

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Carol Morris



Carol Morris is an avid cook who has lived at Gardens Senior for more than 10 years.

Whenever there is an event at New Community Gardens Senior, you'll find Carol Morris in the Community Room handing out desserts. The former restaurant owner cooks in her apartment's kitchen and shares her goods with fellow residents.

Morris moved to Gardens Senior, 265 Morris Ave., Newark, in October 2017 from Pennington after the people who owned the house she was living in decided to sell it. She didn't want to move in with her son or daughter and was able to get an apartment at Gardens Senior. She says it worked out because the building has an elevator. Morris has multiple sclerosis and currently can't walk.

Morris is from Jersey City and she owned a restaurant there called Carol's from 1999 to 2003, where she did the cooking. She had to close the restaurant because of her health, not because of a lack of business.

"Business was good," she said. "Customers would come from all over."

Although the restaurant closed, Morris has kept cooking.

She cooks all types of food and shares her skills with her neighbors.

"She loves to help residents," said Gardens Senior Care Coordinator Sister Mary Prisca. "She does all the baking in the building at no cost. She uses her talent."

Her knack for cooking and baking also helps raise money for the building. She sells hot dogs up to three times a month as a fundraiser and was involved in raising money to send seniors to the New Community 50th Anniversary Gala in March.

Morris said the best part about living at Gardens Senior is feeding her neighbors. Whenever she makes food for others, an announcement goes over the loudspeaker to inform residents to come to the Community Room.

After her mother passed away in 2005, Morris moved to Georgia. But she returned to New Jersey less than a year after the move to try to get her cake business going.

Carol's Yummy Cake contains pineapple, coconut, her special pudding and whipped cream. She was working with a baker to get the cakes shipped to stores when she got sick and wasn't able to finalize everything.

The 58-year-old isn't giving up on the cake business though. She currently hands out cards and takes orders for cakes. She has customers from Jersey City who can come pick up their orders and she's currently trying to work out the possibility of shipping.

"I'm going to do it," she said.

Morris' daughter lives in Jersey City and her son recently moved to Charlotte, N.C.

Although she's not as fast as she once was when it comes to cooking, she spends her spare time making all kinds of food, both because she enjoys to cook and so that she doesn't lose her abilities.

"If I could stay in the kitchen all day, I would," she said.