



MEDIA ALERT

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

YMCA and JCC Campers to Celebrate “Unity in Community” with Roberto Clemente Bridge Walk and Pirates Game

WHO

Approximately 200 middle school campers and staff from the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh’s James and Rachel Levinson Day Camp, alongside Jason Rivers, Pittsburgh Public Schools Director of Narrative Transformation, Conflict Resolution and Violence Prevention and a consultant for the Unity in Community initiative.

WHAT

The YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh and the JCC of Greater Pittsburgh will celebrate the culmination of **Unity in Community**, a summer-long partnership designed to help young people recognize bias, build empathy, develop leadership skills and create communities where everyone feels they belong. Following a summer of staff development, kindness-focused programming and activities centered on empathy, inclusion and belonging, campers from both organizations will come together for their first fully shared experience.

The day will begin with a unified walk across the Roberto Clemente Bridge, where campers will carry Unity in Community signage and sing camp songs. Rivers will then lead icebreakers, small-group activities and conversations about dignity and belonging outside PNC Park. Campers will also assemble 400 blessing bags for donation to local community organizations before attending the Pittsburgh Pirates game together.

WHEN

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

- **9:45–10 a.m.:** Campers and staff gather in front of the Byham Theater
- **10–10:30 a.m.:** Unified walk across the Roberto Clemente Bridge
- **10:30 a.m.:** Group reconvenes at the Water Steps outside PNC Park
- **10:45 a.m.:** Icebreakers, small-group activities and dignity conversations led by Jason Rivers
- **11:30 a.m.:** Campers assemble 400 blessing bags for local community organizations
- **11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.:** Lunch
- **12:15 p.m.:** Group enters PNC Park

YMCA OF GREATER PITTSBURGH
Foster Plaza 5 | 651 Holiday Dr., Suite 520
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
412 227 3800
pittsburghymca.org



WHERE

Bridge walk and activities:

Roberto Clemente Bridge and the water steps outside PNC Park
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Pirates game:

PNC Park
115 Federal Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

WHY

Early adolescence is a critical time when young people are developing their identities and becoming more aware of differences, stereotypes and unfairness. Unity in Community gives campers practical tools to build relationships, think critically, challenge bias and respond to division with empathy, curiosity and respect.

Summer camp provides an ideal environment for this work because young people spend their days building relationships, solving problems and working together. Through the partnership, YMCA and JCC campers have opportunities to connect with peers they might not otherwise meet and learn how their everyday choices can help create stronger, more inclusive communities.

Before camp began, Rivers led a workshop for YMCA and JCC staff focused on identity, belonging, recognizing bias and creating environments where every child feels respected, included and valued. During the summer, both organizations also celebrated National Camp Kindness Day by hosting Kindness Festivals featuring activities that promoted empathy, teamwork, inclusion and standing up for others. Unity in Community is supported by the **Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh** and **The Grable Foundation**, whose investments are helping young people from diverse communities build stronger relationships and stronger communities.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Fara Marcus

JCC of Greater Pittsburgh
412-697-3510
fmarcus@jccpgh.org

Andrew Kowalewski

YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh
412-227-3800
akowalewski@ymcapgh.org

YMCA OF GREATER PITTSBURGH
Foster Plaza 5 | 651 Holiday Dr., Suite 520
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
412 227 3800
pittsburghymca.org