

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## Our Mission

Town Clock Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, provides permanent, affordable, safe housing and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence and their children.



**TOWN CLOCK**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Keyona Lashawn (front left), Ahmed "JKing" Wallace (front right) and Vinroy D. Brown, Jr. and the Elevation Singers perform at Being Brave 2021.

In their 1985 song "Broken Wings," the group Mr. Mister sings this refrain:  
*Take these broken wings / You've got to learn to fly, learn to live, love so free  
And when we hear the voices sing / The book of love will open up and let us in....*

How does one heal broken wings? Town Clock CDC's programming goal is to do just that with our residents. We know that healing requires: 1) individualized supportive care, 2) a safe place to live where one's identity is protected, and

3) time. Getting these components just right is complicated.

It is also very rare to find a long-term, affordable housing facility that offers all three. At present, there are only three locations, seventeen apartments, in the entire State of New Jersey that offer permanent, affordable, safe housing with supportive services. It certainly is not adequate for the thousands of victims. In New Jersey alone there are about 70,000 cases annually reported.

*You've got to learn to fly, to live, and to love....* That's easier said than done. Rebuilding lives requires a safe place, which is affordable, that provides supportive services, including education, job training, life skills, therapy, and more. It requires dedicated staff that deeply cares and works beyond the time clock. It requires a board and volunteers who are willing to give of their time and raise money. Rebuilding lives requires supporters and advocates like all of you, who support Town Clock CDC, support our residents and support the need for a housing-first initiative to end the cycle of domestic violence.

Thank you.



Town Clock CDC  
Executive Director



**View more  
photos from  
Being Brave  
2021 by  
scanning this  
QR code!**



Actors Chantelle Jean-Pierre (left), Abigail Hawk (center), and Meridith Grundei (right) perform an excerpt of Lauren Weinstein's comic about Town Clock CDC, "The Gift of Time," at Being Brave 2021.



# Spreading Our Wings



## Art, Advocacy & Healing

With the help of our community partner **coLAB Arts**, Town Clock CDC was awarded a Middlesex County Arts & History grant to continue funding a special arts program of workshops for our residents. Under the guidance of award-winning artist and cartoonist **Lauren Weinstein**, several residents expanded their artistic output and learned new skills.

Alongside Lauren Weinstein and members of Town Clock CDC's staff, board, and advisory board, Town Clock CDC hosted a virtual art event in March 2021 featuring new works by our residents - an event which saw all original paintings sell out in record time! Town Clock's survivor artists not only were able to make money from their artwork, but were given the opportunity to speak about their art in their own words.

Our resident artist Lauren Weinstein also completed this award-winning graphic novel, "The Gift of Time," which visually describes Town Clock CDC and our brave resident survivors. Drawing from interviews with Town Clock staff, board members, and survivors, Lauren explores Town Clock's history and how it transforms the lives of women and children who have experienced domestic violence. Her book was named one of *The Comics Journal's* "Best Comics of 2021" for its stunning artwork and compassionate storytelling.



Above: Two pieces of art created by Town Clock CDC residents as part of the workshop with Lauren Weinstein

Right: The cover of Lauren Weinstein's "The Gift of Time" comic book

**"Spread your wings and  
take the first step.  
Maybe you'll fall. But  
maybe... You'll fly."**

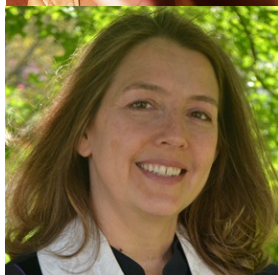
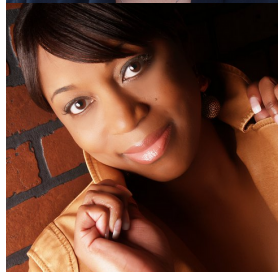
- Quote from "Beatrice," a  
Town Clock CDC resident

## Mother's Day: A Fundraiser for Our Survivors

A few weeks prior to Mother's Day, our Fundraising Team invited our supporters to donate towards gift cards for our residents, and were surprised by a generous, anonymous donor who made a \$4,000 matching gift to support the Town Clock CDC Resident Scholarship Fund.

**You all responded so generously!** We were able to exceed the match and give each resident a gift card for Mother's Day. Furthermore, we were able to provide five residents with desktop computers and extend our Wi-Fi capabilities. Through a computer training class program we are offering, residents are learning new skills necessary for reentry into the workforce.

# Being Brave: An Evening Honoring Survivors



Top: Gisela Cincia  
Middle: Tonya F. McKinley  
Bottom: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer

On Saturday, October 30, supporters of Town Clock CDC gathered both in person at the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center and virtually via livestream for an inspirational and uplifting event honoring domestic violence survivors.

Being Brave 2021 featured musical performances, spoken word, a live comic book performance, and impassioned words from an array of artists, advocates, and supporters. Our host was local radio and podcast personality **Bert Baron**. The 2021 Being Brave Award was presented to Tony Award-winning entertainer **Melba Moore**, a survivor of domestic violence who is dedicated to community service and helping others. Other notable guests included R&B legend **Freddie Jackson**, who presented the Being Brave Award to Ms. Moore, and *Blue Bloods* actor **Abigail Hawk**, who performed in the live comic book reading of Lauren Weinstein's "The Gift of Time."

Community Awards were given to three vital supporters of Town Clock and our mission: our Outstanding Advocate was **Gisela Cincia**, Principal at Roosevelt Elementary School; our Outstanding Provider was **Tonya F. McKinley** of Safe+Sound Somerset; and our Outstanding Volunteer was **Rev. Cyndi Stouffer** of the United Methodist Church of New Brunswick. It was certainly a night to remember, and helped us exceed our annual fundraising goal!

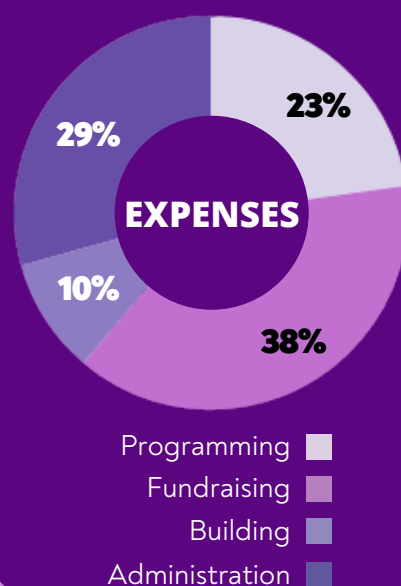
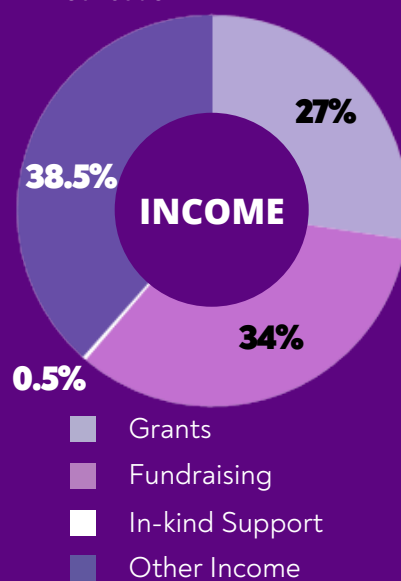
## 2021 Being Brave Sponsors

Parker - Hallmark Mahogany - The Littman Family - Shaw Divorce & Family Law - Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital / RWJBarnabas Health - Karma Foundation - Murray Public Relations - NBPAC / New Brunswick Cultural Center - Dayton Toyota - EK Real Estate Partners - J.J. Poole Opticians - Johnson & Johnson - OptiEyes - PSE&G - Suite 6 Designs - Carlton Spence Style - First Reformed Church of New Brunswick - The Law Firm of Mounita Rahman, PLLC - On Cue Content - Pillar Patient Advocates - Agape Family Worship Center - Atabey Consultants - The Bank of Princeton - CME Associates - Employ-Ability, LLC - Sandy Erik & Louis Kadubic - Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas, LLP - Lashzilla Lash & Beauty Boutique - New Brunswick City Center - PS&S - RAM Law - Travelers Insurance - Amboy Bank - Carl Branciforte - DIGroup Architecture - Assemblyman Joseph V. Egan, Legislative District 17 - Evelyn's Restaurant - Geoffrey G. Gussis LLC - George Street Camera & Framing Co. - George G. Gussis, P.A., Attorney at Law - Jo Ann T. Howard - J. Levy - Liquid Hair Salon - Macy's - New Brunswick Theological Society - Panel Components & Systems, Inc. - Provident Bank - Patricia Sheehan - Tavern on George - Veganized Restaurant Weiss Properties - Wishnic & Jerushalmy Law Group - Elizabeth Barrood, George W. Barrood & Michael Barrood, In Loving Memory of Louis Barrood Sr. - Michael Drulis - Edgewood Properties - Esquina Latina Restaurant & Lounge - Dr. Jill C. Gladish - Hull & Co. - Jersey Shore 10-13 Association - Monica Neufang - Optical Boutique, LLC

## 2021 Grant Support

*Town Clock CDC gratefully acknowledges grant awards from the following in 2021:*

- Amboy Bank Foundation
- Bud Ackerman Foundation
- Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund
- J&J Health Care Systems Fund
- The Karma Foundation
- Kearny Bank
- Middlesex County Commissioners Support Grant
- Middlesex County Arts & History Grant
- The Provident Bank Foundation
- PSE&G Foundation
- Rutgers Community Health Foundation





# Your Impact on Our Work

Since Town Clock CDC opened its doors in 2016, we have seen some incredible outcomes of our work with survivors - thanks to you, our donors and supporters. Here are some ways in which your support has had an impact:

**28 individuals** have resided at Town Clock CDC (including children).

As families and individuals transition out of our program, we've welcomed **7 new families** into our program since our inaugural group of residents.

**10 individuals** have utilized our Scholarship Fund to receive items or services such as computers, college tuition/career training, driving lessons, and vocal training.

**16 families** have worked at some point during their residency, with all families having increased their income from the time they moved in to Town Clock CDC.

And this is just the beginning! We could not help survivors of domestic violence transform their lives and spread their wings without your help!



With the overwhelming need for the services Town Clock CDC provides, we are always asking ourselves two big questions: *How can we help more survivors of domestic violence, and how can we serve them better?*

As a response to these goals, Town Clock CDC's vision for the upcoming years is to **refurbish the historic Education Building of the First Reformed Church of New Brunswick to make it a valuable community resource**. Town Clock CDC's renovation plans include creating space for community workshops, educational activities, and nutrition and cooking classes, expanding our food and clothing pantries, and adding more apartments to house more survivors, all while making the building more accessible with the installation of an elevator.

Town Clock CDC is initiating a capital campaign to fund this new vision. We couldn't do any of this without your support - thank you!



## Donate to Town Clock CDC today!

Scan the QR code or visit [townclockcdc.org/donate](https://townclockcdc.org/donate) to make a tax-deductible gift today to support survivors of domestic violence.

## 2021 Leadership Board of Trustees

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## Community Partners

coLAB Arts

Earth Breeze

First Reformed Church of  
New Brunswick

Liberating Women, LLC

New Brunswick Domestic Violence

Awareness Coalition

Sophie's Bistro

Woodbridge Domestic Violence  
Response Team