



**Black**

**Montessori**

**Education**

**Fund**



ROUND 1 - 2020

# CONGRATULATIONS

Black Montessori Education Fund

## Awardees

- Joyce Murray - Atlanta, Georgia
  - \$7,000
- Kalinda Bass Barlow - Blue Springs, Missouri
  - \$2,750
- Elizabeth Williams - Zion Crossroads, Virginia
  - \$2,600
- Ochuko Prudence Daniels - Lagos, Nigeria
  - \$2,400
- Jill Evans - Cleveland, Ohio
  - \$7,000
- Anika Dixon - Kingston, Jamaica
  - \$600
- Nnaceesay Marenah - Kotu, Kanifing
  - \$3,000
- Morinatu Fafunwa - Richmond, Virginia
  - \$3,780
- Brunette Boreland - Conyers, Georgia
  - \$2,000



# BMEF

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ATLANTA, GA

# JOYCE MURRAY

Funds used to: Launch an Islamic Montessori Home School

This reward will literally set my dreams to own a bilingual Arabic/English Islamic Montessori School for children ages 2.5-12 years in motion!!! I have been training for the past ten years, determined to make a difference in the lives of others. Montessori is a game changer and so suitable to my lifestyle and religion. Last year, I was planning a "soft summer" opening of my primary homeschool program. I contacted a seller and made a \$2,500 down payment on her materials. However, Covid appeared and my dreams were halted. Now that this scholarship has happened, the doors have flung wide open for me to complete the purchase and open my homeschool. I live in Riverdale, Ga in a community of African Americans and Africans. Most of whom have NEVER heard of Montessori. Every day, they struggle with educational inequity, and maintaining their Islamic morals. My goal is show them how the two worlds of Islam and Montessori can coexist effortlessly. Not only do I want to teach them that it is possible, I want to model it as well. The children are our future, and we owe it to them to provide the proper guidance. Thanks again for giving me and my community an opportunity to stand up and be counted.



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BLUE SPRINGS, MO

# KALINDA BASS BARLOW

Funds used to: pay tuition

KaLinda Bass-Barlow, she/her, is a black urban public Montessori school leader. She serves as the principal of Harold Holliday Montessori School in Kansas City, MO. KaLinda is a doctoral scholar at Arkansas State University. The funds awarded from the BMEF will be utilized to pay a portion of her spring tuition. She is interested in examining ABAR education as a component of Montessori teacher training for her dissertation.



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ZION CROSSROADS, VA

# ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

Funds used to: give children and families highest quality educational opportunities.

Elizabeth Williams graduated Grambling State University with an Associates Degree in Child Development. Later, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences from Northwestern State University. She is a mom of 3 boys and has been working with children and families for 10 years.



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LAGOS. NIGERIA

# OCHUKO P. DANIELS

Funds used to: achieve certification in the Montessori elementary program

Ochuko Prudence Daniels is the founder of MomaHill Montessori School, Lagos Nigeria. She started out as a Montessori mom in 2007. Today she champions and promotes Montessori education in her country with the establishment of a community Montessori school and speaking about benefits of Montessori education in Nigeria and Africa as a whole. She holds a bachelor of science degree in Natural sciences- botany major and certificate in interior design and styling. She has completed the Montessori 3-6 years level with a MACTE accredited certification and is now pursuing the Montessori elementary program.



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CLEVELAND, OH

# JILL EVANS

Funds used to: primary level Montessori training

Anika Dixon, M.Ed., is a Jamaican stay-at-home mother living in Kingston, Jamaica. She started out as a lecturer of Mathematics at the University of the West Indies, Mona, and received a Fulbright/LASPAU Faculty Development Scholarship in 2007 to pursue graduate studies in Mathematics Education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

She feels most alive when using her body to communicate through dance.

In Montessori she finds an echo for her own convictions of the respect and honor that a child's beauty demands, having beheld that beauty in her son. With little-to-no options for authentic Montessori education in Jamaica, she is compelled to create this opportunity for children by starting her own Montessori micro-school.



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KOTU, KANIFING

# NNACEESAY MARENAH

Funds used to: create fellowships for public Montessori leaders

Some 6 years ago I had a dream to bring Public Montessori to The Gambia given our recent traumatic history of dictatorship, I believe Montessori can be a catalyst for the healing and emancipation of this generation of children, and vicariously their parents.

We are building a movement of leaders at all levels to transform our current educational paradigm. We recruit, train and place leaders in public schools for a period of two years. The fellowship provides fellows with robust and practical leadership skills. As alumni these leaders work to dismantle and build better and more just ways of being.



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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

# MORINATU FAFUNWA

Funds used to: complete primary training program at WMI

My name is Morinatu Fafunwa and I live in Richmond, Virginia. After working with children in different capacities since completing my undergraduate degree, it was suggested to me that I pursue Montessori training. Having had the opportunity to attend a Montessori program from 2 1/2 to 6, I believe the values and skills I gained as a Montessori child are something I have carried with me throughout my life.

I am currently enrolled in the academic year primary course at Washington Montessori Institute which I plan to complete in May 2021. In her writing 'Education and Peace', Dr. Montessori makes the statement that, "The child is both a hope and promise for mankind" which truly resonates with me.



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CONYERS, GEORGIA

# BRUNETTE BORELAND

Funds used to: complete primary training program

I am a 15-year experienced Birth to 3 certified trilingual Montessori Educator. I specialize in Parent-Infant Coaching and African American Boys' education. I have had the pleasure of creating many learning environments that support a strong foundation for infants and toddlers. My goal is to be equipped to support children through age 6. I envision using these funds toward my AMI Primary (3-6) training. After completing my primary training and the Montessori Masters of Education, I hope to develop training programs for parents and adult learners.



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KINGSTON, JAMAICA

# ANIKA DIXON

Funds used to: recruit families from low income backgrounds, and at least 50% African American.

Jill Evans holds a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction Specializing in Early Childhood Education from Cleveland State University and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Wittenberg University. Jill worked as a long-term substitute teacher in Cleveland Public Schools for nine years, a Montessori Teacher at Tremont Montessori for three years, and as an Accomplished Teacher at Wade Park for two years. A longtime resident of the Mt. Pleasant/Buckeye-Shaker neighborhood in Cleveland, Jill is deeply immersed in the life of the community.



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