

Meet the New Jersey Grantmakers

July 22, 2009

Profile Form

ORGANIZATION/FOUNDATION NAME:



PANELIST NAME & TITLE:

Kathleen Smith, *Grants Program Officer*

ADDRESS:

1 Bay Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042

INTERESTS:

(e.g., Fields of interest, areas funded, types of support or service, geographic region, exclusions, etc.)

The Mountainside Health Foundation, formerly known as the Mountainside Hospital Foundation, is an independent, self-governing public charity. Following the sale of Mountainside Hospital to Merit Health Systems, a for-profit entity, the Foundation adopted the mission *to strengthen health and wellness in communities traditionally served by Mountainside Hospital.*

The vision of the Mountainside Health Foundation is to create healthier communities by supporting and advancing good health, wellness education, and disease prevention and treatment. The Foundation's ultimate goal is to serve as a catalyst for new initiatives in health care, and to fund only those projects where our involvement will make a long-term, measurable difference.

Not-for-profit organizations located in, or providing direct service to, the following communities are eligible for grants from the Mountainside Health Foundation: Montclair, Glen Ridge, Essex Fells, Verona, Cedar Grove, Clifton, Bloomfield, Little Falls, Nutley, Roseland, Fairfield, Caldwell, West Caldwell, North Caldwell and West Orange.

To learn more, visit us at www.mshfoundation.org

CONTRIBUTIONS/SERVICE SUMMARY:

(e.g., 2008 disbursements, average grant size, summary of technical assistance etc.)

The Foundation awarded its first grants in 2008, totaling close to \$400,000. The average grant size was \$32,000. Discretionary grants were spread across four priority funding areas: Mental Health, Healthy Lifestyles (Nutrition, Obesity); Access to Health; and Seniors/Aging in the Community.

This past spring the Foundation funded *The Food Trust* to facilitate a Food Insecurity Colloquium, a series of three meetings to develop project ideas that address awareness of food insecurity and better coordination of services for clients of food assistance programs. The colloquium resulted in a working partnership of food pantries, non-profit agencies, and faith based communities to be known as *Pantry Partners*.

The Foundation seeks to develop its role as a “community convener” as a means to initiate programs that will strengthen health and wellness within our catchment area. The Foundation accepts unsolicited proposals. Grantseekers should visit our website to learn more about our funding guidelines and how to begin the application process.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Kathleen Smith joined the Mountainside Health Foundation staff as Grants Program Officer in February 2008. Prior to coming to the Foundation, she was the Co-Director of the Montclair Public Schools Health & Wellness Partnership, a community partnership promoting the physical, emotional, and social well-being of the students and staff of the Montclair Public Schools.

Kathleen sits on the State of NJ advisory committee for Coordinated School Health; the steering committee for the Montclair Public Schools Health & Wellness Partnership; and is a member of the American Public Health Association.

Ms. Smith received a B.S. Degree in Business and Environmental Economics from Rutgers University and is currently completing a Master’s Degree in Health Education at Montclair State University.