



### PROJECT NAF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Denise Duckett: Buncombe County HHS  
 Parris Finley: Mountain Area Pregnancy Services  
 Ruth Franklin: First Presbyterian Church, Asheville  
 Charlene Galloway: Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc.  
 Brandon Romstadt: Buncombe Health & Human Services  
 Royanna Williams: Business Owner, TBN Designs & Former NAF Participant

### MESSAGE FROM SAPPHIRE DE'BELLOTT

#### October 15th is International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day



Perinatal Emotional Health Network, Mount Zion Community Development, Inc., and the YWCA would like to invite you to the "WNC Wave of Life Event"

We invite bereaved parents, family members, health professionals, and others who have experienced or who have been impacted by the death of a baby or infant to attend this event.

### "REMEMBERING ALL BABIES THAT HAVE DIED TOO SOON"

#### WNC Wave of Light 2021

October 15 is recognized across the world as International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

Join us on Friday, October 15 at 7 p.m. to honor Baby Loss Awareness Week with the WNC "Wave of Light."

#### Schedule

- 7:00 Welcome
- 7:05 Lighting of the Candles
- 7:10 Reading of the Names
- 7:20-7:25 Moment of Silence
- 7:25 Reflection and open group for fellowship
- 7:55 Closing and Connection

You are invited to join with other families across the world and take part in the global Wave of Light, a virtual Zoom meeting.

Register online at [bookwhen.com/katherinehydehensley](http://bookwhen.com/katherinehydehensley).



## MOUNT ZION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

### ECHO (Enhancing Collaborative Health Options & Opportunities)



## Congratulations Dr. Grant

*32 Years of Service as Pastor and President of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc. and, ongoing commitment, dedication, and resolute service in Buncombe County and Beyond.*

*Board of Directors, Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.*

WHEREAS, Dr. Grant has served faithfully as a visionary leader of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc., and the community for 32 years; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Grant's Vision for the Up-Building and Transformation of the Community has impacted individuals and families throughout the community and in the City of Asheville.

WHEREAS, Dr. Grant has been listed as one of Buncombe County's 100 most influential People; and,

WHEREAS, The central thrust of Dr. Grant's vision and ministry is leading the church in preaching, teaching, and witnessing to the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Understood holistically, this commitment to Christ has been the main motivation for the organization in 1997 of the Mount Zion Community

Development, Inc. (MZCD), one of the signature accomplishments of his vision for up-building and transforming our community. MZCD has also raised and invested millions of dollars for its programs and community projects, as well as provided part and full-time jobs with full-time benefits, including medical insurance, retirement, etc. One of MZCD's programs, Project NAF, has been cited in Asheville as a national model and showcased nationally. Since its inception in 1997, MZCD has operated four acclaimed programs:

1. Project Nurturing Asheville and Area Families (NAF)—Working to help African American women have healthy babies and reduce the minority infant mortality rate;
2. Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI)—Working to reduce the rate of teen pregnancies. Present focus: Reducing/impacting the opioid crisis, substance use/abuse;
3. The Elizabeth Grant Hill Campus of Learners: Center for Health, Technology, and Entrepreneurship—Working to bridge the digital divide in our communities; and
4. Real Estate Development for housing, office, retail—Working to provide economic opportunities and eliminate blight, (a former initiative).

WHEREAS, Another signature accomplishment of Dr. Grant's Christ-centered vision for up-building and transforming our community was the organization of the Eagle-Market Streets Development Corporation, another 501(C) (3) non-profit. He served as the Founding President, Chairman & CEO of the Eagle Market Streets Development Corporation from 1994-1997. Being housed and anchored at the Mt. Zion Church for these years, he led the corporation in: (1) securing its 501 (c) (3) IRS exemption status, (2) securing more than a quarter of a million dollars in grant funds, (3) securing official recognition as a development partner with the City of Asheville, and (4) securing its first full time executive director. This corporation completed construction of Eagle Market Place, a \$12 million project which provides sixty-two (62) affordable/workforce apartments: and,

WHEREAS, In addition to MZCD and the Eagle-Market Streets non-profits, he has been involved in organizing and leading two other non-profit corporations since coming to Asheville. In 1998, for instance, he led in organizing Community Outreach, Incorporated (a 501 (c) 3 non-profit) which rescued our next-door neighbor, the YMI Cultural Center (YMCC), from foreclosure at a cost of more than \$30,000; and,

WHEREAS, He also led in organizing, writing policies and procedures, coordinating, and directing the first Community Summer Day Camp sponsored by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Asheville & Vicinity. Still in operation today under a different name, he served as its founding director in its initial years, and the first camp was held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Hopkins Chapel A.M.E.Z. Church; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Grant's vision has been, is, and will continue to be anchored in the church to address the spiritual, physical, emotional, and financial health of families and communities.

### October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

*Break the Silence 2022*



### Staff

Belinda K. Grant: Executive Officer, (828) 776-1429

Sapphire De'Bellott: Project NAF Outreach Worker

Seth Bellamy: Instructional Facilitator/Teen Rep  
 Mrs. Rosa B. Hearst, Receptionist

### Board of Directors

Linda Glaze: Chair, Chief Operating Officer

Rev. Scott Rogers: Vice Chair

Brenda Mills: Secretary

Sophie Dixon: Treasurer

Cynthia Yancey, MD: Fundraising Chair

Michele Harper, Fundraising Co-Chair

Diana Rhodes: Fundraising



Belinda K. Grant, Chief Executive Officer of Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.

Our programming is made possible through the support of our generous funders.



WNC Bridge Foundation  
 A PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc.

DOGWOOD  
 HEALTH TRUST

### October is...

#### National Bullying Prevention Month

#### Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

#### Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month

#### National Mammography Day (Oct. 18)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## PROJECT EMPOWER

### Education Means Power

#### Project EMPOWER Community Advisory Council

Seth Bellamy: Student and Representative for RHA Partnership for a Substance Free Youth

Johnnie Grant: *The Urban News*

Dr. Randall Johnson: Asheville City Schools District

Mr. Devin Lipford: WNCAP

Rasheeda McDaniel: Buncombe County Health & Human Services