



# DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services



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## Five questions with Shelli Luchs

Shelli is event and donations coordinator II in the Office of Equity and Engagement (OEE). She can be reached at [Shelli.Luchs@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Shelli.Luchs@alleghenycounty.us).

### ***1. What was your path to Allegheny County/DHS?***

I started my career in film publicity, interning at Paramount Pictures/DreamWorks Animation and then working for Sony Pictures through Force One Entertainment in New York City. Following film, I worked in radio promotions at 92.3 K-Rock. In finding that I wanted to work more closely and be engaged with a specific audience/community, I moved into the field of higher education in alumni relations where I worked for Marymount Manhattan College followed by Barnard College of Columbia University. In 2016, I moved my family to Pittsburgh (where we could finally purchase a home!) and started working for DHS in the then Office of Community Relations.

### ***2. Tell us a bit about the work you do.***

I manage the Event and Donations Team. We're responsible for Project Prom, Candidates' Comedy Night, the Allegheny County Music Festival (save the date for this year's concert on Sunday, September 5), the Holiday Project, Food Truck Fridays and Dessert Truck Tuesdays, and resource fairs. I also coordinate the donation and distribution of funding and donated items received by DHS through the above events and general donations.

### ***3. How does your work help to support DHS's mission and goals?***

The majority of the work I manage, aside from the activities we host as enrichment for staff, directly serves the most vulnerable populations in Allegheny County. Project Prom provides free formal attire and accessories to young adults who otherwise may not have been able to attend their prom. The funds raised through Candidates' Comedy Night and the music festival directly benefit the Allegheny County Music Festival Fund, which has provided thousands of children and youth with items and opportunities not otherwise available through traditional government sources. Through the Holiday Project, in partnership with CYF, my team provides over 3,600 children and youth with holiday gifts annually.

### ***4. What most excites you about your work?***

I love knowing that at the end of each day, the work I've done directly helps people in our community who are most in need. I enjoy engaging with the community, local businesses and organizations, and my colleagues through our annual projects. It feels good to know that the hard work we've put in to making our efforts so successful have positively impacted so many people. There's no greater feeling than watching a young person go through the Project Prom experience and leave feeling more confident and excited about the milestone event ahead of them.

***5. What is the most important thing DHS staff should know about your role?***

All of the work I do with my team wouldn't be possible without the amazing support we receive from staff volunteers. If you haven't already, please consider volunteering with us at one of the events we host. As we continue to expand the work we do under the umbrella of community engagement, I hope you'll consider joining us to help us advance the work we do for and with the community.