



EDITORIAL

by Monsignor William J. Linder

AS POVERTY RATE RISES, SO DOES ROLE OF NCC AS SAFETY NET

More people than ever---nearly 1 in 6 Americans or a record 46.2 million people---are now living in poverty in the United States. While the poverty rate had been 14.3 percent, it climbed to 15.1 percent last year, the Census Bureau recently reported. The government definition of poverty last year for a family of four was annual income of less than \$22,314. The fact that there are now more people classified as “poor” is no surprise to us here at New Community Corporation. We see more of these individuals daily---like the single mother who ended up with her children at Harmony House, our transitional living facility, because the relatives she was staying with could no longer afford to provide them with shelter. Stories like this abound. Our Family Resource Success Center is now working with a former school employee who lost his job, fell into poverty and was on the verge of losing his apartment. Through the one-stop Resource Center, he was able to find rental assistance and also help paying his utility bills. Our Workforce training programs in Nursing, Culinary Arts and Automotive Technician are also receiving a record number of inquiries and applications during these times of economic recession. A good number of these applications are being filled out by people who not too long ago had decent-paying jobs. Now, many have become part of the Census Bureau poverty statistics because they are seriously struggling to survive. Many have no health insurance. Training programs run by New Community are many times the last hope for individuals seeking to lift themselves out of poverty. Even as the numbers of people reaching out to New Community continue to increase, our organization has simultaneously experienced funding cuts. But we refuse to cut out these programs because the need is just too great. We need your help more than ever to help continue being that safety net for the growing number of people slipping into poverty. Every dollar counts.

Please visit our Website at www.newcommunity.org and make a donation or mail your contribution to New Community Corporation, 233 West Market St., Newark, NJ 07103, marking your envelope to my attention. Thank you and May God Bless You.