



BTC CENTER, INC.

Building Community. Changing Lives.

SUMMER 2026

INAUGURAL ISSUE

Newsletter

News, Impact, and Opportunities from BTC Center, Inc.

BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER



FOOD PANTRY

Nourishing our neighbors every 4th Saturday.



SENIOR MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

Empowering seniors through digital literacy.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Connecting residents to care, screenings, and healthy living.



PLANTED IN HOMWOOD

Growing fresh food. Growing hope.

*Get Involved.
Change Lives!*



VOLUNTEER

Be the hands and heart of our mission.



DONATE

Your support helps us grow stronger.



PARTNER

Together we can build a healthier community.



LEARN MORE

btccenterinc.com

Welcome to Our Inaugural Issue



Building Community Together

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the BTC Center Newsletter.

BTC Center, Inc. exists to help build stronger, healthier, and more connected communities. From food access and health education to digital literacy and neighborhood gardening, our work is rooted in a simple conviction: meaningful change happens when neighbors, volunteers, partners, and supporters work together.

This first issue offers a glimpse of that shared work. You will see volunteers preparing food for monthly distribution, older adults gaining confidence with technology, residents receiving health screenings and information, and new raised beds taking shape in the Planted in Homewood Community Garden. Each image represents more than a program. It represents relationships, dignity, access, learning, and hope.

We are grateful to the individuals and organizations who contribute time, knowledge, resources, and encouragement. We also invite new friends to join us. Volunteer. Partner with us. Share our work. Support #ONEDAY on August 4. Attend Community Day on August 8. Together, we can continue building opportunity and improving quality of life throughout Homewood and surrounding communities.

Thank you for reading, supporting, and helping BTC Center grow.

Jane Nicholson, Esq.

Board Chair, BTC Center, Inc.

ABOUT BTC CENTER, INC.

BTC Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community resource based in Pittsburgh's Homewood neighborhood. Its mission is to help build the community by addressing food insecurity, public health and safety concerns, health and social disparities, digital access, and other identified needs of residents.

FOCUS AREAS

- Food Access
- Digital Literacy
- Healthy Living
- Community Gardening

Upcoming

AUGUST 22

Food Pantry
8:30 AM-10:30 AM

AUGUST 4

#ONEDAY Critical Needs
Alert
Online Giving Event

AUGUST 8

Community Day
11:00 AM-3:00 PM



EVERY 4TH SATURDAY



Food access with dignity, care, and community

BTC Center's monthly Food Pantry helps address food insecurity in Homewood and surrounding communities. Volunteers prepare the space, organize food, assist with distribution, and welcome neighbors each month. Available items may include fresh produce, dairy products, meat, fish, pantry staples, paper supplies, and health-conscious recipes.

The pantry is a contracted affiliate of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Distribution is held on the fourth Saturday of each month from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Friday preparation and Saturday service depend on committed volunteers who unload, organize, pack, register recipients, distribute food, and clean the space afterward.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE DISTRIBUTION POSSIBLE

Help unload deliveries, prepare bags and boxes, organize produce, welcome recipients, or assist with cleanup.

Volunteer at btccenterinc.com/get-involved

Upcoming Pantry Dates

August 22, 2026

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

September 26, 2026

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

October 24, 2026

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

November 21, 2026*

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

December 19, 2026*

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

*Early due to the holidays

Project Leadership

Project Leads:

Gladys Morton

Doris Lindsey

Board Liaisons:

Gwen Lindsey

Shawna Lindsey



Planted in Homewood



A neighborhood garden built through partnership

Planted in Homewood (PIH) is BTC Center's community garden and a gathering place for healthy food, hands-on learning, physical activity, and neighborhood connection. The garden has expanded to ten raised beds, creating more room to plant, harvest, teach, and share.

The newest improvements reflect the strength of collaboration. Grow Pittsburgh, Homewood Children's Village, Carnegie Mellon University fellows, carpenter apprentices, Tree Pittsburgh, Baptist Temple Church, volunteers, and community members have helped strengthen the site and prepare it for continued growth.

PIH invites neighbors of all ages to plant seeds, care for crops, learn about gardening, volunteer during the season, and share in the harvest. The goal is not only to grow fresh food, but also to grow skills, relationships, ownership, and hope.



Partners in Growth

Grow Pittsburgh • Homewood Children's Village • Carnegie Mellon University fellows • Carpenter apprentices • Tree Pittsburgh • Baptist Temple Church • Community volunteers

Project Leadership

Project Lead:
LaVerne Hunt

Board Liaisons:
Janet Ward and
Deidra Thompson

Current dates:
[www.btccenterinc.com/
get-involved](http://www.btccenterinc.com/get-involved)



LEARNING BY DOING

Practical skills for everyday digital life

Technology increasingly shapes how people communicate, receive information, access services, attend appointments, manage accounts, and stay connected with family and friends. BTC Center's Senior Mobile Technology Training Program helps older adults develop the skills and confidence to participate fully in that digital world.

Classes are practical, patient, and hands-on. Participants learn by working directly with laptops, smartphones, email, internet searches, Zoom, online safety, fraud prevention, and introductory AI tools. The program recognizes that digital literacy is not merely a technical skill; it is a form of access, independence, connection, and participation.

WHY DIGITAL LITERACY MATTERS

It helps seniors connect with loved ones, locate reliable information, use virtual services, recognize scams, and approach new technology with greater confidence.

Topics Include

Smartphones
Zoom
Email
Internet navigation
Fraud prevention
AI basics

Project Leadership

Project Lead: Mark White
Board Liaison:
Wallace Hamilton

Interested in assisting
class participants?
Volunteer at
[www.btccenterinc.com/
get-involved](http://www.btccenterinc.com/get-involved).



Information, screenings, relationships, and prevention

BTC Center's Healthy Living initiative connects residents with health information, preventive care, screenings, and trusted community resources. Through our annual Health Fair, Vaccination Clinic and informational programs, residents can ask questions, receive basic health services, and learn practical steps for supporting their well-being.

The work is strengthened by community and health partners, including Bethany Community Ministries, UPMC (including Magee-Women's Hospital, Hillman Cancer Center and the Mobile Van), ACORx Pharmacy, Pitt's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Magee, the Arthritis Foundation and Baptist Temple Church. These partnerships help bring knowledge, care, and resources closer to the people who need them.

BTC Center's 2025 Health Fair and Vaccination Clinic was featured in the September 10-16, 2025, edition of the New Pittsburgh Courier.



Healthy Living in Action

Health screenings • Blood pressure checks • Vaccinations • Health education • Wellness information • Community resources • Preventive-care resources

See the BTC Center website for the date of the 2026 Health Fair and Vaccination Clinic.

Project Leadership

Project Lead:
Rev. Denise Walker

Board Liaisons:
Cathy Pendleton
Jane Nicholson



Mark Your Calendar

AUGUST 22

Food Pantry

8:30 AM-10:30 AM
Upcoming dates:
September 26
October 24
November 21
December 19

AUGUST 4

#ONEDAY Critical Needs Alert

Online Giving Event
Give through www.pittsburghgives.org
from 8:00 AM to 11:59 PM.
Search for BTC Center.

AUGUST 8

Community Day

11:00 AM-3:00 PM
Connection, service, resources,
fun, food, and neighborhood
celebration for all ages.

GIVE ON AUGUST 4 - AND BEYOND

#ONEDAY Critical Needs Alert - Online Giving Event

On Tuesday, August 4, 2026, support BTC Center through www.pittsburghgives.org from 8:00 AM to 11:59 PM. Search for BTC Center and make your contribution during this regional day of giving.

Why give on #ONEDAY?

Concentrated giving strengthens BTC Center's visibility, broadens community support, and demonstrates the importance of programs responding to critical needs.

Missed August 4?

Give year-round at:
btccenterinc.com/donate/



Three ways to build with BTC Center

1

Volunteer

Prepare food, support the garden, help with events, or share your skills.


2

Donate

Give on August 4 through www.pittsburghgives.org, or give year-round at www.btccenterinc.com/donate/.


3

Partner

Contribute expertise, volunteers, sponsorship, services, or in-kind support.



Give on August 4 to strengthen BTC Center's participation in #ONEDAY - and continue supporting our work throughout the year at www.btccenterinc.com.



BTC Center, Inc.

BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

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Visit the website

Board of Directors

- Jane Nicholson, Esq., Board Chair
- Janet Ward, Board Vice Chair and Treasurer
- Deidra Thompson, Secretary
- Clarence Curry
- Wallace Hamilton
- Gwen Lindsey
- Rev. Dr. Rodney Adam Lyde
- Cathy Pendleton
- Stacy Harris

Thank you for helping BTC Center build community.

This inaugural newsletter is the beginning of an ongoing conversation about the people, partnerships, programs, and possibilities shaping our work. Share this issue and invite someone else to connect.

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