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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **The Montclair Foundation Announces Public Launch of its Capital Campaign, *Good Grows Here***

Montclair, NJ – The Montclair Foundation is excited to announce the public launch of *Good Grows Here*, a transformational fundraising initiative with a goal of raising \$4.25 million. This effort will not only enhance the Foundation's existing grant and education programs but will also ensure that Montclair's beloved Van Vleck House & Gardens remains a vibrant space for the community to gather, learn, grow, and find inspiration for years to come. Since launching the quiet phase of this campaign in the Spring of 2023, The Montclair Foundation is proud to share that it has already raised \$4 million dollars, thanks to the incredible generosity and dedication of just under 50 lead donors. This exciting early success has allowed us to increase our original goal of \$4 million to a new stretch goal of \$4.25 million.

"The public launch of this campaign is a testament to our community's belief in a shared vision for a vibrant future, and the Campaign will have an enormous impact," said Mark Packer, Executive Director of The Montclair Foundation. "We are thrilled to invite all who cherish our historic House & Gardens and wish to make meaningful impact through targeted grant-giving to join us during this exciting time for our organization."

### **Campaign Priorities**

The Montclair Foundation has identified the following strategic priorities for the Campaign:

1. Connecting the Greater Montclair Community to Nature – We seek to enhance access to the beauty and restorative powers of nature, making Van Vleck House & Gardens a central gathering place where people grow, learn, and are inspired.
2. Advancing Educational Opportunities – Through grantmaking, we will expand tutoring, mentoring, and developmental programs to support the education and development of our community members.
3. Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing – By expanding high-impact mental health initiatives in the Gardens and beyond, we will empower local nonprofit organizations to create larger, more impactful programs.
4. Tackling Hunger – We plan to offer even more programming at our location and make strategic investments in organizations with proven success in addressing food insecurity, particularly for children, seniors, and veterans.

### **Use of Funds**

The funds raised through the Capital Campaign will be used in two main ways:

1. \$2.125 million will go towards strategic investments in our location, encompassing both capital improvements and programmatic expansion, such as enhanced educational classes for families, seniors, and scout groups. To that end, we were thrilled to be awarded a matching grant of \$337,000 from the New Jersey Historic Trust to support the critical repair of the Van Vleck House roof.
2. \$2.125 million will go towards signature grant initiatives, including long-term, multi-year grants for the most impactful organizations and programs addressing the communities needs.

### **Our Impact on the Community**

The Montclair Foundation remains dedicated to preserving Van Vleck House & Gardens, which welcomes over 25,000 visitors each year. This historic estate serves as a vital community hub, offering families a peaceful retreat and numerous cultural and educational opportunities. In addition, we fund local nonprofits addressing critical challenges, such as homelessness, hunger, education, domestic violence, and safety.

We are not just meeting needs – we are transforming lives and building a stronger Montclair. "Raising my family here has been a privilege, surrounded by the vibrant spirit and values of our town," says Cathy Garrity, Board Chair of The Montclair Foundation. "Serving as Board Chair and leading the Capital Campaign has allowed me to give back to the community that has given so much to us. Together, we are building a brighter future for the next generation, and I couldn't be more grateful to be a part of this mission."

**How to Support the Campaign**

Those interested in supporting the campaign can visit <https://montclairfoundation.org/capital-campaign> or contact our Director of Development, Anita Peterson at [anita@montclairfoundation.org](mailto:anita@montclairfoundation.org), to make a donation or learn more about the campaign's goals. Every donation, no matter the size, will go towards supporting key initiatives that strengthen our community for generations to come.

**About The Montclair Foundation/Van Vleck House & Gardens**

The Montclair Foundation is a 501( c )3 nonprofit organization that awards grants to charitable organizations in the greater Montclair area. Equally important to the Foundation is its commitment to the historic preservation of Van Vleck House & Gardens and the role it plays in the educational enrichment and cultural enjoyment of the community. The Foundation serves as a vehicle for those who wish to make lasting investments in our community's future through philanthropic contributions and bequests.