

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 upcoming Spring Fling, Student of the Month, the Valentine Project, Career Development Institute, and more.

Renovation of Park House at Wally Choice Center Begins



The Park House at the Wally Choice Community Center is getting an upgrade. Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. announced plans March 20 with work slated for completion by June so important programs for youth and seniors can continue. Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation Executive Director Albert Pelham said, "We are very excited to see this building being renovated because it is well used by people of all ages in the community." MNDC uses it for many of its activities year-round including the seniors program *Do Drop In*, Project Oasis, and

many events.

Upgrades include new fixtures in restrooms to meet current ADA codes; the kitchen will be modernized with new equipment; the ceiling and floor tiles will be replaced; upgraded HVAC, fire alarm and lighting systems; interior and exterior walls will be painted and refinished; and exterior lighting will be upgraded. The asphalt surface in front of the community center will be replaced with brick pavers and a new driveway onto Maple Avenue will be created so motorists do not have to drive through the park to reach the parking area. New landscaping will be installed.

Student of the Month

We love talking about our students and one who stands out is Olivia Chipepo. She has volunteered for several MNDC events for the past few years and participated in some of our programs such as the Career Development Institute (CDI, formerly known as Project Life).

She found CDI to be enjoyable and informative because it

focuses on enhancing real-life skills. During the program, she learned about business and resume writing, interviewing techniques, business attire, improving communication skills and customer service skills. Completing it gave her a sense of accomplishment.

Olivia will be...([read more](#))



Upcoming Events

Spring Fling - March 31



MNDC, in cooperation with the Montclair PBA Local 53 and Montclair Recreation, invites the community to our Spring Fling to welcome spring and Mr. Bunny and feature many fun activities such as an egg hunt (starts promptly at 11 a.m.), toy giveaway, lunch, a photo with Mr. Bunny and face painting.

The fun takes place on March 31 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. rain or shine at the Glenfield "Baby Park" at 25 Maple Ave. Special help will be provided by Councilwoman Baskerville and the 4th Ward Collaborative as well as the Montclair Cobras Football League.

Save the Date - October 13

You'll want to put our upcoming fundraiser on your calendar. It's scheduled for October 13 at the Park House at Glenfield Park. Stay tuned for more details and how to buy tickets.

Our Highlighted Program

Do Drop In: A Gathering Place for Seniors



Seniors are the foundation of MNDC and we like to keep them involved as an important part of our community. Three days a week during the school year, seniors from the area gather at the Park House at Glenfield Park in Montclair. Called the *Do Drop In*, this special group comes together for camaraderie, reconnecting, education and entertainment...and food!

A typical day will feature 50 or so seniors sitting in small groups chatting over a cup of coffee about the good old days or how they...([read more](#))

Our Newest Partner

Valentine Project at MNDC



MNDC has teamed up with the Valentine Project to provide meaningful training and work for individuals on the autism spectrum. Each Friday afternoon, three instructors help about eight participants from Montclair with clerical skills, teaching them to use the copy machine and computers in an office environment. This assistance is especially valuable once individuals age out of school and need to find work to stay engaged, challenged and utilized.

Core Programs Update

Time to register: Career Development Institute



These high school students participate in last year's Career Development Institute.

The Career Development Institute (CDI), previously known as Project Life, is scheduled to begin on Friday, April 20. This ten-week course meets for two hours every Friday evening and helps to prepare students, ages 14 - 18, for the work world. Classroom instruction will focus on business education, entrepreneurial skills, financial literacy, résumé writing, dressing for success, business plan writing, and more. Each session will end with a guest speaker who shares the journey of their chosen career path. Scheduled speakers include Dr. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Montclair Schools, Detective Kim Nelson, Councilwoman Rene Baskerville, Mr. Maurice Brown, Director, Department of Community Action and many, many more... ([read more](#))

[Click here](#) to complete the pre-registration form. HUD-eligible families are encouraged to enroll.

Rosa Parks, Banking, and Black Panther = Busy Students

*I benefited from what Rosa Parks did for civil rights by,.....
Getting to go to the same school with other races of kids.
and I can take the bus freely.
Lastly, I can drink from any water fountain I want to.*

Students in our After School Program were busy with many activities this winter. For Black History Month they discussed Rosa Parks and made a tri-fold board art display of her life. They also wrote about how her actions impacted their lives to change what they are allowed to do today.

In Mr. Blaine's financial literacy class, students learned how budgets are created and reviewed the differences and benefits of savings and checking accounts. Mr. Blaine and Ms. Dunn challenged them to open a savings account and will give each student five dollars to add to their account.

The students went on a field trip to see *Black Panther* and enjoyed the movie very much. This will lead into our study of the history of African kings and queens and students will create crowns.

Mark your Calendar: Project Oasis will run July 5 - August 2

Registration for Summer Oasis will open on April 3 at 228 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair. This free popular summer program for 9 to 18-year-olds will run from July 5 through August 2.

Students 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. HUD-eligible families are welcome, however, anyone is welcome to apply. Click [here](#) for more information.

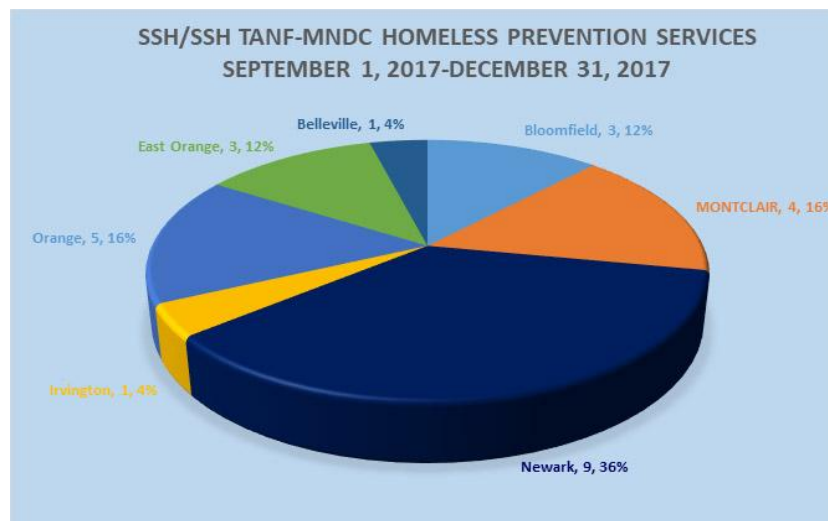


Funding Update

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 September 1 - December 31, 2017. We were able to provide rental assistance for 26 families and back rental assistance, relocation, and PSE&G assistance in the amount of \$48,927.



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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