

For Immediate Release

**Montclair Fund for Women gains
momentum on its grant-making mission**

January 19, 2004 - Montclair, NJ - The Montclair Fund for Women has announced the awarding of several grants to Montclair organizations. Last year, the Montclair Fund for Women became a “new” organization initiated by the 90-year old YWCA of Montclair-North Essex using the net proceeds from the sale of its property on Glenridge Avenue. During this month in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. the Montclair Fund for Women Board of Directors approved grants to memorialize and honor two of the town’s most revered female community advocates. “These two grants, along with the Marie Tafaro Memorial Grant awarded to Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence last June, are special one-time awards honoring our 90-year YWCA legacy as we transition to the new organization. In March, we will announce our Competitive Grants awards to organizations doing economic and financial literacy projects with women, girls and people of color,” stated Lydia Davis Barrett, Executive Director of the Fund.

On Sunday, January 11, 2004, the first grant of \$2,500 went to the Undoing Racism Committee of the Unitarian Church of Montclair in honor of Emily H. Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy was a lifetime member of the YWCA who fought for social justice for all people, an uncommon courage for white women of her era. She completed the Undoing Racism course twice. The course helps residents to understand the issues involved in systemic racism and to develop strategies to address them. Mrs. Kennedy understood that today’s struggle against racism is for economic equality, and fully supported the Fund’s emphasis on helping local organizations that promote economic empowerment for women and girls.

The second \$2,500 memorial grant will be awarded to The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund in honor of the YWCA’s first Executive Director, Hortense Ridley Tate, an outstanding African-American Montclair resident who passed away last year at 104 years-of-age. Mrs. Tate was known for her work in education, youth development and social justice advocacy. Her work helped many women and girls understand that education and economic empowerment are essential to succeed in our society. She was a tireless advocate who served to make the Montclair community a better place to live. The MLK, Jr. Fund’s grant will support college scholarships for deserving students who will major in fields related to economics or finance.

Including these two grants, the Montclair Fund for Women will award a total of \$63,200 in its Competitive and Matching Grants programs for this fiscal year.

“We are proud to memorialize Emily H. Kennedy and Hortense Ridley Tate, women who made significant contributions to the struggle for economic equality for all people, especially for people of color and young women.” said Catherine Bolder, President of the Board of Directors for the Montclair Fund for Women. “Our work will continue to focus on supporting those organizations that encourage women and girls to increase their knowledge of our economic system in order to achieve their financial goals.”

Montclair Fund for Women Inaugural Grants

The Fund offers opportunities to local philanthropists and donors to support its work. Many have begun to support the newly formed organization. Contributors include, the First Baptist Trust Fund, which awarded \$5,000 to the YWCA in 2002, designated to help begin this new initiative. Other Inaugural donor partners include, K. Tucker Andersen (\$5,000), The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (\$3,000 grant), and the Vincent Mulford Foundation (\$1,000 grant). The MFW has also received a number of contributions (from \$50-\$150 each) from local residents and businesses. Local supporters are encouraged to contribute to one of the Funds grant-making areas. For more information, call (973) 746-5400 or email lydia@montclairfundforwomen.org.

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