

# Celebrate our Hyde Park MLK COMMUNITY BUILDERS 2024



Jeff Bailey

Advocate. Coach. Speaker. Youth Mentor. Friend. Jeffrey is the Divisional Director of Social Services with The Salvation Army Massachusetts. He is passionate about family, service, coaching youth sports, God and helping his community to develop into its best self.

He holds a Master's in Business Administration, a Master's in Public Administration and recently acquired his Doctorate in Business Administration: Organizational Leadership with a Dean's Recommendation of Honors.

A social services industry vet, Jeffrey has almost two decades of experience working with families, community activists and legislators within Boston. When he is not networking, teaching, advocating or coaching, he is lounging in his beloved Hyde Park, trying to hang with his lovely youthful family.

*"Inspired by my idol, Rev. Dr. King, my main motivational belief is that a community that empowers its youth, embraces those in need, inculcates stewardship, rewards service and cares for the elderly is always a community destined for greatness."*



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Scott Batey

*“Dr King spoke of the goal of the beloved community that would require a qualitative change in our heart and a quantitative change in our lives to make it a reality. I feel the former is the transformative and personal... The quantitative is the actual work that I do in my community to help make that goal a reality.”*

Scott has been a resident of Hyde Park for 33 years with his spouse Steve. With a BA in History from Boston University and a MBA in Business Administration from Babson College, he worked for New England Life/MetLife for 27 years before leaving as a senior officer and has been a financial advisor for Bay State Financial since 2010.

He’s a member of several local organizations, always stepping up where he can. He is the current Vice President of Hyde Park Main Streets and helps operate the Switch Co Op. As Acting President of the Hyde Park Board of Trade, he organizes community gatherings for neighbors to network, and since 2010, he’s been a Board Director at Riverside Theatre Works. He has been pivotal in the targeted recruitment of BIPOC people to these boards where in the past their voices were rarely at the table.

Scott helps plan the neighborhood’s Anderson Tree Lighting to be reflective of our BIPOC community of today, and was involved in the summer Bridgefest series of concerts and outdoor vending event that celebrates the cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity of Hyde Park. He continues to participate in the Forum for Racial Equity and the Community Input Board as a dedicated volunteer.



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Michelle Consalvo

*“As we celebrate and honor Dr. King’s legacy, I believe it is important that we all work as hard as we can to give back to the community that has given so much to all of us.”*

Born and raised in Roslindale, Michelle has lived in Hyde Park for 25 years. She attended Boston Public Schools and received a degree in Human Service from Springfield College. She has worked her entire career in the community.

While in college, Michelle began what was intended to be a two-week position as a camp counselor at the Hyde Park YMCA (now the Thomas M. Menino YMCA) that evolved into a 22-year career at this community branch. Her roles included Child Care Director, Senior Program Director and Board/Development Coordinator.

For 5 years, Michelle has worked for the Hyde Park Community Center Council as well as the BCYF Ohrenberger Community Center in West Roxbury. Currently, she works as the Healthy Aging Program Manager for Ethos, serving older adults in Hyde Park, Mattapan, Readville, Roslindale and West Roxbury.

In addition to her professional career, she has been an active participant in the community. She has been an integral part of Hyde Park's Anderson Tree Lighting Committee, Hyde Park 150 & 155 Celebration Committees, and is a founding member of Boston Women Inc., an organization dedicated to honoring the contributions of women in the community. She has also been involved with organizations such as Boston Public Schools and the Hyde Park Junior Athletic Association. Michelle resides in Hyde Park with husband Rob and children Amanda, Anthony and Austin.



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Lokita Jackson

*“Dr. King’s ‘Beloved Community’ is not exclusive...and the cost is affordable for every person – no matter one’s economic or educational status. It includes: LOVE, humility, equality, equity, truth, respect and unity. This beautiful vision of a harmonious community of diverse peoples that God created is a sincere desire of mine as well...”*

Lokita Jackson has lived in Boston for over 30 years and has called Hyde Park home since 2007. Over the years, Lokita and her husband assisted the former leader of the Rosebery-Ruskindale Road Neighborhood Association (RRRd) with steering the committee and ad-hoc tasks, and stepped up as an interim Co-chair to keep the momentum going when the leader retired. During this time, she contributed to the expansion of RRRd’s city connections and reach as well as its collaboration across various neighborhoods and community projects. Lokita has also been an instrumental organizer and convener of the Crane Ledge Woods Coalition, campaigning to conserve local woodlands.

In response to calls for an advisory board that works to include the community in future neighborhood projects, Lokita took the initiative to organize what is now known as the Community Input Board of Hyde Park (CIB) in collaboration with Marcia Kimm Jackson and Marlon Solomon. CIB’s key mission is to connect all Hyde Park stakeholders so all will have a seat at the table of decision-making for their beloved community. From the annual HP Idea Exchange to the new HP Youth Day of Play and the Cultural Hub Forum, Lokita is proud of the team of volunteers who expend their talents and passion to make Hyde Park even better than it already is.

*“It is a vision of an environment where people are not color blind, but color-rich; meaning where white, black and every color in between are recognized, equally valued, respected, celebrated and harmoniously co-existing. It’s one where people are not impoverished in money or spirit; but are wealthy in both because the system and institutions are structured for everyone’s success and well-being.”*



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Valerie Molyneaux

*“Dr King’s dream of the Beloved Community has influenced me to strive for UNITY, to encourage folks across all walks of life to work together for the greater good. Dr King talked about ‘cooperating together in a spirit of friendship.’ A Beloved Community should represent love and oneness.”*

Melsada Valarie Molyneaux is a woman of Faith, wife to her husband Roy and mother of two young men Jay and Mike. A native of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Valarie has made Boston her home for 47 years, 35 of which as a Hyde Park homeowner. She joined the East River Neighborhood Association and got involved to learn about her community.

In her professional career, she worked 14 years as a former Bank Loan Officer with New England Merchant NB. To be near her growing family, Val switched to the field of education, working as an elementary teacher, first at Parkside Christian Academy, then with the Town of Weston for a collective total 23 years.

In 2002, she was officially diagnosed as having Vitiligo, an autoimmune related disease and something she had never heard or seen before. After the Dermatologist stated NO cure and NO support Group, Val formed VITFriends (501c3) in 2009. This is a support group for people living with the skin condition. Today, Valarie stands as President and CEO of 13 affiliate volunteer led groups across the USA, this includes a children's and a teens group and supporting VITFriends Cuba. She started a PODCAST in 2010 & in 2019 with the addition of the North Carolina affiliate leader it has grown to a global reach with 12,400 listeners.

She works to bring people together, support students going to college, see teens collaborate with seniors citizens, educate children about Vitiligo, clean the streets of Hyde Park; That is Community, her Beloved Community!



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Marietta Phinney

Born in Boston on January 14th, 1938, Marietta Phinney is the daughter of Peter & Adeline Fata. She grew up in St. Anne's Parish in Readville on River Street known as "the River Street Compound," where her grandparents settled after migrating from Italy. She has lived there her entire life in close proximity to her family.

Marietta created a Music/Drama program which eventually led to the creation of Riverside Theatre Works on June 1, 1981. Riverside Theatre Works (RTW) resides in the beautiful French's Opera House on Fairmount Avenue. RTW is a cultural mainstay in Hyde Park and the surrounding area. They offer quality productions, musical theater training and community outreach, bringing foot traffic to our local restaurants and businesses, and helping make the neighborhood of Hyde Park a desired destination.

She is proud to be the mother & grandmother of 6 Boston Police Officers, 1 Milton Police Officer and a Boston FireFighter. She feels that she's been able to pass part of Dr. King's influence in her life onto her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and students at RTW.

*"Dr. Martin Luther King influenced me in many ways during the 1960's; the way he worked out conflicts through the power of words with kindness and love as opposed to hate and violence. My admiration and respect for him carried over to the 1980's as an inspiration for unconditional love, when I created a place for young people to share and pursue their dreams."*



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Marilynne Quarcoo

*“Dr King was ever-present  
in my life.”*

Marilynne Smith Quarcoo was born and raised in Roxbury. She was blessed to live among notable activists and community leaders like Elma Lewis, Judge Harry Elam, Representative Royal L. Bolling Senior, and Ellen Jackson. Her family instilled in her a commitment to community, setting the bar for her unselfish and limitless capacity to serve and lead.

At Boston College, Marilynne earned a Bachelor’s of Education, a Master’s in Educational Psychology, and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration with a focus on achievement motivation. As an antiracist, anti-bias, inclusive, multicultural educator and leader for 47-plus years, Marilynne constantly pushed against low expectations and structural racism, working in communities that supported the METCO program. She chose to assist school leaders in creating inclusive and relevant classroom cultures and learning environments where all children are seen and have the ability to achieve.

Beyond her professional career, she continues to step up as a visionary. In our community, she collaborated with Northeastern University to gather Hyde Park residents’ stories during COVID. She builds bonds with critical groups like the Neponset Watershed Association (NepWRA) and Harvard Medical’s School Family Van, a mobile health clinic. Tackling ways to uplift authentic, future-forward, collaborative community engagement, Marilynne does not hold back and easily speaks truth to power.



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April Ricci

April Ricci is a lifelong resident of Hyde Park, born and raised. She started her career at Shaw's Supermarket in 2001 and was most recently in the role of Store Director.

During her 5 years as store director, she made it her mission to give back to her beloved community. She became part of the first diversity and inclusion council for Shaw's and was part of the first team to establish annual Black History Month events. Those events were beyond successful, giving back and impacting Hyde Park in great ways. She has made many contributions to events throughout the year and continues to volunteer in Hyde Park.

*April embodies the legacy of Dr King by*

- 1. Making contributions to community events*
- 2. Standing as an ally and friend to all her neighbors of color.*
- 3. Having created safe spaces at Shaw's and provided employment for residents/neighbors.*
- 4. Providing and maintaining inclusivity for the community.*
- 5. Leading with compassion and love above all!*





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Dr. Ellen Scalese

*“King envisioned the Beloved Community as a society based on justice, equal opportunity, and love of one’s fellow human beings. Poverty, hunger and discrimination are not tolerated. Educational opportunities promote equality, opportunities, lessen discrimination, and poverty. Love of one’s fellow human beings is fostered in diverse neighborhoods whose associations promote fellowship and pride.”*

Ellen R. Scalese, Ph.D. is an educator, reader, gardener, volunteer, wife, mother, and grandmother. She was employed as a Dean/Director of Student Success at Kaplan University, Walden University and Cambridge College of Health, all of which catered to adults who are first-generation higher education students and first/second-generation immigrants determined to build a better life. Having earned degrees under similar circumstances, she wanted to help others succeed.

She is originally from the Boston area and retired in Hyde Park with her husband in 2018. They love living in a culturally diverse neighborhood and joined the neighborhood association. As a member, she applied for a grant to improve the Factory Hill Park. She believes neighborhood parks allow an opportunity to gather on equal footing. Years of working with CPA and DCR have come to fruition as the park is now being renovated.

Ellen is a member of the Hyde Park Community Garden and participates in Keep Hyde Park Beautiful. She is also a member of the steering committee that works to establish a Health and Wellness Center in Hyde Park, which will serve the medical needs of all its constituents equally.



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Joe and Janet Smith

Janet and Joseph Smith have lived in Hyde Park for 52 years, serving students in Boston Public Schools for over four decades. They have spent their retirement years giving back to the Hyde Park community.

Both together and separately they belong to the Fairmount Hill Neighborhood Association, the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, Keep Hyde Park Beautiful, Factory Hill Garden Group, Friends of the Hyde Park Library, and the Hyde Park Historical Society. Retirement years have allowed them to actively engage in community efforts and meet many wonderful neighbors with the common interest to make Hyde Park a great place to live.

*“We are inspired by the work of MLK, Jr. and consider it a privilege to have taught and supported BPS students since the early seventies, first at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School and later at English High School and the Humphrey Center.”*



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Mimi Turchinetz

Mimi is a passionate advocate working to advance economic, racial and environmental justice. As a toddler, you could have found her by her mother's side protesting Louise Day Hicks or knocking on doors against the Vietnam War. Raised to understand systemic inequities, she became an attorney to use the law to fight for a just and equitable world.

She has lived in Hyde Park since buying her house on Dell Ave in 2001. She is deeply engaged in building community in Hyde Park as President of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and is involved in the Hyde Park Historical Society, the Community Input Board and the Crane Ledge Woods Coalition.

*"I have always been an intersectional activist and understand that we must bring together all the isms as we fight systematic oppression. Our Beloved Community calls for us to work collaboratively for justice."*



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Gretchen Van Ness

*“My commitment to racial equity and the realization of MLK’s dream of a Beloved Community inspires all of my work.”*

Many know Gretchen in her current role as Executive Director of LGBTQ Senior Housing, the nonprofit partner in the development of The Pryde, Boston’s first LGBTQ-welcoming affordable senior housing at the former Barton Rogers School.

Before embarking on this historic community-building work, Gretchen’s distinguished career included serving as General Counsel to a state senator, staff attorney on the First Circuit Court of Appeals, special clerk to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and as a pioneering civil rights attorney. She has served as President of the Women’s Bar Association of MA, President of a Main Streets organization, and a trustee of her college. She has also lectured widely and taught at Suffolk Law School and the Harvard Extension School. Boston Magazine has recognized her as a Best of Boston attorney, a leader in Boston’s LGBTQ community, and a Massachusetts Super Lawyer.

Her contributions in the Hyde Park community include serving on the Ward 18 Democratic Committee, helping organize and moderate candidate forums, providing advice and counsel to many neighborhood organizations, and working with Marcia Kimm to found the Racial Justice & Equity Forum.

