



DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES/ LIFELONG MONTCLAIR

Accomplishments



The MILL

The Montclair Institute for Lifelong Learning is an initiative of Lifelong Montclair. The MILL is funded by Partners for Health Foundation and is a collaborative effort of the Montclair Public Library and its Adult School Department, the Montclair Art Museum, the Montclair History Center, and Montclair State University. In 2016, there were 1311 registrations for 48 classes, and the wait lists consisted of 422 students. To try to meet the demand and expand this program, Partners for Health Foundation launched the Back to School Again! Matching Grants Campaign. The campaign exceeded expectations and raised \$50,438 from 77 donors, which was matched to a total of over \$100,000 to expand our MILL programming. We have also collaborated with Care at Home New Jersey, a non-profit that serves homebound seniors, including connecting them with senior-friendly tablets and computers, and TV34 to broadcast MILL classes on TV34 and online so that seniors can partake in the class even if they are not able to be physically present.

Senior Activities at Edgemont Park House

We celebrated Older Americans Month and kicked off Senior Activities at Edgemont Park House on May 3rd, 2016. Since that date, we have created a robust schedule of programming that includes MILL courses and programs created in partnership with community organizations and

individuals. The Senior Activities at Edgemont Park House program also helps meet the need for space for community seniors to drop in during open hours. Between August and December, 2016, we fielded 251 calls and welcomed 1461 walk-ins and program participants.

Montclair Senior Bus

Lifelong Montclair convened a Senior Bus Roundtable consisting of interested seniors in the community to help guide the transition of operation of the Montclair Senior Bus to EZ Ride. The Roundtable thoroughly assessed various operation options, determined an optimal operation method, and developed a marketing plan for the launch in 2017. The Director of Senior Services/Lifelong Montclair operates as the liaison between the Roundtable and EZ Ride.

Online Directory of Senior Services in Montclair

Lifelong Montclair convened a working group of members of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Aging in Montclair, and interested community seniors to develop a site where seniors and community organizations can access more up-to-date information than a printed directory could provide. The online directory is based on the popular printed Lifelong Montclair Directory of Senior Services in Montclair, of which 1700 copies were printed and distributed. The online directory is available at <http://directory.lifelongmontclair.org>.

SIT

We worked with the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee to develop and secure funding for the Seniors in Taxis (SIT) Program. To participate in SIT, the senior resident purchases \$30 worth of taxi vouchers for \$15 and then purchases rides with the 3 local taxi companies with whom we have partners. We sold all 500 voucher booklets. At the end of the year, the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee conducted satisfaction surveys that indicated high levels of satisfaction. In December, 2016, we were awarded funding to continue the SIT program into 2017.

Lunch, Learn, Ask

Through collaboration with Matthews and Company Realty, we have developed a monthly program at Edgemont aimed at providing information about efforts in our community to improve all of the World Health Organization's 8 Domains of Livability. We also partner with community businesses to provide complimentary lunches to the attendees. Most importantly, the majority of the program's time is set aside for seniors to ask questions of the speakers. Recent sessions include:

- *Creative Options for Senior Housing* featuring the Township’s Housing Officer and representatives from HomeSharing, HOMECorp, The Montclair Inn, and United Methodist Communities/PineRidge of Montclair
- *Montclair Public Library’s Assistive Devices Demo* with information about eLibrary services and improving access to our community’s seniors

Newsletter

Created a bimonthly newsletter that is printed at no cost to the Township. We distributed 1000 copies in its first edition and increased our printing quantity to 1200 for the subsequent edition. The newsletter includes two months of calendars for Senior Activities at Edgemont Park House along with other timely information.

Expansion of Lifelong Montclair Partner Network

In 2016, we added 5 new partner organizations to our existing partner network, expanding its size to 30 partner organizations in total. The new additions include:

- Aging in Montclair, Inc.
- Crawford Crews American Legion Post #251
- Garden State Equality
- Montclair Memory Clinic
- Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation

Partners who joined prior to 2016 include:

AARP Chapter 131	HOMECorp	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
Adult School of Montclair (Department of the Montclair Public Library)	HomeSharing	Toni's Kitchen
Angela Cares	Mental Health Association of Essex County	United Methodist Communities: PineRidge of Montclair
Bike & Walk Montclair	Montclair Ambulance Unit	Vanguard Medical Group
Care About You	Montclair Art Museum	YMCA of Montclair
Care at Home New Jersey	Montclair Community Farms	
Chril Care	Montclair Inn	
Clara Maass Medical Center	Montclair Public Library	
Eat Play Live Better	Montclair State University	
HackensackUMC Mountainside	RSVP Center of Essex and Hudson Counties	

Age-friendly Designation Requirements

In order to meet the requirements of our age-friendly designation, the Director of Senior Services has been working with the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Aging in Montclair, and AARP Chapter 131 to develop a comprehensive action plan addressing areas of focus within each of the World Health Organization's 8 Domains of Livability. This process is intended to ensure our community seniors' needs and wants are reflected in our plans going forward.

Honors and Awards

- Recipient of the 2016 Mary WanderPolo Award for outstanding contribution to the benefit of the elder and disabled community. Awarded by the Elder Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association – April 2016.
- Featured on *One on One with Steve Adubato* – September 2016
- Featured in the December 2016 AARP Bulletin

2017 Priorities

- Complete action plan and submit to AARP/World Health Organization
- Collaborate with TV34 and United Way's Caregivers Coalition to expand access to programming for caregivers
- Launch Montclair Senior Bus
 - Soft launch on February 1st
 - Full launch on March 1st
 - Celebration in May planned with the Montclair Center Business Improvement District
- Facilitate Pledge & Protect program – initiative by Garden State Equality to improve LGBT cultural competency of health care and senior housing providers, focusing on LGBT elders.
- Develop and hold Universal Design/Housing Summit – intended audience includes developers, planners, architects, students, and seniors
- Work with the appropriate staff and community members to develop incentives for small landlords to enable them to stabilize rent and adapt their units to be more livable
- Work with the appropriate staff and community members to modify the existing Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance to better meet the needs of our community

- Work with the Department of Community Services and Code Enforcement to investigate a sidewalk repair cost-sharing program to further improve the walkability of our township
- Work with the Montclair Fire Department, Montclair Police Department, and Montclair Ambulance Unit to secure funding for and implement a lock box program, wherein vulnerable community seniors are provided with a lock box that enables first responders' access in emergency situations