18 • March 2018 THE URBAN NEWS | www.theurbannews.com Vol. 13 Issue 1



# Serving Pregnant & Postpartum Women since 1998.



Project NAF works to ensure the health of minority

babies during their first year of life and beyond by providing pre/post natal support services. Presently funded by the NC DHHS Healthy Beginnings Project & Buncombe County Health & Human Services.

#### Project NAF Community Advisory Committee

Charlene Galloway Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church Cynthia Yancey, MD Western NC Community Health Services Denise Duckett

Care Partners of Western NC

Karla Ambrose MD

Karla Ambrose, MD Western NC Community Health Services Royanna Williams Business Owner, N'Tyced

Details About MZCD's 20th Year Anniversary Celebration Forthcoming!

# PROJECT EMPOWER



Project EMPOWER, Buncombe County's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative has been serving youth and teens since 2003.

# Project EMPOWER Community Advisory Council

Shaunia Carson, Representing Teen Population Johnnie Grant, *The Urban News* Dr. Randall Johnson, Asheville City Schools District

Michael Harney, Western NC AIDS Project (WNCAP)

Rasheeda McDaniel, Buncombe County Health & Human Services

# Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.

ECHO (Enhancing Collaborative Health Options & Opportunities)



#### **Anchored in the Church**

Celebrating 20 Years of Service to Buncombe County & Beyond!

# History of Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.

Dr. John H. Grant became Pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, now Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc. in 1989. He stated, "Out of the movement to eliminate blight and provide programs and opportunities, the Eagle-Market Streets Development Corporation was organized in 1994." Dr. Grant served as Founding Chairman, President and CEO from 1994-1997. MZCD's offices were located in the church.

Dr. Grant reported, "With the church's support, I served as virtual administrator with no pay, when the corporation had no money, no staff, and no office space." Eagle-Market Streets Development later secured a Community Development Block Grant, which accelerated community interest in this initiative.

Mount Zion Community Development, Inc. (MZCD) is a 501 (c)(3) (Appendix B) nonprofit community development corporation. MZCD was organized in 1997 under Dr. Grant's leadership by members of the historic Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. The church took an active role in the development of its neighborhood, a primarily African American community known as "the Block."

The Block was once a cultural and commercial center of activity for African Americans in western North Carolina. But, shortly after WWII, the area began to decline and was declared "blighted" by the City of Asheville in the early 1990s.

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville invested more than \$1,000,000 to purchase and begin renovation of neighborhood buildings as part of a larger effort to remove crime and blight from the area. From the very beginning of these efforts to reverse distress on the Block, the Church and its partners recognized the need for programs and services for individuals, families and children.

Dr. Grant served for six years as Founding Chairman, President, and CEO until his wife, Belinda Kennedy Grant, was unanimously selected in May of 2003 by MZCD's Board of Directors as Executive Director.

#### **MZCD** Highlights

**2004:** Dr. & Mrs. John H. Grant received the "Honoring The Spirit of the Family" from the Gamma Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

**2010:** Belinda K. Grant recipient of the Asheville Branch NAACP "2010" Sophie Dixon/Grace Dorn Leadership Award

**2010:** MZCD Programs highlighted during the 40th Annual Session of the American Baptist Churches of the South Area III Conference

**2010:** MZCD is the recipient of the "Save the Family Award"

**2011:** MZCD Programs exhibited during the NC Legislative Black Caucus Foundation for the "The Economic Impact of Health Disparities"

**2011 & Beyond:** MZCD Programs held at various venues

**2014:** Executive Director receives the for Outstanding Achievements in Public Health Social Work Award from the NC Continuing Education Training & Advisory Committee

Since 1998, MZCD has raised millions of dollars in private foundation and individual support, and has administered three major programs, Project NAF (Nurturing Asheville & Area Families), Project EMPOWER (Education Means Power), and The Elizabeth Grant Hill Campus of Learners (COL).

MZCD has faced obstacles as well as opportunities, mountains as well as milestones, and barriers as well as blessings in its goal to serve individuals and families. For the past 20 years, this corporation has remained focused on: (1) empowerment of the individual and community by providing spiritual, economic, socio-economic, education, and cultural opportunities to the greater Asheville/Buncombe County community, addressing the need for jobs, housing, crime prevention, education, and health care; (2) collaboration with local community-based organizations in the physical redevelopment of the "Block" for housing and supportive services.

Through financial support and collaborative partnerships, MZCD's staff works tirelessly with community partners to bring stakeholders to the table, allowing their voices to be heard.

From a vision formed more than 20 years ago, MZCD is determined to: Keep the Faith, Keep the Focus, Know the Facts, and Move Forward (Dr. J. H. Grant) in its goal of serving individuals and their families locally, statewide, and nationally by Enhancing Collaborative Health Options & Opportunities.

## MOUNT ZION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.



Mount Zion Community
Development, Inc. expresses
sincere appreciation and
thanks to Dr. John H.
Grant, (a visionary) as

the Founding Chairman, President, CEO, and to Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc. for its continued advocacy, support, and in remaining an anchor for the past twenty years!



Dr. John H. Grant, Founding Chairman, President, CEO of Mount Zion Community Development, Inc



Belinda K. Grant, Executive Director of Mount Zion Community Development, Inc. Photo: Urban News

A special thanks to area faith-based supporters, and present and past grant funders of the past twenty years. If you would like to make a donation or to learn more about our programs, please contact:

#### Staff

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Project EMPOWER Outreach Worker
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Ms. Rosa Hearst Receptionist, (828) 252-0515

#### **Board of Directors**

Linda Glaze: Chair Meryl McDonald: Vice-Chair Sophie Dixon: Treasurer John Coston: Fundraising Co-Chair Diana Rhodes: Fundraising Co-Chair CiCi Weston: Fundraising Co-Chair

### THE ELIZABETH GRANT HILL CAMPUS OF LEARNERS

Computer Technology Center designated to close the "digital divide" by teaching computer skills to under-served youth, adults, families, and to the community at large. This program is currently inactive.