



Overview and Progress Report: February 2024

The [Morningside Heights Community Fund \(MHCF\)](#) began providing grants in 2020, thanks to a Community Benefits Agreement between the Morningside Heights Community Coalition (MHCC) and Union Theological Seminary, as well as funding from Jewish Theological Seminary and real estate developer Lendlease.

MHCF was founded to mitigate the impacts of large-scale, luxury development which has occurred in our neighborhood in recent years. Five rounds of funding to 34 local direct-service and advocacy organizations have occurred, providing a total of \$425,000 to date. MHCF is administered by the New York Community Trust.

“The Community Fund has provided meaningful support to groups which help maintain the stability, diversity, quality of life, and unique character of our neighborhood,” said MHCC President Dave Robinson. “We’re thankful to the funders of this groundbreaking approach to community development and local equity and are proud of the impacts we’ve made locally.”

Supported program focus areas:

- Seniors
- Food Security
- Open Space & Environmental Issues
- Incarceration Reentry
- Youth Education and Development
- The Arts
- Health and Wellness
- Historic Preservation

MHCF supporters and grant recipients were honored at a Community Impact Breakfast hosted by Barnard College in June 2023. The event was an important opportunity to reinforce the vision and impacts of the program.



Our MHCF grant has allowed us to offer open space and public programs to more neighbors through construction of a gazebo.

Julia Gabriel People’s Garden



MHCF has funded our food pantry. This support has helped provide thousands of meals to neighbors in need. We appreciate this aid.

Broadway Community Shelter and Food Pantry

“Our collaboration with MHCC to help establish MHCF underscores our commitment to Morningside Heights. We are excited to celebrate these impressive local nonprofits and their positive community impact,” said Monique Henley, Executive General Manager, Development, East Coast Region, Lendlease.

Funding for MHCF is scheduled to end in 2024. Additional support is being sought, given the critical assistance and positive impacts the program provides our community.

“MHCF is an organic and effective way to balance local construction and community needs,” said New York City Council Member Shaun Abreu. “I applaud this program and encourage its sustainment, which will support the neighborhood we share with so many institutions.”

The following organizations have received MHCF grants:

Round 5

Rounds 1-3

America Scores New York
Arts & Minds
Behind the Book (BtB)
Broadway Community
Brotherhood/Sister Sol
Dances for a Variable Population
Friends of Morningside Park
Friends of the Children NY
Harlem Advocates for Seniors
Harlem Wellness Center
HYPOTHEKids
Legal Outreach, Inc.
Life Force in Later Years (LiLY)
Morningside Heights Historic District Committee (MHHDC)
Moving for Life
Morningside Retirement and Health Services
The Reading Team
Red Balloon
Riverside Language Program
Uptown Inner City League
We Are Not Afraid Community Resource Center (St Mary's Episcopal Church)
WEACT for Environmental Action
West 111th Street People's Garden (now Julia Gabriel People's Garden)

Round 4

After School All-Stars
Arts & Minds
Baller City Basketball
Broadway Community
Dances for a Variable Population
Fortune Society
Friends of the Children NY
Harlem Wellness Center
Life Force in Later Years (LiLY)
Morningside Heights Historic District Committee
Morningside Retirement and Health Services
Moving for Life
Red Balloon Early Learning Center
Sanitation Coalition (now Neighbors for a Greener Harlem)
SoHarlem
Uptown Inner City League
We Are Not Afraid Community Resource Center (St Mary's Episcopal Church)

Columbia Secondary School (CSS)
Community Impact
Dances for a Variable Population
Fortune Society
Friends of the Children NY
Julia Gabriel People's Garden
Life Force in Later Years (LiLY)
Morningside Players
Morningside Retirement & Health Services (MRHS)
Moving for Life
Neighbors for a Greener Harlem
New York Common Pantry
The Reading Team
Service Program for Older People (SPOP)



The MHCF grant we received has allowed us to support programming led by the Grant Houses Tenants Association, further deepening our working relationships and local sanitation and environmental impacts.
Neighbors for a Greener Harlem

Please join us in seeking sustainable support for MHCF. The program's infrastructure and impacts stand to benefit our community's residents during this time of great need for New Yorkers.

Contact: info@mhccnyc.org

***About MHCC:** Founded by concerned local residents in 2016 to address real estate overdevelopment and other pressing local challenges, MHCC has consistently advocated for a balanced approach to the neighborhood's ongoing evolution. This involves programming to protect and expand local affordable housing, advance the rezoning of Morningside Heights, and preserve the community's diverse character and unique quality of life.*

