible through the generous support of the Henry L. Hillman Foundation, the Jefferson Regional Foundation and the Heinz Family Foundation. For more information, please visit agefriendlypgh.org.

