

See what MNDC has been doing!

Montclair  
Neighborhood  
Development  
Corporation



## So much to tell you!

The work at MNDC never slows down as we always have programs and new plans in the works to help youth and families in our community. Read about our spotlighted senior, student, board member and instructor, the latest on our Career Development and Culinary Career Institutes, After School program and more. Enjoy!

## Senior Spotlight

Do Drop In Senior Activity Coordinator, Katherine Nicholas, serves lunch at one of the gatherings.



MNDC is known for its efforts with local youth, but it also runs a successful community program for senior citizens. Known as the *Do Drop In*, the program meets Monday, Thursday and Friday of each week from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Park House and provides a place for men and women to come together and socialize

over a cup of coffee and lunch. Katherine Nicholas has been the coordinator for the past two years and is responsible for making the Park House a welcoming space, providing and cooking the food, planning trips and workshops and anything else she thinks may be of interest to this community. ([Read more.](#))

## Student Spotlight



Issata Green is grateful to the neighbor that told her mother about MNDC's Career Development Institute (CDI). Having finished up her third year in the program, Miss Green is looking forward to starting her job at Mountainside Hospital.

Her first job through CDI was at Davis Integrated Medicine and although she already was interested in becoming a physical therapist, seeing what one does on a daily basis solidified her direction. ([Read more.](#))

## Instructor Spotlight

Diane Anglin admits that she bleeds blue and white. She's a Montclair girl, with roots here that go back to her grandmother. They fuel her passion for giving back to her community.

For the past eight years, Ms. Anglin has served as an instructor for the Career Development Institute (formerly known as Project Life). She provides employment readiness and life skills classes, explaining that the first hour of each three-hour class begins with basics such as how to write a resume, apply and interview for a job, retain a job, and more. The second hour encompasses life skills where she teaches students cooking basics, how to pay rent, use coupons, handle an ATM card, even have a conversation (e.g. what do you say after hello?). The third hour was filled out with a Speaker Series that



highlighted a guest who discussed the challenges they faced in their career journey. ([read more.](#))

## Board Member Spotlight

Mr. Allen was able to meet President Barack Obama in 2014. He was originally told he'd be meeting Vice President Joe Biden. Imagine his surprise when he found himself shaking hands with the President!



It takes dedicated individuals to serve on the board of a nonprofit. Lucky for MNDC that Kevin Allen is retired and has the time to serve on their board. After retiring from the Montclair Fire Department where he served for 34 years, 9 of them as Fire Chief, he wanted to use his newfound time to start volunteering. He had grown up in Montclair and thought it made sense to give back to the town that had been so good to him. He was already familiar with MNDC, liked their mission, and was added to the board about 3 years ago. ([read more.](#))

## Gala

### Save the Date - October 13

Calling all Partners, Friends & Families - Come and join us at our 1st Annual Charity Benefit Celebration "50/50 Raffle". The ticket donation is \$100.00. If all tickets are sold, the 1st prize is \$20,000.00. 2nd prize - \$5,000.00. 3rd prize - \$3,000.00. The drawing will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at The Wally Choice Community Center, 45 Maple Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042. To purchase tickets, download our [raffle order form](#) or visit us at the administrative office at 228 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042.

## Ready for Prime Time



The Park House has reopened and it is gorgeous! Upgrades include new fixtures in restrooms to meet current ADA codes; a kitchen modernized with new equipment; replaced ceiling and floor tiles; upgraded HVAC, fire alarm and lighting systems; painted and refinished interior and exterior walls; and upgraded exterior lighting. The asphalt surface in front of the community center was replaced with brick pavers and a new driveway onto Maple Avenue was created so motorists no longer have to drive through the park to reach the parking area. Last but not least, new landscaping was installed.

Come take a look at this revitalized community center and prepare to be wowed!

## Students from Valentine Project go to Prom



MNDC has teamed up with the Valentine Project to provide meaningful training and work for individuals on the autism spectrum. This spring, some of the participants got to go to their own prom and had a blast!



These girls looked stunning for their first-ever prom.



## Core Programs Update

### Another Successful Year: Career Development & Culinary Career Institutes



Students learned how to make healthy snacks starting with fruit kebobs.

Students in the MNDC Career Development Institute (CDI) and Culinary Arts Institute were recognized on Friday, June 29 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Wally Choice Community Center, 49 Maple Ave. in Montclair.

Fifteen youth, ages 14 - 18, completed CDI's ten-week course to become better prepared for the work world. They learned about entrepreneurial skills, financial literacy, résumé writing, dressing for success, business plan writing, and more. Each session ended with a guest speaker who shared their journey of their chosen career path and its challenges, including Dr. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Montclair Schools, Detective Kim Nelson, Councilwoman Rene Baskerville, Mr. Maurice Brown, Director, Department of Community Action, author Valerie Wesley, and more. ([read more.](#))

### Career Development Institute Hosts Speaker Series



College and high school students talked about the realities of college life.

Always seeking to educate and inform our students, MNDC hosted a Speaker Series as part of the Career Development Institute (CDI) program. A recent panel featured college students who presented "Let's talk about what college is REALLY like". They discussed topics like time management, choosing classes, drugs and alcohol, partying, culture, sports, and life choices. It was an animated gathering full of honest and thoughtful conversation.



# Summer Employment Program



Our Summer Employment Program began on July 9 and we're looking forward to seeing 22 of our students enter the "real world" and learn what it takes to be a great employee. We thank our employment partners for giving our youth meaningful jobs. Read more [here](#).

- Toni's Kitchen
- The Salvation Army
- Montclair Public Library
- Neighborhood Child Care Center
- Trinity Baptist Church
- Montclair Parks & Recreation
- Mountainside Hospital
- Upcycle
- Grassroots Summer Camp

## The After School Program Round-up



Students in our After School Program finished out the school year with projects that were both fun and educational. They continued their financial literacy class, learning how to bank by filling out deposit slips and cashing checks.

Using Wakanda from The Black Panther movie as inspiration, students studied the history of African kings and queens and came to understand the depth of

black history that didn't start with slavery.

Students also embarked on a resume-building project by listing their hobbies and chores. They broke down the skills needed for various household chores which enabled them to develop skill sets and list their experience.

We ended the year with a cook out and end-of-year party and the kids had a blast.

## Project Summer Oasis Opened on July 5

**Summer Oasis**, MNDC's free and popular summer program for 9 to 18-year-olds, opened on July 5 and will go through August 2. This year it is being done in partnership with Brother to Brother.

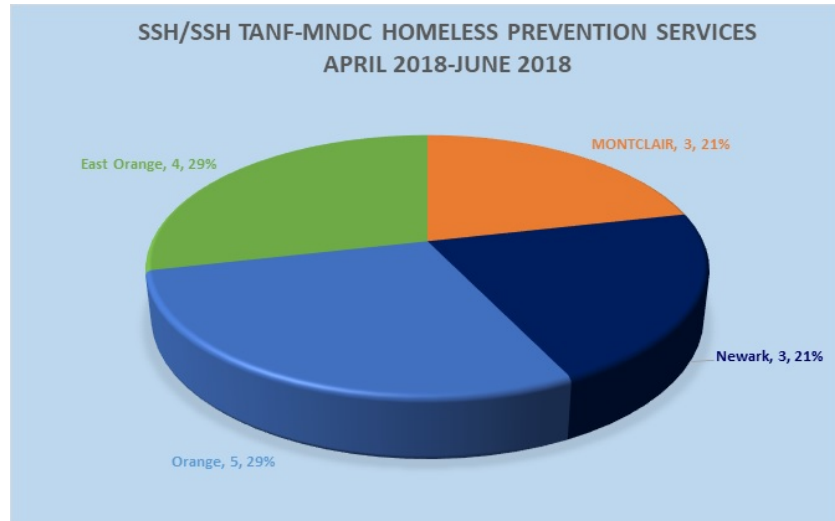
Students will attend evening enrichment and tutorial sessions that are matched to their needs to improve their abilities in financial literacy, math, science, language arts, and life skills. They also divide into teams and enjoy competing against one another in basketball (a major attraction of this program). Tennis is also offered. We look forward to hearing stories of good times and team wins.



MNDC was recently awarded \$110,000 for the SSH grant and \$270,827 for the CSBG grant. We are grateful for these important funds that allow MNDC to continue our work in the community.

**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.

MNDC also provides SSH/SSH-TANF Homeless Prevention services. The chart below shows our activity from April - June 2018. We were able to provide rental assistance for 15 families and back rental assistance, relocation, and PSE&G assistance in the amount of \$33,396.



## 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*

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