

EDITORIAL

by **Monsignor William J. Linder**

NCC: Keeping The Vision Alive

There is a biblical proverb that reads, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” During tough, economic times, it would be rather easy as a non-profit to make deep cuts in programming and put the brakes on other plans that might be on the drawing board. But from the founding of New Community Corp. back in 1968, we have never allowed external circumstances to dictate this organization’s direction, or impede our progress.

We have on more than one occasion moved forward to fill critical needs in the community, believing that because it was the ‘right’ thing to do, all the pieces would fall into place. And they did. It happened when we forged ahead with the opening of Harmony House back in 1989, our transitional living facility for homeless families, despite lack of support from the mayor of Newark at the time.

In 2010, one of the most difficult economic years in recent memory, we welcomed our first families to Roseville Commons, a new 50-unit affordable housing development in Newark’s West Ward.

We also last year fulfilled a long-term goal of mine, offering hospice care for the very time, at our Extended Care Center.

Now here we are at the start of 2011 and we are once again moving ahead on a number of projects. They include the development of a maternity residence that would move expectant and young mothers out of Harmony House into their own housing facility. New Community has also applied for its fourth charter school license from the state.

We are also forging ahead on a mixed used housing and commercial development on Springfield Avenue with a major developer. We have also teamed up with a major community healthcare provider on a project that would target the chronically homeless in our city, providing them with both housing and healthcare.

Simply put, keeping the vision means our mission of improving quality of life will remain intact.

In good times and bad, New Community has been there.

Thank you to all whose donations are helping keep the vision alive.