MATTAPAN FOOD AND FITNESS COALITION

2025 Annual Report

Growth & Reflection, New Beginnings





MFFC's *Mission & Vision*



Mission

Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition (MFFC) builds intergenerational leadership within Mattapan's Black and Brown community to advocate for equitable access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity.

Vision

Mattapan is a healthy and thriving community.



MFFC's *Values*



Equity & Antiracism

We build agency among community residents to address the historic impact of systemic and institutional racism

Health & Wellness

We advocate alongside the community for policy, system, and structural changes that promote healthy behaviors. We provide and create resources to promote healthy interactions between community members

Community Ownership & Empowerment

We empower residents to voice their needs and wants, build a sense of agency over their health, and create a community they deserve to live in

Relationship Building Grounded in Trust

We commit to building meaningful relationships with the community and collaborating with partners to create a thriving and healthy Mattapan, founded on integrity and trust

Respect

We honor and recognize that the community's thoughts, feelings, and diverse backgrounds are invaluable and essential to work toward a healthy community.

Youth Power

We believe in the limitless potential of young people and choose to invest in them as the key to a healthier future for our communities and world.

Advisory Board



Vivien Morris
MS, RD, MPH, LDN Founder & Board Chair



Robyn Gibson
Board



Sonia Carter
MS, LDN, Board



Theresa Jordan
MPA, Board



Stephanie Campbell
Board



Stephanie Voltaire
Board



Emmanuel Debarros
Board



Jazmin Granadeno
Board



Keyla Kelley
Board

Our Team



Shavel'le Olivier , MS
Executive Director



Vickey Siggers
Food Access Manager



Kay Savage
Active Living Coordinator



Trinity Hodges, MFA
Development &
Communications Coordinator



Kahlil Cooper
Program Manager



Starrell Layne
Food Access Coordinator



Uzoma Adichie
Youth Development
Manager



Joseph Pires
Youth Development
Coordinator

Interns & *Volunteers*



Esha Maewal



Nelly Juma



Njaavel Johnson



Jessica Lane



Kayla Portillo



Bianca Watkins-Charlemagn



Alan Siggers



Rosie Jones



Naeem Layne



Gillian Straughtan



Jordie Kamuene

2025 *Impact*

Highlights



BUS #716 EXTENSION
Expanded access to Houghton's Pond

3 MFFC TRIPS
Reaching more community residents



$1K
Donated to UFI

400+
New social media **followers**

3.6M+
Steps Taken in Walk Challenges

80
$50 grocery gift cards distributed

BOSTON'S FIRST
Youth Bike Summit

203 attendees

1,492.5 miles biked

VIGOROUS YOUTH
Planned & executed the welcome party

FOOD *Access*

2025 Program Highlights

4,206

FARMERS MARKET COUPONS DISTRIBUTED

FACING FOOD INSECURITY

In 2025, many of our neighbors continued to face challenges accessing healthy food. Rising food insecurity, ongoing budget cuts, and SNAP delays created uncertainty for families who rely on these resources every day. When November SNAP benefits were delayed due to a federal shutdown, many households were left without the support they depend on to put food on the table.

3M+

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH HIP OUTREACH

80

GROCERY GIFT CARDS DISTRIBUTED

RESPONDING TO THE NEED

In response, MFFC showed up for our community. Through a rapid-response fundraiser, we distributed grocery gift cards to help families navigate the SNAP delay. We also connected residents with information to help them access and maximize their benefits through outreach about the Healthy Incentive Program (HIP).



400
FREE FOOD BAGS DISTRIBUTED

EXPANDING FOOD ACCESS

Throughout the year, we continued working to make fresh, healthy food more accessible. Through partnerships with the Urban Farming Institute, Fair Foods, Summer Eats, and ABCD, we connected residents with fresh food, meals, farmers' market coupons, grocery support, and other essential resources.

180
FREE MEALS EACH WEEK

50
HOLIDAY TURKEYS PROVIDED

13
CROCKPOTS RAFFLED

STRONGER THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Our partnerships also helped us expand what food access can look like. We welcomed Sibling Crops (Jor Her) as a new farmer, bringing Caribbean and Asian staples to our market. Vital CxNs Health Hub provided health screenings at the Farmers Market, while the Boston Public Health Commission shared important health and safety information with visitors. Together, these partnerships helped us move beyond food distribution alone toward a more holistic, community-centered approach to health and wellness.



$1K
DONATION TO THE URBAN FARMING INSTITUTE (UFI)

1st
FOOD POP-UP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ABCD

Physical Activity

2025 Program Highlights

3.6M+
STEPS TAKEN

MOVEMENT BUILDS COMMUNITY

Staying active supports both physical and mental well-being while helping neighbors stay connected. Whether walking together, trying a fitness class, or getting back on a bike, movement can build confidence, reduce isolation, and create a sense of belonging.

100+
WALKING CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS

10
YOUTH

36
OLDER ADULTS

MAKING MOVEMENT ACCESSIBLE

Throughout 2025, MFFC worked to make physical activity fun, accessible, and welcoming for residents of all ages and abilities.



14
FITNESS CLASSES

26
YOGA SESSIONS

15th ANNUAL MATTAPAN ON WHEELS



RIDING TOGETHER FOR 15 YEARS

This year marked the 15th Annual Mattapan on Wheels, bringing residents together to ride, connect, and experience their community on two wheels.

108

19
FIRST-TIME RIDERS

27
VOLUNTEERS

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CYCLING

Beyond Mattapan on Wheels, MFFC hosted community rides and helped residents access bikes, helmets, and affordable transportation options throughout the summer.

8
COMMUNITY BIKE RIDES

12
BLUEBIKE PASSES DISTRIBUTED

30
BIKES GIVEN AWAY

250
HELMETS GIVEN AWAY

STRONGER THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Partners including Iyena Yoga, the Mattapan Branch Public Library, Vital CxNs, Neponset River Watershed Association, and Boss Chick Dance Company helped create welcoming spaces where residents could prioritize their health while building community.

COMMUNITY *Empowerment*

ENVIRONMENT + TRANSPORTATION

2025 Program Highlights

181
RESIDENTS SURVEYED

COMMUNITY VOICE DRIVES CHANGE

People most affected by transportation and environmental challenges should have a voice in shaping the solutions. By understanding the systems that affect their daily lives and sharing their experiences, residents can become powerful advocates for themselves, their families, and their neighborhoods.

5
GREEN SPACE EVENTS

3
MBTA EDUCATION TRIPS
WITH FRIENDS OF THE BLUE HILLS

Exploring Bus #716
through trips to Houghton's Pond

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

In June, MFFC welcomed Kahlil Cooper as Program Manager to lead transportation advocacy and environmental justice efforts, strengthening our capacity to support resident-led change.



LISTENING TO RESIDENTS

MFFC partnered with Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI) to canvass Mattapan and hear directly from residents about the transportation and environmental issues that matter most to them.

158
SURVEY RESPONSES

IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Through a seven-week survey with REACH, MFFC gathered community perspectives on health equity and transportation challenges in Mattapan.

RESIDENT PRIORITIES: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

AUDIBLE
CROSSWALK SIGNALS

BETTER LIGHTING
ON WALKING TRAILS

SMOOTHER
HANDICAP PATHWAYS



YOUTH VOICES IN TRANSPORTATION

Vigorous Youth continued its Bus #28 Transportation Impact Project, helping ensure young people have a seat at the table and the confidence to advocate for improvements in the systems they use every day.

BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR 2026

Growing resident interest in learning, organizing and taking action sparked plans to launch Climate Change Workshops in 2026.

STRONGER THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Partnerships with transportation, public health, environmental, and community organizations help MFFC create pathways for residents to learn, connect, and advocate for change.

COMMUNICATIONS

Building the System

2025 Program Highlights

104

COMMUNICATION MATERIALS CREATED

Videos • Photos • Flyers

CONNECTING THROUGH COMMUNICATION

At MFFC, communication is about sharing resources and building relationships. Each platform creates opportunities to celebrate accomplishments, connect residents to valuable resources, and highlight the people working behind the scenes to strengthen Mattapan.

Communications also helps MFFC reach people beyond word of mouth and build partnerships that expand our collective impact.



A MORE INTENTIONAL APPROACH

In May, MFFC welcomed Trinity Hodges as Development & Communications Coordinator, helping establish a more intentional and consistent approach to community outreach.

28
BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTERS DISTRIBUTED

4
COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

15
NEW PARTNERSHIPS DEVELOPED

3M+
VIDEO VIEWS



REACHING BEYOND OUR NETWORK

MFFC's communications efforts helped the community continue to grow online and in person. A Food Access video explaining changes to SNAP and HIP benefits reached more than 3 million people, demonstrating the important role trusted messengers can play in sharing timely information.

MORE THAN HALF ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FROM NON-FOLLOWERS

GROWING OUR DIGITAL REACH

400
NEW INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

$5K+
RAISED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

BUILDING A RECOGNIZABLE PRESENCE

MFFC also developed a more unified and recognizable presence across its communications platforms, making it easier for community members to identify and engage with its work.

COMMUNICATION AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY

MFFC's communications work helps ensure neighbors know they are not alone, that resources are available to support them, and that people are working every day to help Mattapan thrive.

GROWING INTO *leadership*



From Vigorous Youth to Peer Leader

One of the most meaningful measures of MFFC's impact is watching young people grow into leaders who are excited to give back to the next generation. Njaavel Johnson is a reflection of that work in action.

Njaavel joined MFFC's Vigorous Youth at age 14, where he developed confidence, leadership skills, and a passion for speaking up for his community. Four years later, he now serves as a Peer Leader, helping guide and encourage participants in the same program that helped shape him.

One of Njaavel's proudest accomplishments was helping lead the Youth Bike Summit, which welcomed 203 participants from two countries, 17 states, and 53 cities. Alongside his peers, he planned the Summit's Welcome Party and led the Walk It Like You Talk It pedestrian safety workshop. Inspired by Mattapan's high crash and fatality rates, the youth used a game-show-style presentation to engage the biking community in conversations about safer streets and infrastructure.

Today, Njaavel works alongside MFFC staff to plan events, support new initiatives, and mentor current Vigorous Youth. A favorite moment was helping organize and speak at a youth-led town hall about transportation advocacy and the proposed center-running bus lane on Blue Hill Avenue. The gathering brought together community members with different perspectives and demonstrated the power of young people leading conversations about their neighborhood.

Njaavel hopes every young person leaves Vigorous Youth more confident than when they started. His goal is simple: help participants have fun, make the most of the experience, and want to return year after year.

Advice for Today's Vigorous Youth:

"Enjoy yourself. I feel like that's the most important thing to do in this program. Honing your professional development skills are also very important, but most of all, have fun!" - Njaavel

Internal Operations



Building a Stronger Foundation

Strong organizations invest in the people, systems, and relationships that make their work possible. Throughout 2025, MFFC strengthened its internal operations to better support our programs and community. By building our organizational capacity today, we're creating a stronger foundation for the work ahead.

Evaluation

This year, MFFC developed and implemented an organization-wide evaluation strategy, creating a consistent way to track accomplishments across departments. The new system gives staff better tools to measure impact, celebrate successes, learn from our work, and make informed decisions as we continue to grow thoughtfully and sustainably.

Membership

MFFC began the process of reinstating our Membership Program, rooted in the belief that meaningful change starts with community leadership. As we develop a new membership model, our goal is to create more opportunities for residents to participate in MFFC's work and help shape our direction.

New Hires

Trinity Hodges • Kahlil Cooper • Joseph Pires • Starrell ‘Star” Layne



What's Coming In 2026



Program Initiatives

TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY & ENVIRONMENT

- Launch a new Climate Change Workshop Series

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Use community survey findings to strengthen programs and operations
- Celebrate MFFC's 20th Anniversary
- Support the Edgewater Drive Neighborhood Association

FOOD ACCESS

- Expand the variety of Farmers Market vendors
- Continue food pop-ups through the spring while the Farmers Market is closed

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Expand Walking Challenges
- Increase Bluebikes engagement
- Offer more dance fitness classes

COMMUNICATIONS

- Increase staff engagement on social media
- Create more collaborative posts
- Produce more video content

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Welcome Uzoma Adichie as Youth Development Manager

Growing Our Capacity

As these efforts take shape, we're also investing in MFFC's long-term growth. In 2026, we will welcome an Associate Director, expanding our leadership capacity to support fundraising, strengthen administrative operations, and help guide our growing programs. This new role reflects our commitment to building an organization equipped to meet the evolving needs of our community while remaining rooted in our mission and values.

As we look ahead, we're excited to continue growing alongside the community we serve. Every new staff member, improved system, and resident who becomes part of this work strengthens our ability to create lasting change. **By investing in MFFC's foundation, we're investing in the future of Mattapan.**


ACE
alternatives for community & environment
Building Power for Environmental Justice
BOSTON CYCLISTS UNION
URBAN FARMING INSTITUTE
LivableStreets
Connecting People + Places
MassBike
MAPC
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL
EDGEWATER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
abcd
BOND on COLOR
Boston Organization of Nutritionists & Dietitians of Color
BROOKWOOD
community farm
BIKES NOT BOMBS
FAIRMOUNT INDIGO
CDC Collaborative
BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER
City of Boston
Transportation
BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
MATTAPAN
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
BOSTON UJIMA PROJECT
City of Boston
Equity and Inclusion
We Thank Our
Partners
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
HON EST AS
DILI GEN TIA
1906
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY
BOSTON
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Iyengar Yoga
Association of New England
VITAL CxNS
City of Boston
Food Justice
BOSTON REGION
MPO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority
UMass
Boston
NORFOLK HARDWARE
HOME CENTER
NEPONSET
RIVER
GREENWAY COUNCIL
LVX VERITAS VIRTVS
Northeastern
University
Mass Audubon
Boss Chick
DANCE WORKOUT
BOSTON FOOD FOREST COALITION
BOSTON
COLLEGE
SPARK FM
Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology
CHEZ-VOUS
ROLLERSKATING RINK

Letter from the *Executive Director*



As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for our residents, youth leaders, volunteers, partners, supporters, and staff who make this work possible. Their commitment shows the power of people showing up for one another and believing that together we can build a healthier, more equitable Mattapan.

In 2025, we continued to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our community. When SNAP delays left families without critical benefits, we responded by distributing grocery gift cards, connecting residents to resources, and helping ensure families had access to healthy food. Through our Farmers Market, coupon programs, food distributions, and partnerships, thousands of residents accessed fresh, affordable food.

We expanded opportunities for physical activity through walking challenges, yoga sessions, bike rides, and our 15th Annual Mattapan on Wheels. Our youth continued to grow as leaders through transportation advocacy, workforce development, and community programming, while our transportation and environmental justice work elevated resident voices and helped shape conversations about the future of our neighborhood.

We also strengthened how we connect with our community. Through newsletters, social media, and outreach, we shared important information about food access, public health, transportation, and local resources. More importantly, we helped ensure residents had trusted information when they needed it most.

As we look toward the future, I am excited about the possibilities ahead. I look forward to continuing our transportation advocacy, expanding opportunities for youth leadership, strengthening food access programs, and creating more spaces for residents to come together around issues that affect their daily lives. I am especially encouraged by the growing number of community members stepping into leadership roles, sharing their perspectives, and helping shape the direction of our work. That is how lasting change happens.

Thank you for being part of this movement. Whether you volunteered, donated, partnered with us, attended an event, or simply shared our work with others, you helped make this year possible. Together, we are building a Mattapan where everyone has access to healthy food, opportunities for movement, a voice in decisions that affect their lives, and the resources needed to thrive.

I am honored to be on this journey with you, and I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the years ahead.

With gratitude,
Shavel'le Olivier
Executive Director

Get Involved



Together, we're building a healthier, more connected Mattapan.

Donate

We ask you to donate any amount you are capable of and comfortable giving. Your donation will help improve the lives of Mattapan residents.

To donate visit:
www.mattapanfoodandfit.org/fundraising

MATTAPAN FOOD AND FITNESS COALITION

www.mattapanfoodandfit.org

Partner

MFFC values partnerships to support the health of the Mattapan community.

To partner, contact us:
info@mattapanfoodandfit.org

Volunteer

Our volunteers help make MFFC events possible and our organization run.

To volunteer, contact us via our website:
https://www.mattapanfoodandfit.org/volunteer

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