

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Mohamed Ibrahim



Mohamed Ibrahim is from Egypt and has lived at Hudson Senior for almost six years.

Mohamed Ibrahim has lived in Jersey City since 1984 when he moved there from Egypt. After he turned 65, he started looking for more reasonably priced senior housing and came across New Community. He filled out an application to reside at Hudson Senior, 21-27 Orchard St., Jersey City, and moved there in November 2012.

He has found friends at Hudson Senior who he meets with in the Community Room. Some were surprised that he was living alone, but he's used to it.

"I've lived alone for a long time," he said. "It's easy for me."

Ibrahim feels secure living at Hudson Senior.

"There's a lot of help," he said. "If I need anything, the manager or care coordinator can help me right away."

Building Manager Sandy Le says Ibrahim is a good tenant who always pays his rent on time.

"He's a quiet man. He doesn't bother anybody or complain," she said. "And he spends much of his time helping people from his country."

Ibrahim was born in Cairo, Egypt and had two sons before coming to the United States. His sister was living in Jersey City in the 1980s. One year after his first visit to her, he got immigration papers to come to the U.S. His sister helped him with the transition when he made the move by himself.

His sons remain in Egypt, although he said he completed immigration paperwork for them. They both have degrees and jobs in their home country and would have to start from scratch if they moved to the United States.

Ibrahim, who is now 76 years old, visits his family in Egypt once a year, usually for two to three months. In addition to his two sons, he has a grandchild.

While living in Egypt, Ibrahim worked for 18 years at an electric company and also built ships. When he came to New Jersey, he worked a variety of jobs, including at gas stations and security offices.

While Ibrahim made the move to the United States to provide a better future for his children, he doesn't only help members of his own family. He spends much of his time at a mosque in Jersey City's Journal Square. In addition to participating in prayer and seeing many friends, Ibrahim assists other members of the community while there, helping those in need find jobs and places to stay.

"I try to help people," Ibrahim said.

He wants a positive future for all immigrants and encourages everyone who comes to the United States to learn English well to help them land good jobs.

"If you don't have education, it can be very difficult," he said.