

# ECHO (Enhancing Collaborative Health Options & Opportunities) through HOPE (Hope and Healing Opportunities with Proactive & Preventive Education)



## A Phenomenal Celebration!

We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the Mount Zion Community Development, Inc. 29th Anniversary Celebration a phenomenal success! A huge thank you to our amazing sponsors, our Board of Directors, staff, and every volunteer, friend, and guest who helped us mark this major milestone.

Whether you volunteered your time, donated resources, or joined us in person, your support made all the difference. We are incredibly grateful for our wonderful community and look forward to many more years of growing together.

Special thanks to our Project NAF moms, babies and children; Project EMPOWER families and community partnerships; the community served through the

Elizabeth Grant Hill Campus of Learners; and to grant funders over the past 29 years.

Thank you, Dr. Grant, Founding Chairman, President & CEO of MZCD for your vision for this corporation, and to Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc., for your ongoing advocacy, dedication, and support.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, board members Michelle Harper and Rev. Scott Burgess were unable to attend the 29th Anniversary Celebration. However, we extend our deepest gratitude to them for their vital role in securing sponsorships that made this event possible.

Special thanks to Mr. Cornell Proctor for his creative guidance on our beautiful table decorations, with support from MZCD Board Members and Mr. Kenneth Whittenburg.

This celebration was more than an event, it was and remains a testament to lives changed, communities strengthened, and hope restored.



Belinda Kennedy Grant with NAF participants Janay Smith and baby Valencia Alvarez who presented flowers to CEO for supportive services provided through Project NAF.



Brittna Underwood with baby Harlynn, and Alberta Drane, Board Member & Event Coordinator.



(L-R): Sergio Alvarez (father of Valencia), Jayden Berry, John Grant Jr. holding Valencia, and Janay Smith.



Majik Finley (right) and her mom Parris Finley with baby Kyrio.



Mrs. Regina Blount, Guest Soloist.



A few of the sponsors, including Ms. Mildred Nance-Carson, Dr. John H. Grant, President and CEO of MZCD, Annie Carpenter, and Rev. Scott Rogers, MZCD Board Member.

### Sponsors for MZCD's 29th Anniversary

**Premier Sponsor: \$2,500 Plus**  
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc.

**Platinum Sponsor: \$2,500**  
HCA—Mission Health

**Gold Sponsor: \$2,000**  
Dr. & Mrs. John H. Grant  
Mr. Jeffrey Dektor

**Silver Sponsor: \$1,000**  
Advent Health  
Appalachian Mountain Health  
Michelle Harper & Friends  
First Bank

**Honorable Mention: \$500 and above**  
First Presbyterian Church of Asheville  
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse & Donna Ray

**Table Sponsors: \$500**  
ABCCM (2 tables)  
Dr. Wesley Grant Southside Community Center  
Eastern Star #128  
VAYA Health

**Sponsor: \$250-\$499**  
Big J's BubbaQ  
J&S Cafeteria Donation:  
Four \$25 gift cards

### MZCD's 2026 Special Recognitions

**Dr. John H. Grant:** Founding Chairman, President & CEO, Visionary Leadership & Legacy Award

**Mrs. Sophie Dixon:** Lifetime Service Award

**Mrs. Willie Mae Brown:** The Community Champion & Behind the Scenes Award

Awards presented to Project NAF's Community Advisory Board (CAB):

**Denise Duckett:** Excellence in Community Service & Certificate of Impact Award

**Charlene Galloway-Pea:** Certificate of Outstanding Dedication & Lifetime Achievement Award

**Royanna Williams:** The Heart of Service & Perseverance Award



Honorees (L-R): Ms. Royanna Williams, Denise Duckett, and Mrs. Willie Mae Brown.



We are deeply grateful for these individual donations that sustain our work in Black maternal and child health and strengthen our services for youth and teens through collaborative partnerships.

Ms. B. Anderson  
Dr. T. Bellamy  
Mr. R. Boulos  
Mrs. W. M. Brown  
Mrs. S. Burton  
Mr. D. Canady  
Ms. A. Carpenter  
Ms. N. Clemmons

Mrs. A. Coston  
Ms. J. Douglas  
Ms. A. Drane  
Mrs. D. Duckett  
Dr. D. Frayne  
Dr. R. Gates  
Mr. H. & L. Glaze  
Mr. R. Glenn

Mr. J. Grant Jr.  
Ms. K. Grant  
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Rev. S. Rogers  
Ms. C. Shortridge  
Mr. & Mrs. L. & P. Simpson  
Mrs. T. Smith  
Mrs. C. Weston  
Mrs. V. Woods

### MOUNT ZION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.



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



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



Belinda Kennedy Grant, CEO/MZCD, presents the Visionary Leadership & Legacy Award to Dr. John H. Grant, Founding Chairman, President, CEO of MZCD. Also pictured, Mrs. Linda Glaze, MZCD Board Chair (left); Treva Barnard, Board Member shown seated at the right.

Council Member Kim Roney reads the Proclamation from the City of Asheville for MZCD's 29th Anniversary.



Kim Roney, Belinda Kennedy Grant, and Annie Carpenter, HCA Healthcare/Mission Health.

Belinda Kennedy Grant, CEO/MZCD, speaking at the event.



Board Members Tracey Smith (left) and Rev. Scott Rogers request ongoing support for MZCD services.

### MZCD STAFF

Belinda K. Grant, Executive Director (828) 776-1428, belindakgrant@mzcd.info  
Barbara Anderson: Office Support/Community Connector  
Dr. Ronald Caldwell: Supervising Physician  
Sapphire De'Bellott: Special Projects for Project NAF  
Mr. Henry Glaze, Transportation Coordinator  
Kontia Grant: Nurse Family Practitioner  
Ms. Rosa B. Hearst, in appreciation of past services

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### OUR PARTNERS

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



MZCD's revised website made possible by the CFWNC



First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC



Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc.