

See what MNDC has been doing!

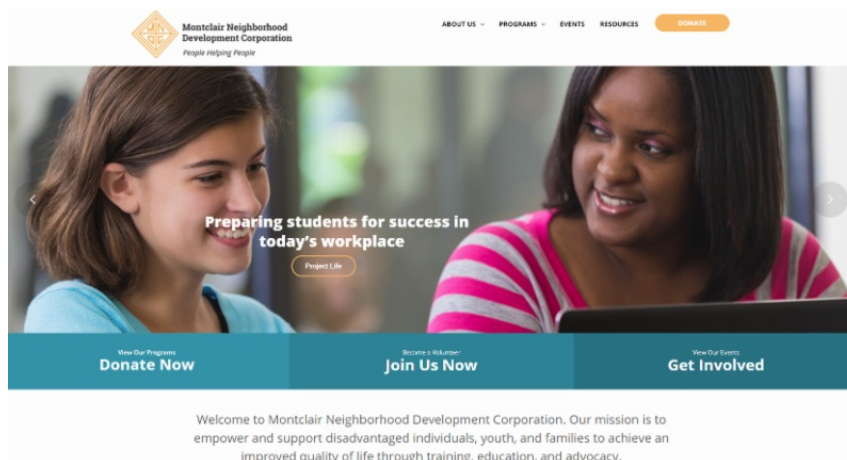
Montclair
Neighborhood
Development
Corporation



We've been busy!

We hope you're enjoying your summer and finding time to relax. Here at MNDC, we are keeping our youth busy and productive with [Project Oasis](#). Students are having fun as they learn leadership and good character skills and also play in a basketball league. During the program, youth from our [Project Life Culinary Career Institute](#) will be selling and serving food and snacks at the Project Oasis Cafe.

Have you seen our new website?



Take a [look](#)-- we just launched our new website a few weeks ago. We think it's a thumbs up but you be the judge. We hope you find it easy to navigate as well as nice to look at!

Our Featured Programs

Students Graduate from Project Life

This past winter and spring, high school students spent ten weeks preparing for the world of work through classroom instruction in the [Project Life Program](#). They learned about entrepreneurial skills, financial literacy, resumé writing, appropriate business attire, business planning, and



more.

We held a graduation ceremony to honor the 32 program graduates. Many thanks to Ms. Benedicta Otor, owner of B London Restaurant, and her seven students in our [Culinary Career Institute](#) who catered the event. Those students are now running the Project Oasis Cafe at Glenfield Park for the summer.

This year, we had 32 students graduate from our Project Life program.

Project Life Summer Employment Program Begins



Ms. Benedicta Otor and her 7 students in our Culinary Arts Program catered the Project Life graduation ceremony.

Students from our [Project Life](#) program are now putting the classroom instruction to use working at [various businesses and organizations](#) throughout Montclair. We believe the classes, combined with real-life experience, will give them a jump start on their work career.

We are especially grateful to our employment partners. If you know of a local business or organization that would like to hire a Project Life student next year, let us know!

Project Oasis in Full Swing

Our flagship program, [Project Summer Oasis](#) kicked off in late June. For six weeks, students attend evening enrichment and tutorial sessions to improve their abilities in financial literacy, math, science, language arts, and life skills. We've purposely made our classes more interactive this year and the kids are doing well.

On Fridays, we are thrilled to feature special speakers. One recent evening, a group of women spoke to our students and related the difficulties they had growing up and why education is vitally important. During another session, one of our referees talked to the youth about second chances. Despite some wrong turns, he was ultimately able to get on the



Come see our Project Oasis Championship Game on Thursday, Aug. 3 at 7 p.m.

right path for a good future and pursue his education. Lastly, a representative from S.O.F.I.A. (Start Out Fresh Intervention Advocates) spoke about safe dating, respect and healthy relationships.

During the sessions, the youth also divide into six teams and compete against each other in basketball. Our Project Oasis Championship Game will be played on Thursday, August 3 at 7:00. Stop by Glenfield Park to see who wins the trophy!



Partner Spotlight



Khalid Branch ("Butta") serves as a counselor this year.

Pat Brechka, Director of the Montclair Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, can't say enough good things about our [Project Life](#) students. Her department is not only a funder of Project Life, but every summer she employs five of our graduates to help the counselors manage the 200 children who attend the Montclair Recreation Day Camp at Clary Anderson Arena.

What she loves about the MNDC students is that they are hard working, respectful of the counselors, eager to learn and arrive on time to work. Brechka can always tell who she'll hire as counselors when they turn 18. "It's the students who really love being with the kids and stay after the day is over to help clean up or hang out," she comments.

"Butta", or Khalid Branch, was that kid. He started as a helper last year and excelled in his work. Having a job that he cared about changed his whole demeanor, surprising his mother who noted the positive change. This year, Khalid was hired as a counselor and is adored by the children and staff alike. Camp is like his second home.

Brechka says that she makes it a point to tell other organizations about these exceptional students in the hopes that they'll become Project Life employers.

Student of the Month

This summer is Diamond Goodwyn's third year in [Project Life](#). As a rising senior she has her eyes set on college a year from now and she's grateful that MNDC has prepared her for a possible future as a Business Administration major.

Like the other Project Life graduates, Diamond spent ten weeks this year learning about crafting her resume, writing cover letters, and improving her communication and people skills. In past years, she worked at the Salvation Army and the Montclair Art Museum, but now you'll find her at the MNDC office, answering the phone, filing,



and keeping the office organized. "The program gives kids an understanding of how the work world operates," she said, "and it's valuable to learn about being on time and prepared for a job."

Mission Street Cleanup



On Saturday, July 15, Mission Street got a clean-up by some of Montclair's town leaders. Volunteers from MNDC helped as well as Councilwoman Dr. Renee Baskerville, Reaching Out Montclair, Mayor Robert Jackson, Deputy Police Chief Will Young, Carolyn Wineglass - Community Activist and other community and township leaders.

Upcoming Events

National Night Out - August 1, 5 - 8 p.m.

National Night Out is an event that is recognized throughout the country as a way for members of the community to come out and spend a safe evening with emergency personnel from their communities.

This year the Montclair Police Department will hold National Night Out on Tuesday August 1, 2017 from 5 - 8 p.m. on South Park Street. The road will be closed off to create a safe environment for all who come out. Members of the Montclair Police Department, Montclair Fire Department and Montclair Ambulance Unit will be on hand to speak with individuals and display their equipment. There will be games, activities, and a community bike ride. Safety brochures and other novelty items will be available for all.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Backpack Giveaway August 27, 1 - 5 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the 10th Annual Free School Supplies Event. This lively event will feature food, music, games and giveaways at Glenfield Park, 115 Maple Avenue.

The event is being done in partnership with:

- Montclair FOP #126



- Montclair NAACP
- Renee Baskerville 4th Ward Collaborative
- Montclair Neighborhood Development Corp. (MNDC)
- Montclair Education Association
- Montclair Pre-K
- Craftsman Club of Eureka Lodge #52
- Montclair Police Athletic League
- Brother to Brother
- The Montclair Board Of Education
- Montclair Cobras Junior Program
- Re-Max Village Square
- The Montclair Drifters
- Omicron Xi Omega Chapter - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

For further information and to make donations, please contact MNDC, (973) 744-9094. Click [here](#) to register children for backpacks. Remember, supplies are limited and children must be present! Montclair residents only.



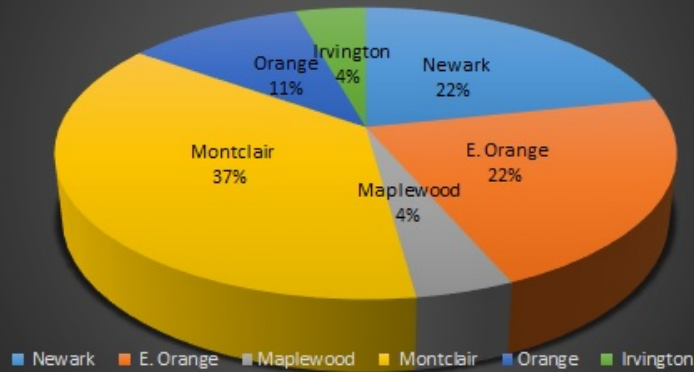
On Sunday, July 30th, MNDC is participating in the Back 2 School Store so elementary children can have all the gear they need come the new school year. Sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women in Essex County, this program provides economically disadvantaged Essex County elementary school children with clothing, school supplies and other necessities. A personal shopper will accompany each child through the "store" helping him or her choose items that reflect their style and favorite color. This allows children to focus on learning with the self-esteem and enthusiasm that comes with having what they need for school.

Funding Update

CSBG, the Community Service Block Grant, provides funds to assist state and local communities like ours to reduce poverty, revitalize neighborhoods and empower low-income families to become fully self-sufficient. In 2016, MNDC received \$176,180.37 in funding. During the 2nd quarter, the contract was amended, bringing the total funding to \$284,745.52 which allows us to do even more to improve the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors and make our community stronger.

MNDC also provides SSH/SSH-TANF Homeless Prevention services. The chart below shows our activity from January - June 2017. We were able to provide rental assistance for 46 families and back rental assistance, relocation, and PSE&G assistance in the amount of \$57,209.

2016/2017 Homeless Prevention



Our Mission

The mission of the Montclair Neighborhood Development Corp. is to empower and support disadvantaged individuals, youth, and families to achieve an improved quality of life through training, education, and advocacy.

People Helping People

Visit our website

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