

## Employee Of The Month: Shanell Sing



Shanell Sing, floating teacher's assistant for New Community day care centers, stands in front of a bulletin board she created at Community Hills Early Learning Center.

Although Shanell Sing isn't a parent, she knows the ins and outs of caring for and teaching babies and toddlers. She is a floating teacher's assistant for New Community Corporation's day care centers, working mainly at Community Hills Early Learning Center in toddler and infant rooms.

When Sing was in high school, she participated in New Community's Newark Youth Leadership Project (NYLP) and got her first experience with early childhood education at CHELC. It was then that she realized she wanted to pursue a career in that area.

After graduating high school, she worked at Harmony House Early Learning Center for four years as a teacher's assistant. She then worked at Extended Care for three years as an activities assistant, working with the elderly and Alzheimer's patients.

She transitioned back to early childhood education in July when she became the floating teacher's assistant.

In her role, Sing assists teachers with activities that help children gain fine motor skills and language. She also helps clean classrooms and decorate the hallways.

"Anything I can do to lend a helping hand," she said.

Those walking through the hallways at CHELC can see she has a knack for decorating. She created an underwater scene to hang above the fish tank, a bulletin board that looks like crayons in their box and a welcome board for the facility.

Her work hasn't gone unnoticed.

"She is a teacher that goes over and above for not only the children in her care, but the parents and the staff. Ms. Shanell never complains when asked to do something and always does it with a smile. On nights that I close the building, Ms. Shanell always makes sure that I'm OK and never leaves until I'm done," said CHELC Director Gloria Johnson. "If you look at the amazing bulletin boards around the center, it's due to the amazing work of Ms. Shanell."

Sing has been a part of New Community since she was a child, attending St. Rose of Lima school for kindergarten through second grade and being part of NYPL. She is grateful to New Community for helping her get her Child Development Associate credential, which she completed Sept. 30. She attended classes for the six-month program on Saturdays, never missing a session.

She hopes to get a bachelor's degree in education in the future and continue teaching in an early childhood center.

"I love everything about it," she said of her job. "It doesn't matter how I feel or what's going on, when I come through the doors, I forget about everything."

Sing's positivity shows when she talks about her job and the kids she works with.

"I don't have any children so these are my babies," she said.

Sing lives in Newark with her mother, New Community Human Resources Manager Anna Sing-King; step dad; and two brothers. In her spare time, she likes completing Sudoku puzzles and doing crafts.