

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. But we are particularly busy as the holidays are upon us. Read more about how you can help us get ready for our Thanksgiving Basket and Children's Toy Giveaways as well some of the people and programs that help MNDC make a difference.

Student of the Month

Kimoni DePass is the sort of girl who likes to keep busy. As a third year [Project Life](#) graduate, she's learned a lot about the work world. She valued learning what it takes to have a job, both applying for one and interviewing. The guest speakers from all walks of life exposed her to different careers and taught her not to judge people but rather get to know them first.



A high school junior, Kimoni is thinking about pursuing a liberal arts education in college and says that her jobs over the past three summers helped shape her interests. Although she loved working at Mountainside Hospital's Maternal Fetal Ward, she realized that a career in healthcare is not for her. The next summer, working at Montclair Municipal Court, she saw firsthand how laws affect citizens, solidifying what she's learned in school as a member of the Debate Team and the Civics & Government Institute. This past summer, she had a job at the Montclair Public Library and liked it so much that she is working there during the school year. That's how she found out that she likes to work with kids.

Although Kimoni could've spent her summers relaxing, she said, "I liked having structure and keeping busy. Having to go to bed at a decent hour made the transition back to school that much easier."

MNDC values Kimoni's willingness to volunteer whenever they have a need. She sees it as a way to pay them back for the wonderful experiences she's had and credits MNDC for being a supportive team of individuals who are always willing to give one-on-one time to make sure "their kids" are doing well.

Upcoming Events

**Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway
November 20 - 21, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.**



Thanksgiving is right around the corner and MNDC is accepting donations of canned goods and frozen turkeys so they can assemble baskets to give to approximately 50 families in need. Please drop off turkeys and shelf-stable items to MNDC, 228 Bloomfield Avenue by November 21.

If your family is in need of a Thanksgiving basket, please complete the [pre-registration form](#) or call MNDC. We will be distributing the baskets on November 20 & 21, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at MNDC, 228 Bloomfield Avenue.

Christmas Toy Giveaway

We're getting ready for our Christmas Toy Giveaway and we need your help. Please donate new, unwrapped toys to MNDC, 9:30 - 4:30 at 228 Bloomfield Avenue by 12/15 so we can provide toys to families who need a little help this holiday season.

If you're the type who likes to wrap, [register](#) to join us at our wrapping party on December 12 and 14.

Finally, to register for the Christmas Toy Giveaway, please complete our [pre-registration form](#) by 12/4. Our giveaway will take place on 12/23 from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Wally Choice Community Center.



Believe in the Magic of the Season



It's time to celebrate all that makes our work so special. Join us for our *Believe in the Magic of the Season* event on Sunday, December 10, 3 - 6 p.m. at the Wally Choice Community Center. We're asking each guest to bring a gift for a child.

We promise to have great food and conversation. Last year, a spontaneous Christmas sing-a-long erupted, so there's no telling what the afternoon holds aside from good will for an organization that seeks to make

a difference for the youth in our community.

Have you met Luis?

This past August, [Luis-Felipe Agrelot](#) joined MNDC as Administrative Assistant and already he's made himself a



valued member of the team. Mr. Agrelot has a passion for helping youth and families and he credits his strong faith and his mother for instilling a desire to help others. She was known as someone who opened up her home to anyone needing help despite struggling to provide for her family.

Mr. Agrelot attended Springfield College's School of Human Services and has worked with a number of nonprofits over the years. What drew him to MNDC was the array of services it offers as well as the growth of the organization. He knew from his experience that MNDC is well-respected

by community leaders and elected officials and he wanted to be a part of it. He looks forward to seeing MNDC expand its services in northern Essex County while increasing its private and community funding.

If you visit the MNDC office, you'll likely be greeted by Mr. Agrelot. He's bilingual and can readily assist Spanish-speaking clients. As someone who loves technology, he's working on making the office paperless. And he stays busy supporting the work of Ms. Spears who is always managing programs and new initiatives. We welcome Mr. Agrelot and are grateful for the many talents he brings to his position.

Partner Spotlight



MNDC has an exciting new partnership with [Laptop Upcycle](#), a nonprofit in Montclair. Knowing that many students in Montclair don't have computers at home, Laptop Upcycle obtains, refreshes, and distributes laptops and five years of free WiFi so middle and high school students can have the tools to succeed in school.

MNDC's role is to identify students in need of a computer and then schedule workshops with Laptop-Upscale. MNDC also consults with Montclair Schools for student recommendations. We are hopeful that this partnership will continue for years to come.

Our Featured Board Member

Get to know Beverly Bussey

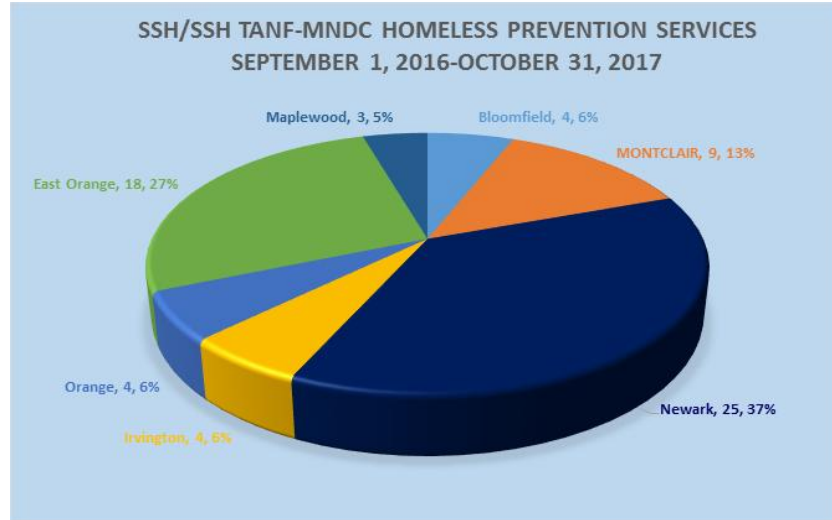


Beverly A. Bussey was born and raised in the Ironbound section ("down neck") of Newark, NJ. She attended Oliver Street School and East Side High School. Her family moved to Montclair when she was 17 years old and she resided in town for over 30 years. Ms. Bussey's civic and community engagement began with volunteering as a parent/teacher's assistant at Rand School. Shortly thereafter, she served three consecutive, two-year appointments by the town council of Montclair to the Landlord/Tenant Housing Advisory Committee. For the past 10 years, she has been a member of the Board of the Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation. She is also a Life member of the NAACP, and has been affiliated with the Montclair branch since 1998. ([read more](#))

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.

MNDC also provides SSH/SSH-TANF Homeless Prevention services. The chart below shows our activity from September 1 - October 31 2017. We were able to provide rental assistance for 67 families and back rental assistance, relocation, and PSE&G assistance in the amount of \$126,507.



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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