

# KUKATONNOH- WE ARE ONE

MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY FAMILY SERVICES (MCFS)

January 2018

## A Note from the Executive Director

Dear Community Partners,

If you are like me, you are probably in awe of how quickly 2017 came, went and is now packaged and placed in the history books of time travelled. As 2017 came to an end and we looked to ushering in the New Year, I found myself reflectively looking back to the two “not achievable in 2017” target goals MCFS had identified as wanting to attain in 2017. It seemed almost impossible to be able to acquire the needed financial resources that would have allowed MCFS to purchase its own building, and a passenger van to support the activities of its youth and senior programs.

12 months later, I am proudly pleased to share that with the generous

support of nearly 100 individuals and businesses, MCFS was able to accomplish the two high-end targeted outcomes of building acquisition and vehicle purchase. We know that this would not have been possible without the generous support of the many individuals, businesses and foundations who contributed to bringing about the challenging successes of what seemed like an “utopian dream”.

Thanks to your generosity and moral support, MCFS was able to purchase a 6000-square foot building in Upper Darby and a 15 Seater Passenger Van in 2017.

Our organization’s “targeted goals”

experiences in 2017, reminded and reinforced for me that to achieve big, one must dare to THINK and DREAM BIG and be willing to navigate the challenges to bring about actualization of targeted outcomes.

On behalf of the Multicultural Family Services Board of Directors, Employees and Staff, please accept our thanks and appreciation for supporting our work in the community in 2017. Individually and collectively, you contributed to strengthening our organization’s capacity and has positioned us to purposefully support the diverse needs of many community residents who will no doubt seek to access community based services from MCFS in



2018 and beyond.  
With Appreciation and  
Gratitude,

Portia Kamara  
Executive Director



**MCFS' 15th Anniversary Celebration**

**MAY 12, 2017**

**STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS**

### In This Issue

- Year End Review
- Program Updates
- Donor Recognition
- Staff Recognition
- What's Next

# Thank You

Together we **will** make a difference

## **BUILDING FUND CONTRIBUTORS & Levels**

<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$200-499.00</b>	<b>\$100-\$199.00</b>	<b><u>\$50.00-99.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$1.00-\$49.00</u></b>
Kevin Weinstein and Company	Anonymous-300 Liberian Donut Fundraising Sale-262 Steven and Karen Lengkeek-250 Roselyn Gray-200 Mark Kamara-200 Gore Kamara Sr.-200 Portia Kamara-200	David and Nancy Mayango -150 Empanada Sale-128 Izetta and Lasanah Kamara -100 Patricia Divine Jackson-150 Golaybah and Binta Kamara-150 Lonnese Bodison & Family -100 James and Violet Gedeo-100 Richard Hanes-100 Josh Bell-100 Bettie White and Family-100 Thelma Sampson-100 Rose Murray-100 Sandra Lawrence-100 Fofee Sayon-100 Sojourn Yoga, Drexel Hill-150 Kelly Ace—150 Anonymous-100 Anonymous-100	Satta Taylor -75 Amelia Moore-75 Victoria Dukuly-75 Massa Cassell-75 Kebbbeh Kamara-50 Katharine Grant Breeze-50 Morris Gray-50 Jozelle Chesson-50 Vera Tolbert-50 Gore Kamara Jr-50 Prince and Feefee Peal-50 Suzanne Cook-50 Dr. Glenn Moore-50 Natalia Kissa-50 Justin Brown-50 Josh Hill-50 Washington Doe-50 Rajinder Kaur-50 Fatu Freeman-50 Beatrice Nmah-50 Regina Bella-50 Ruben Moore-50	Lucia Jackson-40 Anonymous-40 Clarissa Wadley-30 Julian Fleemings-26 Masonah Wilson-25 Anonymous-25 Annonymous-25 Lawrence Williams III -20 Jeannine Burns -Kec-20 Marina Kec-20 Benjamin and Karen Simpson-20 Frederick George-20 Alice Sovulu-20 Allen Andrews-20 Sweetmommasue-20 Adjuah Jackson-20 Anonymous-20 Anonymous-20 Kimberly Johnson-20 Andy Kissa-20 Valarie Mack-20 Cokie Nanka-20 Anonymous-15 Anonymous-15 Anonymous-15 John Kamara-15 Anonymous-14 Ruben Moore Jr.-14 Gerald Wise-10 Susan Espinoza-10 Christena Bray-10 Joseph Crosby-10 John Kamara-10 Anonymous-10 Anonymous-10 Anonymous- 5 Anonymous-5



# 2017

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### BUILDING ACQUISITION

MCFS is thrilled to announce the purchase of our first building located at 133-135 Long Lane in Upper Darby, just a few blocks from our current office. This was a tremendous endeavor made possible by GOD through generous donations from our community partners and supporters. We would like to thank all of you who contributed donations directly to our office or through our go fund me account. We were able to achieve our goal of raising \$5,950 for our down payment and closing costs. GOD is amazing!

We would especially like to thank our mortgagor, Citizen Bank and Vice President Business Banking Relationship Management, Joe Roselli, who worked tirelessly with MCFS through the loan process. We would especially like to thank real estate agent Shawn Saunders, of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Fox & Roach, Realtors and our mortgagor, Citizen Bank and Joe Roselli, Vice President Business Banking Relationship Manager who worked tirelessly with MCFS through the loan process. We want to especially give a big thank you to James Kerkula of Community Capital Advisors, Shirley Carew of PNC Bank and Jeff Raudenbush for their moral support and their networking. Words cannot explain how excited we are about this achievement.

Last year around this time, building ownership was just an ambitious idea. It is now a reality. This accomplishment has restored our faith in pursuing our passions and reinforced the need for us all to not be afraid to go after ideas that appear unattainable. Our vision for the use of our new building, which is triple the size of our current space, will not be contained.

The building acquisition was the first step. Additions and modifications are needed to make the building handicapped accessible for individuals with physical disabilities. Bathrooms will be modified, a lift or elevator will be installed and entryways will be widened to ensure that all community members have access to our building and services. We will keep you updated on our progress!

### ATTENTIVE HOME CARE

MCFS's Division of Home & Community Based Services, Attentive Home Care (AHC), provides quality, holistic home care services for seniors and individuals with physical or intellectual . Services provided by AHC include behavior support, chore services, companion care, alzheimer's care, dementia care, elder care, home and community based services, intellectual disabilities care, personal care, attendant care, light housekeeping, shopping and case management services. Support is provided to participants in the comfort of their own home, independent living and nursing homes, day programs and within the larger community.

Our Direct Support Staff are employed by our agency; we provide regular monitoring and supervision of our Direct Support Staff. PA criminal, child abuse, professional and personal background checks are conducted on each of our Caregivers and FBI background checks for staff who have resided in Pennsylvania for less than 2 years . We are proud of the fact that AHC employs 55 members from our community and we are currently looking for more Care Givers/Direct Support Staff to join our team.

In 2017, we expanded our partnership with Elwyn's Adult Day Program Division. We have increased the direct support services provided to Elwyn from 1 to 3 locations— Baring Street, Media & Lansdowne. We are looking forward to continuing to strengthen this partnership and forge new relationships with other community day programs. MCFS believes strongly in this division and we are taking steps that will enable us to expand the scope of our services. We are hopeful that we will be successful in achieving this goal and look forward to sharing more details with you in the near future so stay tuned.

AHC Attentive Home Care is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Long Term Living and Office of Developmental Programs and services both Private Pay and Consumers approved for Waiver Services through the Office of Long Term Living and Office of Developmental Programs. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact us at 484-461-4174 or 215-870-6103 (24 Hour Contact Line). \*\*If you are interested in joining our team as a Caregiver, applications can be completed at our office 7016 Terminal Square, Suite A1, Upper Darby, PA.

### VAN PURCHASE

MCFS is now rolling! We purchased a 15 seater white Chevy Express van from Enterprise in December of 2017. This purchase was made possible thanks to a 10k grant from Essa Bank & Trust Community Foundation.

As a result of this purchase, we can now transport our Seniors to the Elder's Circle, our senior support group, transport participants on trips and other social outings and transport our Multicultural United Soccer Club participants to away games.

Our van is providing us with another way of serving our participants and our community and we are grateful to Suzie T. Farley and The Essa Bank & Trust Community Foundation for contributing to make van ownership possible for MCFS in 2017!



G. Kamara, P. Kamara & K. Breeze

# WE JUST WANT TO SAY... **THANK YOU!**

As we continue our work within the community, we ask for your ongoing support. MCFS is still collecting donations for the next phase of our building-renovations. We are also accepting donations for our programs.

We hope that you will continue to support MCFS in all of the work that we do. Thank you for all of the support you have provided over the years. Donations can be made at

[www.generosity.com/fundraisers/mcfs-building-purchase-campaign/donate](http://www.generosity.com/fundraisers/mcfs-building-purchase-campaign/donate)



Thank you Philabundance for all of your support. We truly appreciate the work you are doing within the community. A special thank you to our delivery staff, Frank Enwright and Dewight Tolbert.

## **General Operating Donors/Contributors**

The Steve C. Graham Family Trust - \$20,000.00  
AOPM/LLC Dr. Jared Teller- \$500.00  
Rocky Peciollo- \$500.00  
Mavens Benefits Partners- \$200  
Shirley Carew- \$100.00  
Mr. and Mrs. Richards- \$100.00

## **Restricted Program Funding**

Preparing Older Youth for Success Job Readiness Program  
-The Delaware County Workforce Development Board  
-United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey  
ESL & Citizenship Program  
-The Township of Upper Darby

## **Van Purchase Contributors**

ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation - \$10,000.00  
Dr. Vera Tolbert-\$500.00  
Proceeds from the Elder Circle Arts and Crafts Auction-\$500.00

## **In-Kind Supporters**

Joseph C. Rosselli, Suzie Farley, James Doherty, Jessie Nonnenman, Christian N. Jordan, Shawn Saunders, Taylor Harrigan, Kathleen Oulahan, Barbara J. Christi, Helmut McIntosh, Shirley Carew, David Gottlieb, Denise Stewart, Louis Colbert, Sandra Lawrence, Wanda Mitchell, James Kerkula, Jeff Raudenbush, Jeff Gentile, Naveleen Kaur, Joan Chicklo, Anthony Lerario, Deborah Callahan, Louis, Guerrero, Sekela Coles, William Kaplan, Mayor Thomas Micozzie, Tom Judge, Upper Darby Township, Tamara Crump, Shannon H. Thomas, Christina M. Gordon, Jeanne M. Ewing, Rich Crespo, John McMullan, Marisa Taddonio, Kelly Ace, Suzanne O'Connor, Val Voluntad, Bonnie Brent, Dr. Vera Tolbert, Dr. Eric Edi, Katie McCrea, Hilary Stiebel, Tamala Edwards, Samantha Retamar, Stephanie Ark-Baynes 6abc Action News, Wendy Daughenbaugh Delaware County Daily Times, Lonnese Bodison, Greg Bodison, Clarissa Wadley, Kathleen Oulahan, Christopher Selekpoh, Hawa Sweetie Dixon Moore, 850 WCP, LLC, Rocky Piccinrilli, Mark Trembley, Chris Leubbe, Frank Enwright, Dewight Tolbert

## **Youth Soccer - Coaches, Event Activities Volunteers**

Manager Jacob Collins, Scott Bryant, Phillip Udo-Inyang, Mano Sellaiaha, Steve Lengkeek, Sean Windstein, Shaine Dadich, Dave Dadich, John McMullen, Karen Goldberg, Jacob Rief, Scott Miller, Mohammad Hasib, Neville Clarke, Francis Watson, Robby Waller, Tim Goldner, Todd Ferwerda, Edwin Yang, Samuel Laditi, Daniel Morales, Aniket Josan, Mark Owusu-Ansah, Edward Guillen, GayeLortu Breeze, Rovina Wleh, Blessing Watson, Amelia Gray, Francis Watson, Favor Watson, Ambassador Soccer Camp, Church of the Saviour, Future Captain Sports

## **2017 Partnerships/Collaborations/Networking Relationships**

The United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, Philabundance, Wawa Harvest Program, AFRICOM, HIAS Pennsylvania, Liberian Association of Pennsylvania, The Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, The Township of Upper Darby, Upper Darby Township Multicultural Commission, Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health, Centro de Apoyo Comunitario, Marshalls Department Stores, Family Support Line, Upper Darby School District Immigrant and Refugee Resettlement Task Force, Elwyn Inc, Future Captain Sports, Ambassador Soccer Camp, Maven Benefits Partners, Citizen Bank, Liberian Association of Pennsylvania, RCN Lehigh Valley, Temple University School of School Work

# OUR PROGRAMS

## The Elder's Circle

The Elder's Circle offers support group services for older adults ages 60 and up. Seniors receive case management, immigration support, literacy, ESL and advocacy support from ESL and social service specialist staff.

The Elder's Circle has grown tremendously since its inception in 2015. Initially, the group met weekly from 11am to 1pm. The participants showed greater interest in meeting and asked for longer meeting periods during the day and later requested to meet twice a week from 10am to 4pm. Not only do participants meet at MCFS, they attend field trips to places such as the museum, the zoo and shopping trips.

It was an exciting year for this program. MCFS formed a partnership with Philabundance to provide food donations to income eligible seniors in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties. Representatives from Crozer Chester Medical Center attended our group to provide our Seniors with medical information/resources.

In November, the Elder's Circle was featured on 6 ABC Action News <http://6abc.com/society/food-or-medication-a-choice-no-senior-should-ever-have-to-make/2614708/>. This feature was made possible by one of our newest community partners, Philabundance. We appreciate their recommendation and their partnership which has resulted into more than 70 seniors receiving supplemental food boxes at MCFS each month from Philabundance.

On December 16, 2017, MCFS' hosted an Elder's Circle gathering where participants showcased their arts and crafts for their family and community members. We were excited that the group took ownership of the entire event and planned out the day. We are grateful to our speaker, Dr. Vera Tolbert, for her words of wisdom and encouragement. Dr. Tolbert also made a significant financial contribution to the Elder's Circle. MCFS is extremely grateful for her presence and her financial support.

We are hopeful that the Elder's Circle will continue to grow and provide support to our Seniors whom we appreciate for their wisdom, experience and presence.



## Immigration, Civic Engagement and English as a Second Language (ESL) Support Program

MCFS' immigration support program offers support to individuals who are seeking assistance with applying for United States Permanent residence, Citizenship or seeking assistance with preparation for the Citizenship examination.

The ESL program provides support to Immigrants seeking to become more integrated into their communities through the learning of the English Language.

## Cultural Competency Professional Development Services

MCFS professional developmental services provides intercultural engagement trainings and consultations for individuals, businesses and organizations. The program utilizes a multicultural engagement framework to support organizations and businesses in increasing awareness of hidden cultural assumptions about differences. Organizations and businesses are supported in acquiring skill-sets that build cultural competency capacities within organizations.

# OUR PROGRAMS

## MULTICULTURAL UNITED SOCCER CLUB

The Multicultural Community Family Services Soccer Program, known as the Multicultural United Soccer Club, is a culturally diverse recreational and character-building outreach and prevention program that serves youth ages 4 to 17 years and their families residing in the Township of Upper Darby, Philadelphia and surrounding communities. Multicultural United Soccer Club operates year round and provides soccer-playing opportunities for over 200 youth.

Our players, their families and our coaches hail from Asia, Africa, South America and North America and represent over 30 nationalities playing together as one club. The program is aimed at building strong moral character and leadership for youth through the game of soccer and provides a positive environment where youth between the ages of 4 and 17 can meet, play soccer, develop strong bonds of friendship, acquire positive social skills and become young role models and leaders within their communities.

In October 2017, MCFS held its annual soccer Coaches Appreciation Dinner at the McCall's Golf and Country Club in Upper Darby to acknowledge and thank all of our volunteer Coaches and their spouses/significant others for supporting the MCFS youth soccer program. Several Coaches and community members were recognized for their services to the club.

Coaches and individuals receiving awards were:

- **Djay Martin**- Multicultural United Soccer Club  
2 Years Soccer Coach Recognition Award

- **Tim Coldner**- Multicultural United Soccer Club  
3 Years Soccer Coach Recognition Award

- **Karen Goldberg**- Upper Darby Department of Leisure Services  
Committed Public Service Award

- **Francis Long**- Upper Darby Leisure Services  
Committed Public Service Award

- **Future Captain Sports**  
Distinguished Community Service Award

If you are interested in donating to our soccer club, please contact Jacob Collins at (484) 461-8660. \*\*We currently have a job opening for a soccer club administrator. All qualified applicants can forward your resume' and references to Jacob Collins at jcollins@mcfsorg.com

The Multicultural United Soccer Club wants to extend a special thank you to Mr. Steve C. Graham for his generous financial and in-kind contributions, both of which go a long way in supporting MCFS year-round youth soccer program, including spring and Winter soccer clinics. Our program also extends special thanks to Future Captain Sports for their support in 2017.

## Preparing Older Youths for Success

The **Preparing Older Youths for Success** (POYS) job readiness program provides GED instruction for older youth in Delaware County between the ages of 18-24 and prepares them to pass the GED exam.

Participants also receive assistance with enrolling in college or trade school; preparation for the National Retail Foundation Certified Customer Service examination; obtaining employment with area employers through direct hiring and internships; assistance with resume writing, interviewing skills, job search and other support services.

In 2017, 20 youths participated in POYS. MCFS is proud to have been chosen by these youth people as they take steps towards securing a brighter future.

The POYS program is supported through funding obtained from the Delaware County Investment Board, the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey and through a general operating fund provided in part through a generous grant from the Steven C. Graham Family Trust.

MCFS congratulates Nafeze Hickman for obtaining his GED. He intends on transitioning to Community College of Philadelphia in the Fall of 2018.



## New Community Arts Program

MCFS Community Arts Program promotes learning in the Art and provides opportunities for Participants, both young and mature to discover their creativity using drawings and paintings that can serve as a catalyst for relationship building, friendship, collaboration, and community embracing.



MCFS wants to take time to acknowledge the participants and colleague we lost in 2017. We will remember you always.

### Participants

Beniat Rehatt- March, 2017  
Marie Simms- August, 2017  
Carol Flood-September, 2017

### Employees

Gerald Wise- April, 2017



To The MCFS Staff,

Words are not enough to express the appreciation MCFS has for its staff and volunteers. The work you do is hard, supporting individuals during trials, triumphs and even through goals. I frame it as hard because while we do these things, we still have to deal with our own personal lives which at times, can contain the very things we support others through. Your hard work and dedication is not unnoticed.

The support you show for MCFS as it fulfills its mission of service to our community is truly appreciated. You never think twice about offering support, when asked, in any area within MCFS even if it is outside of your assigned role. You, are, appreciated for every single thing you do for MCFS and for being true examples of what it means to be a helping professional.

Thank you!

MCFS Office Staff

- Gore Kamara- Director of Adult Education & Training
- Katharine Grant-Breeze- Human Resource Administrator & Scheduling Coordinator
- Natalia Guillen- Accounting Officer
- Jacob Collins- Accountant & Soccer Administrator
- Rajinder Kaur- Immigration & ESL Support Specialist
- Cokie Nanka - Youth Recruitment and Job Development Specialist
- Lorpu Hunter, Home and Community Program Case Manager
- Beatrice Nmah- Home and Community Program Case Manager
- Suzie Espinoza- Home and Community Program Case Manager
- Angela Jappah - Home and Community Program Case Manager
- Hawa Sweetie Moore - Social Service Case Manager
- Lonnese Bodison- Consultant/Editor, Kukatonnoh Newsletter/Multicultural Engagement Framework
- William Kaplan -Consultant/Trainer, Neighborhood Park Project (NPP)/Multicultural Engagement Framework (MEF)
- Eduardo Guillen- Accounting Support Staff
- Suzanne Cook- Office Support Staff and Certified Investigator
- Roselyn Gray- Office Support Staff
- Kimberly Johnson - Receptionist/Office Support Staff
- Frederick George- Literacy & Support Staff, Elders Circle Senior Program

**Direct Support Staff** – Staff working daily to provide support services ( home care, personal assistance, companion, respite and one-on-one support) to Seniors and intellectually and physically disabled individuals in the comfort of their own homes or the community

- |                 |                   |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Victoria Dukuly | Somah Zulon       | Torhreana Gbayor  |
| Jasie Kemokia   | Zeoh Flomo        | Thelma Edney      |
| Estella Chebo   | Albert Pyne       | Esi Wallace       |
| Brittany Hinton | Lashawn Rose      | Betty Pyne        |
| Jaheel Aasop    | Sanassa Cheriff   | Zarlah Freeman    |
| James Crentsil  | Amelia Moore      | Deddeh Flomo      |
| Kim Tillison    | Linda James       | Daniel Zwagor     |
| Beatrice Zayzay | Susan Pearce      | Margaret Manzaray |
| Musu Worlor     | Susannah Saylee   | Mama Z.K. Moore   |
| Regina Karmo    | Mary Sayewrean    | Christine Harris  |
| Avion Williams  | Allen Andrews     | Hakime Dupont     |
| Jenneh Palay    | Melvina Kimba     | Lauretta Morlu    |
| Eva James       | Rose Barbu        |                   |
| Alice Sovulu    | Priscilla Siebert |                   |
| Norma Gaudet    | Nydia Mcnutt      |                   |
| Fanta Fofana    | Kula Carlon       |                   |
| Martha Grant    | Peter Flomo       |                   |

## MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY FAMILY SERVICES

**MISSION Statement:** The mission of the Multicultural Community Family Services, Inc. is to empower individuals, children, youth and families to gain a greater capacity to succeed in their communities. MCFS fulfills its Vision and Mission Statements by providing services to Immigrants, Refugees and U.S. born citizens through its programs.

### MCFS Programs & Services

#### Division of Education & Job Readiness

Preparing Older Youths For Success (POYS)  
English as Second Language (ESL)

#### Community Outreach Division

Citizenship Classes  
United Soccer Club  
Building Bridges Cultural Ambassadors  
The Elder's Circle

#### Division of Behavioral Support

Counseling Services  
Family Based Services

#### Division of Home & Community Based Services

Attentive Home Care

-Approved to provide services for the following waivers: Aging, OBRA, COMMCARE, Independence, Private Pay Accepted

AHC provides services in Delaware, Philadelphia, Chester & Bucks Counties. For more information about AHC, please call (484) 461-4174



7016 Terminal Square  
Suite 1-A  
Upper Darby, PA 19082  
Phone: 484-461-8660  
Fax: 484-481-8878



Angie's list. |

## READY, SET, GOALS.

Typically, the "editor's note" should be towards the front of a publication so this placement is a bit unconventional but, intentional. I do not know about you, and I may be biased here, but after reflecting on MCFS' 2017, I am extremely excited and personally inspired.

I have been affiliated with MCFS since, well, let's just say awhile. I remember when programs that are currently flourishing were just an idea. I remember when although the ED was serious about the idea, the timing did not seem right. Sustainability was in question and new ventures did not seem feasible. Now here we are, years later, and not only did the programs come to fruition, they are growing unpredictably.

As a result of what I have witnessed with these programs that resulted out of the ED's vision, I did not doubt at all that one day MCFS would achieve its goal of building ownership. The question for me was not if, it was when. I am a firm believer in passion, purpose and goals. This issue is a testament to those very things. Since we have entered into a new year, this would be a great time to revisit our passion, purpose and goals.

I would like for you to consider setting your mind on rediscovering your passion, which tends to be tied to you purpose and setting goals in fulfillment of your passion and purpose. There are examples of goal attainment stemming from passion within this newsletter.

Some say that with a new year, comes new beginnings. The time is perfect for us to get READY, get SET, now GOALS.

-L. Bodison

Imagine  
with all  
your mind.  
Believe  
with all  
your heart.  
Achieve  
with all  
your might.