

# NUESTRA COMUNIDAD



November 2020 Newsletter

## Youth Services' GED Program

**MNC's GED Program Designated as Approved Pearson VUE Authorized Test Center (PVTC)!** While our GED Program has been providing in-person GED tutoring for a number of years, the designation as an

### Benefits of Official Pearson Testing Status:

- Full access to a spectrum of specialized supports, tutoring, and testing services – under one roof;
- Mitigates barriers presented by a lack of technology, hardware, or reliable internet access; and
- Conveniently co-locates the program's Office Pearson Testing site where students are already receiving services.

Official Pearson site will expand our GED program to include on-site testing for students who may lack conducive space at home or access to proper technology. This convenient official on-site testing location is extremely beneficial, particularly in light of the pandemic - which limited students to accessing the only other COVID-safe testing site - in Pleasant Hill, Contra Costa County. Students currently enrolled in our GED program can take their official test on-site, immediately after completing preparatory sessions - adding an additional layer of convenience by co-locating resources where students are already accessing services – on the 2nd Floor of MNC's Precita

Community and Family Resource Center. The site's designation as an official Pearson site also enables MNC to provide [other Pearson approved tests](#), which align with students' longer-term educational goals.



**Creating Pathways to Education:** In program year 2019, we celebrated a milestone of graduating a total of 32 students. This program year, our Youth Services Division anticipates graduating a record number of 37 students – including 23 students, aged 17-26, and 14 students aged 26+.

**Become a Legacy Supporter!** MNC's Youth Services programs are augmented by a spectrum of individual and institutional gifts throughout the year. Our donors come from all walks of life and share a common goal: empowering the next generation of leaders through educational supports and career advancement. Become a legacy supporter today by supporting our GED Program or one of MNC's other youth-serving programs. [Visit our website](#) to make a donation or email our [development team](#) for more information.

## Children's Services Weekly Food Distribution

**Closing the Health Disparity Gap:** In response to an overwhelming need, MNC's Children's Services team began providing families grab-and-go style meals in October. On a weekly basis, nearly 200 families enrolled in distance learning services receive five full days of meals including vitamin fortified, calcium rich foods aligned with USDA dietary guidelines.



With the help of Children's Services staff, meals and produce – including breakfast, lunch, and milk - are bagged, organized, and distributed to families. In collaboration with our food vendor, MNC's mobile pantry provides families receiving distance learning the same access to nutritious meals as onsite enrolled participants.

MNC is actively providing sustenance for our communities. Every month, we hand-package and distribute hundreds of meals, expanding equitable access to healthy nutritious food.

Visit MNC's [Children's Services](#) page to learn more about services that can assist you and your family.

## SPOTLIGHT: Grand Opening! Essential Services Hub

**Sustaining Resilience in the Bayview:** As a community response to the devastating impacts of COVID-19, our Essential Services Hub on Evans Street in the Bayview will provide vital, uplifting services to our communities of color. The Essential Services Hub is comprised of



a Learning Hub for Youth ages 5 through 12 years old, a Food Hub, Family Resource Services and COVID testing through a collaboration with COLOR. We are excited to launch our third **Learning Hub** in the Bayview, which will augment MNC's existing Learning Hubs at our Precita Valley Community Center and at Mission Language Vocational School. It will provide digitally connected, safe, full day, in-person programming to youth from working-poor households; residents of HOPE SF; public housing and single room occupancy (SRO) hotels; youth experiencing homelessness; foster youth; and English Language Learners. Youth will have access to technology for distance learning and will be provided additional enrichment programming, including STEM, literacy, and nature-based outdoor play and education.

**Test to Care Model:** After a COVID-19 diagnosis, many of our families face additional financial challenges to isolate and quarantine, particularly individuals working in the service and hospitality industries. To address these challenges, our MNC team working at the Essential Services Hub uses a novel community-based approach, the Test to Care Model, designed to

mitigate barriers for newly diagnosed, socio-economically vulnerable Latinx populations. Our families are facing extreme financial hardships since the pandemic due to the lack of employment. Our **Food Hub** provides our families who are facing hunger with access to food.

## Healthy Aging and Disabilities Services: Preventing Social Isolation and Displacement

**Cultivating Cultural Community by Preventing Social Isolation:** Thanks to a generous grant from Dignity Health this past month, 110 aging and older adults received an average of \$500 for rental assistance and back lease payments, as well as gift cards for Foods Co. The impact of this grant on the wellbeing of our seniors cannot be overstated.

The national health pandemic has significantly increased our seniors' fears of eviction and homelessness due to economic insecurities exacerbated by COVID-19. Due to diminished or limited incomes, they are also facing food insecurities. Since the pandemic, MNC's daily congregate meal program, which previously provided our seniors with at least one hot nutritious meal per day, was interrupted. Instead, onsite meals have been replaced with a home distribution program, providing seniors with limited access to nutritious foods with at least one nutritious meal a day.



Thanks to the generosity of supporters like Dignity Health, MNC's housing- and food-insecure older adults may still rely on us donated food supplies for their daily nutrition and consumption.

## Thank You San Francisco International Airport Employees! #SFOCARE: Essential Services Drive

**Giving the Gift of Essential Services:** During the months of November and December, employees of San Francisco's International Airport (SFO) are spearheading an Essential Services Drive benefiting families impacted by the national health pandemic. Donations are collected by SFO employees, distributed directly to MNC, which provides them to our families who need them most. As an anchor community institution, MNC is relied upon by thousands of families seeking preschool, youth, and senior services.



As our name implies, we are a network of neighborhood centers, which serves to empower our community. Join MNC and #SFOCARE in supporting our families this holiday season with the gift of essential services. Contact our [Development Team](#) to find out more, or [visit our website](#) and make your gift of support today!

## #GivingTuesday is December 1<sup>st</sup> this Year!

**Strengthening Resilience in our Shared Communities!** As our neighborhoods continue to heal from the global health and economic crisis, #GivingTuesday represents a response to the enormous need created by the COVID-19 pandemic.



This year, #GivingTuesday will focus on generosity, citizen engagement, and support for our shared communities.

Your support on December 1st will ensure that **Mission Neighborhood Centers** can continue to support the essential and emergent needs of our families, their children, older adult residents, and the wider community.

**Together We Give!** Remember MNC this year on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Find out how you can **become a legacy supporter** this #GivingTuesday by visiting our [event page](#).