

Allegheny Conference announces partnership to provide 360,000 masks to health care workers

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AMERICAN TEXTILE CO.

Workers unload masks that have already been produced as part of the joint effort between the Allegheny Conference, American Textile Co. and Global Links to provide local health care workers with reusable masks.

The Allegheny Conference announced on Friday the formation of a new partnership of Pittsburgh-area organizations that are joining together to produce and distribute more than 360,000 masks to local health care workers.

Dubbed the Protective Mask Fund, an organized effort including the conference, the American Textile Company and [Global Links](#) is resulting in the dispersing of hundreds of thousands of masks to local essential workers in

the health and human services fields, with tens of thousands of the masks already being delivered.

"It's a true testament to the partnership and collaboration of our region," said [Janel Skelley](#), CFO of the Allegheny Conference. "We have served as a custodian of the project and lent our expertise."

While the Allegheny Conference is managing the funding, of which \$750,000 has been raised so far from local companies and organizations supporting the cause, it's the work of ATC and Global Links that is allowing for the masks to be made and distributed.

Production is being coordinated by ATC, which has refitted its Duquesne-based facility to produce the reusable masks. Its other locations in Georgia, Texas, Utah and even in El Salvador are also manufacturing masks for the cause. All of the masks are being made in accordance with the health and safety standards that have been set by the Allegheny County Health Department.

"We're going to produce as many as are needed," [Lance Ruttenberg](#), president and CEO of ATC, said. "The objective was to get everyone in Allegheny county who needed a mask, a mask. We couldn't be more honored to be a part of it."

While ATC is managing the manufacturing of the masks, Global Links has been tasked with ensuring the masks are distributed to those who need it by coordinating with the Allegheny County Health Department, the Allegheny County Human Services Department and public health and human services agencies in surrounding counties as well.

"We have orders growing daily," [Angela Garcia](#), the executive director of Global Links, said. "Our goal is to provide these masks to every hospital worker, every hospice worker."

The reusable masks are designed to fit over a traditional N95 mask which will then extend how long an N95 can remain effective before needing to be

replaced. The masks being made by ATC, however, will not need replaced and can be washed with regular laundry in order to be reused.

"This is a really Pittsburgh story in so many ways and we're proud to share it" [Phil Cynar](#), a senior communications specialist at the Allegheny Conference, said. "We're grateful to all of the participating organizations who have made this possible."



Nate Doughty
Digital Producer
Pittsburgh Business Times