

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Frances Hubbard



Hudson Senior resident Frances Hubbard stays very active at age 83.

Frances Hubbard loves to learn. Whether she's reading books, crocheting patterns or having one of her grandsons show her new ways to use her cell phone, she enjoys acquiring knowledge.

The 83-year-old has lived at New Community Hudson Senior, 21-27 Orchard St., Jersey City, since 2009. She participates in a variety of activities, including Zumba, Pokeno and bingo. She also enjoys trips off site that Hudson Senior offers, like to Walmart and going out to dinner.

"Every time we have something, she goes and she volunteers. She's willing to be there for the seniors. If they need help, she helps them," said Hudson Senior Building Manager Sandy Le.

Hubbard likes to keep busy. "I like to be in a lot of activities," she said. "Seniors thrive better when they're socializing and not just staying in their rooms."

When she's not out socializing, she loves to read for relaxation and to crochet. She first learned to crochet from a librarian who ordered books to teach her and a few others the craft. They eventually had a group of about 25 people and donated items to various organizations to help the poor and homeless.

Hubbard was born in Belize City and was part of a large family. She grew up with nine brothers and two sisters.

She met her husband in Belize, though he was born in Guyana. The pair married and spent time in Belize before moving to Florida. Hubbard's husband had family in New York so they moved to Manhattan for a year. She didn't like it there and decided to move to Jersey City after spending Christmas with her husband's friends there. She never left.

Hubbard and her husband had five biological children and one adopted daughter and lost two sons who were stillborn. She now has 17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Her husband, who worked for MetLife, died in 1981 at age 51 of Lou Gehrig's disease, or ALS. Hubbard's oldest child was 15 and the youngest was 7 at that time.

Hubbard worked throughout her life. She was a licensed practical nurse until she retired. She lived with her son from 2000 to 2009, when he decided to move in with his girlfriend. Because the rent for the apartment was more than she could afford, Hubbard moved into Hudson Senior.

She attributes her lasting health to a positive attitude. "I was always the life of the party," she said. "I have a happy-go-lucky spirit. I never got upset about anything."

Hubbard is always interested in conversations with people of all ages and has stressed the importance of education to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"I'm proud of the life I've lived," she said.