

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Selena Williams



Selena Williams, a long time Douglas Homes resident, has served in several leadership roles in the building.

Selena Williams has many fond memories at Douglas Homes, which has been her home for more than a decade. She will be moving to Texas to be closer to her children and says she's going to miss the people she sees each day.

Williams has lived at Douglas Homes, 15 Hill St., Newark, for 16 years. She first came to the New Community property because of her sister, Marjorie Ann Godfrey, who has lived in the facility for 31 years.

Williams has been a very involved resident, serving as vice president and president of the Tenants' Association and as a floor captain, checking in on residents and helping resolve issues they might have.

At 84, Williams says the time has come for her to move closer to her four living children. Her daughter and one son currently reside in Texas and her two other sons will be moving there soon as well.

"I truly don't want to leave but I have to leave," she said. "My family wants me down there. I'm not going to fight it any more."

Godfrey said the move will be an adjustment for both of them. The sisters currently see each other every day. "We're a home. We're very close here," Godfrey said of Douglas Homes.

Care Coordinator Luz Toro said Williams has given a lot of hard work and loving care to her fellow residents and her presence will be missed.

"She uplifts anyone's spirit with her friendly smile and helps and cares for all her fellow residents," Toro said. "I will miss her dearly."

Williams was born in Newark Oct. 18, 1932. She has spent the vast majority of her life in Newark, living briefly in Jersey City and New Mexico. She had seven children, 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren and worked in hospitals in Newark and Belleville and as a school crossing guard.

She took her leadership positions for the Tenants' Association at Douglas Homes seriously, helping to plan a variety of activities, securing the Community Room pool table and decorating the space for various events.

The time she spent as vice president and president of the Tenants' Association was rewarding. "There's a lot of things that I did that I didn't think I could do," she said.

Williams says New Community has treated her well. "All the workers are great. The guards are great. It's really nice. I'm going to miss them all," she said.

She anticipates a difficult transition but plans to come back to visit.

"Even though I'll be with my children, it is going to be really rough," she said. "My daughter and son said any time I want to come back, they'll bring me back."

Williams still has four sisters, a brother, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the area and she plans to travel back and forth as much as she can.