



CLARION

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK

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NCC BEGINS HISTORIC REHAB PROJECT

\$15M Improvements To Help More Than 500 Newark Residents



A construction worker breaks down an old boiler that will be replaced at New Community Manor Senior. The multi-site project first began at Manor Senior, located at 545 Orange St. in Newark.

New Community Corporation has commenced a construction project of historic proportions for the agency that will result in significant home improvements for more than 500 low-income residents in Newark.

Cranes and construction workers have already convened at New Community Manor Senior, the first site to undergo rehabilitation, but before a single roof tile was replaced at 545 Orange St. in Newark, NCC leaders navigated an arduous three-year process to

secure funding for the visionary, multi-million dollar project.

The \$15.48 million project will provide a major facelift to housing units, known as the Manor properties, at five scattered sites in Newark that total 327 units of affordable housing. In addition to Manor Senior, the project includes the Manor Family units—low-rise townhouses and mid-rise apartments—all built in the early 1980s in the city’s Central and West wards.

Continued on page 4

Globetrotting: International Students Get Lesson On Social Enterprise At NCC



Students from different countries participated in an icebreaker activity where each person drew a flag that represented who they are and shared it with the rest of their groups.

Sixteen-year-old DeShawn Ford acknowledges that meeting a bunch of new people - especially from far-flung places - takes him out of his comfort zone. But now, Ford says he can appreciate diversity in a new light.

Ford and a group of teens from New Community welcomed visiting international students to NCC, where they toured one of the

largest community development corporations in the nation to learn about social entrepreneurship. About 100 visitors from a dozen countries around the globe took part in a cultural exchange with teens from Newark as part of Fairleigh Dickinson University’s Social Ventures for Social Development seminar. Countries represented included Bolivia, China and Saudi Arabia, among others.

Earlier in the day, visitors like Jiyeong Ha toured four sites to see NCC’s vast network of services in action at the Automotive Training Center, Community Hills Early Learning Center, New Community Commons Senior health clinic and the ShopRite miniature store.

Ha, 24, of South Korea, observed that New Community’s model of social entrepreneurship generates wealth within the community but also builds relationships with the people served. She said she “likes the way NCC is a leader.”

Continued on page 11

‘Hate Won’t Win’

Editorial

By Monsignor William J. Linder

Extending forgiveness is rarely an easy task. But the utter power of being the undeserving recipient was fully displayed just two days after the horrific shootings at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., that left nine parishioners dead.

“I forgive you.”

Those were the very words, or sentiments, expressed by several relatives, whose loved ones had been slain in cold blood, at their first chance to speak to the accused gunman, Dylann Roof.

“You took something very precious away from me and I will never talk to her again,” said Nadine Collier, the daughter of victim Ethel Lance, 70. “I will never be able to hold her again, but I forgive you.” Myra Thompson, the sister of victim DePayne Middleton-Doctor, 49, acknowledged that she was “very angry” but added, “We have no room for hating, so we have to forgive. I pray God on your soul.”

The victims’ families spoke during a bond hearing where Roof was present in the courtroom via video feed. Not every relative in the courtroom chose to speak, which is more than understandable. Let me be clear, human emotions of rage and grief are enough to render one speechless or, conversely, capable of unleashing hateful venom.

That is precisely what makes the act of extending forgiveness so powerful. The same attitude resounded through the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s eulogy after the 1963 church bombing in Birmingham, Al., that killed four girls. King urged the mourners, “...that in spite of the darkness of this hour, we must not despair. We must not become bitter, nor must we harbor the desire to retaliate with violence.”

Advocating a non-violent response to the church bombing transformed a tragedy into a turning point for the Civil Rights Movement. King’s words rang true more than 50 years ago and still echo in the lives of the nine murdered churchgoers. Even President Barack Obama referenced King’s speech in his own moving eulogy for the Emanuel AME Church victims.

Earlier in the same speech, King reminded us that the bombing victims did not die in vain, and I believe that is true of the Charleston victims.

“God still has a way of wringing good out of evil. And history has proven over and over again that unmerited suffering is redemptive,” King said.

The New Community Clarion

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OUR MISSION

To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual, God-given dignity and personal achievement.

New Community is recognized as:

- The largest and most comprehensive community development organization in the United States
- A large-scale deliverer of comprehensive programs and services
- A leader in affordable housing and economic development
- A model among non-profit, social entrepreneurship, and CDC communities
- Having beneficial partnerships on the local, national, and global level.

Save The Date!

New Community's Annual Street Festival

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015
Newark, NJ

Festivities will include music, food, vendors and family-friendly activities and games. The event is free and open to the public.

Stay Tuned For More Details!

Around the Network

NCC Food Pantry Receives Donation From Nursing Group



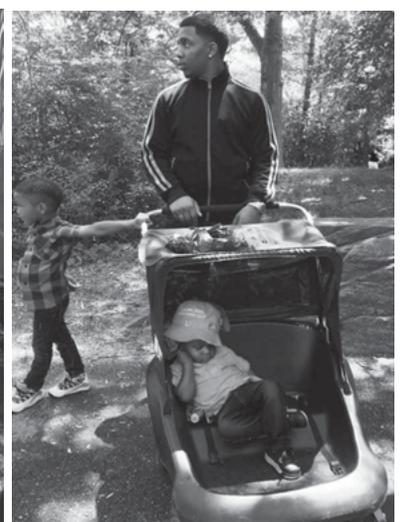
The New Community Emergency Food Pantry recently received a monetary donation from the Nigerian Nurses Association, which includes the membership of NCC Director of Nursing Veronica Onwunaka, fourth from left. The nurses presented a check of \$1,000 to Tahisha Chambers, far right, director of Home Friends. The emergency food pantry, located at 220 Bruce St. in Newark, is available after the 16th of every month. For more information, call Health and Social Services at 973-623-6114.

NCC Does Community Outreach At Local Festivals, Events



The Family Service Bureau of Newark, an affiliate of New Community, reached out to local residents to share information and resources at the 8th Annual Festival de la Familia, which was hosted by La Casa de Don Pedro. Adrienne Parham, program manager of New Start, manned a table and spoke to residents about the services provided at FSB, including a program geared towards at-risk mothers and boarder babies. **Photos courtesy of Adrienne Parham.**

NCC Families Explore Bronx Zoo



Families from New Community enjoyed a day at the Bronx Zoo recently, thanks to the H.O.O.D. Ryderz Ladies Motorcycle Club, who sponsored the trip. During the outing, parents and their children rode the Wild Asia Monorail and saw animals such as antelopes, tigers and wild horses. **Photos courtesy of Dorothy Artis.**

Employee Of The Month: Victoria Peguero



Victoria Peguero has taught English language learners at the NCC Adult Learning Center for nine years.

Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), according to Cristhian Barcelos, the center’s director. She also spends Saturdays teaching a course that prepares immigrants to take the citizenship test, starting five years ago.

“I have helped a lot of students become U.S. citizens, hundreds,” Peguero estimates.

One of those newly minted U.S. citizens is 38-year-old Mayerleng Becerra. A native of Colombia, Becerra heard from a friend that Peguero was a wonderful English teacher who could transition from Spanish to English, a crucial element for those just beginning to grasp the language basics or who are illiterate.

So Becerra committed herself to attending Peguero’s ESOL class, commuting from her home in Union to Newark. Peguero also assisted her in preparing for the citizenship test, which Becerra said she successfully passed in 2014.

“It’s more easy for me because I (didn’t) speak English very well. It helped me a lot,” she said, referring to Peguero’s teaching style and approachable manner. “She’s a real nice person. She tries to help everybody,” Becerra added.

Peguero can easily relate to her students. Born in the Dominican Republic in the city of San Pedro de Macoris, Peguero said she grew up and “always wanted to be a teacher.” She first came to the U.S. in 1981 and studied at what’s now known as Lehman College in the Bronx. Peguero said that she became a U.S. citizen at age 25. Several years later, she moved back to the Dominican Republic but returned to the U.S. in 2005, for a second time, and has been here since. In addition to teaching at the Adult Learning Center, located at 563 Orange St. in Newark, Peguero works at a daycare as a certified Child Development Associate.

Although Peguero desires to return to the Dominican Republic someday, she believes that, for now, she’s found her calling at the Adult Learning Center. “From here, I can help a lot of people,” she said.

“Ms. Peguero’s dedication towards her students and our institution is unparalleled,” Barcelos said. “She is always early for class and encourages her students to go above and beyond.”

Victoria Peguero is on a mission to help others achieve their American dream.

For immigrants, two common hurdles to achieving that dream are a lack of English language skills and securing citizenship, said Peguero, who teaches at the New Community Adult Learning Center.

To help those who must start from square one, Peguero has devoted the last nine years to teaching the Level 1 class of English for

NCC Seniors Stay Active, Visit Tomahawk Lake, NYC

New Community Health and Social Services organizes trips year-round for seniors, disabled adults and families that reside at NCC, in an effort to promote an active lifestyle with excursions that are both mentally and physically engaging. Recently, seniors visited Tomahawk Lake in Sparta, a water park with attractions such as boat rides and miniature golf. On another trip, seniors visited Chelsea Piers in New York and enjoyed an afternoon on the Spirit of New York cruise. **Photos courtesy of Angeli Martinez.**



New Community Corporation

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Where the Music Comes Alive

SEPTEMBER 2015

Live Entertainment & Music Calendar

Every Friday from 7 PM to 11 PM ~ Food or Beverage Purchase Required

SEPTEMBER 4th

STEPHEN FULLER

SEPTEMBER 11th

PRISTINE RAEIGN

SEPTEMBER 18th

UNFINISHED BIZZNESS

CLASSIC R&B

SEPTEMBER 25th

BRADFORD HAYES



Our Mission: To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

NCC Begins Historic Rehab Project

Continued from page 1

The goal to provide safe, attractive and affordable housing kindled the beginnings of New Community in the late 1960s and continues today to drive NCC's core mission to help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

"This project represents New Community's largest scale housing rehabilitation ever. Thanks to our many dedicated partners in this effort, overhauling New Community's Manor properties will provide home enhancements for the most vulnerable residents of Newark," Richard Rohrman, CEO of New Community, said.

Throughout the process, Rohrman worked closely with Director of Real Estate Douglas Angoff, Chief Financial Officer Elizabeth Mbakaya, NCC's outside counsel and its board of directors, to vet and navigate an intricately structured deal.

Closing on the \$15 million project was no small task and the work stretched far beyond the NCC network. Numerous other parties—ranging from state agencies to private banks and law firms located outside New Jersey—were heavily involved in the process.

Driving the deal were the following stakeholders: New Community, New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA), Goldman Sachs and Prudential.

"It was a good example of incredible teamwork," Angoff said. By mid-July, NCC and the other stakeholders officially closed on the deal. Construction on the first phase of the project, Manor Senior, began August 10.

The construction on the senior complex, which includes building-wide improvements such as replacing roofing, heating systems and boilers, as well as renovating each unit's kitchen, flooring, closets and installing new windows, will be finished by the end of 2015. The entire project will span 18 months.

"The senior building is (on) a very aggressive schedule," Wayne Gravesande, director of Environmental Services, said. NCC's Chelsea Construction Management will be providing project management services for Claremont Construction, the project general contractor.

Cynthia Sears is eager for a home makeover. The windows at Manor Senior, especially, need replacing because many of the residents, especially those with arthritis, find them difficult to open and close, she said.

"We really need something done to the Manor complex. That facelift is going to make it very beautiful," said Sears, who has lived there for 17 years.

Of the kitchen renovation, Sears added, "I

Harmony Day 2015: Sharing Resources, Celebrating The Community



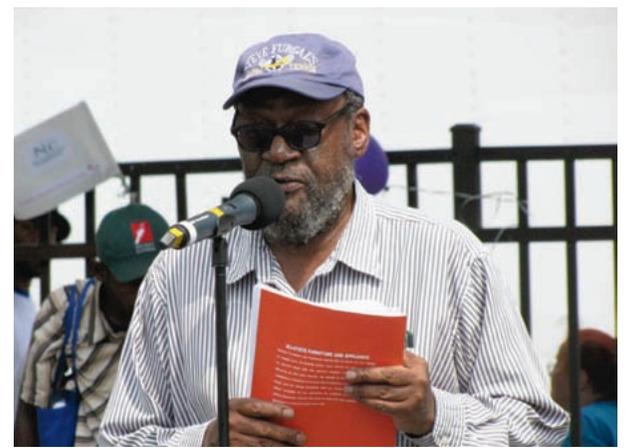
Derek White volunteered to man the grill at Harmony Day and served up hot dogs for those who attended the resource fair.



Joann Williams-Swiney, director of the NCC Family Resource Success Center, and her staff organized Harmony Day, which drew residents from around Newark to the Pathmark Shopping Center.



The Newark Fire Department was present and supported the resource fair.



Hubert X. Stanley read the full speech by MLK known as the "I have a dream" speech.



Zoe Jordan, 8, gets her face painted. Free activities were available to residents as well as vendors and resources tables with agencies representing social services.



Bouncy houses and family-friendly activities filled the afternoon with things to do.

could use a new refrigerator, stove, cabinets."

It was back in 1982 that New Community acquired the land now called the Manor properties. When Manor Family and Manor Senior were built by NCC in 1983, they received a tax abatement from the city. However that tax abatement had since expired and receiving approval for another tax abatement for the properties proved to be a crucial milestone in the process. The tax abatement was fully executed and signed by Mayor Ras Baraka in May.

"New Community worked hand in hand with the city for two years, over several administrations, to secure the tax abatement," Angoff said, additionally noting the cooperation and support of the Baraka administration.

The construction will be financed with tax exempt bonds from NJHMFA and a permanent loan from Prudential Financial with a Freddie

Mac guarantee. Additionally, the rehab project will also receive 4 percent tax credits, which Goldman will purchase, making the project a private-public partnership.

Due to the sheer number of people involved, the group regularly met via teleconference, with up to 25 people on the calls, Angoff said. In total, about 35 people from various firms and agencies were involved in closing the deal.

"It's a big undertaking but it will be a tremendous improvement to the property," Rohrman said during a meeting in August.

Most of the renovations will take place with residents in their apartments however some residents may be temporarily relocated, according to Gravesande.

Our Mission ~ To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual, God-given dignity and personal achievement.

Best Foot Forward: NCC, Kicks USA Launch Partnership



A group of young people from Newark were selected this summer to intern at Kicks USA, an urban footwear and apparel retailer, to learn job skills.

An irate customer no longer fazes Jonathan Toro.

Early in his summer internship with Kicks USA, an urban footwear and apparel retailer, Toro recalled encountering a customer who was interested in shopping but less than friendly towards Toro.

Toro, 18, of Newark, admitted that his gut reaction—in any other scenario—would have been to dish back attitude. But this situation was different: Toro was sporting a Kicks USA employee shirt and had sales on the line. In the end, Toro said he refrained from making personal comments and assisted the customer, who purchased a pair of pricey sneakers as well as clothing (which meant commission).

It was a moment of personal growth for Toro and one that occurred for other interns during a six-week program called the Greater Opportunities Summer Program, a newly formed collaboration between New Community

Workforce Development Center, Kicks USA and The Village of Arts and Humanities, which is based in Philadelphia.

The interns, all Newark residents between the ages of 16 and 21, participated in a paid internship funded by Kicks USA's parent company, Jako Enterprises, Ltd., where the aspiring salespeople received hands-on experience in a fast-paced retail environment, with the prospect of landing a job at a local Kicks USA store at the end of the program. NCC Workforce Development staff led weekly career workshops that covered topics ranging from job readiness to financial literacy.

"This partnership is a continuation of the Workforce Development Center's commitment to serving older youth, between the ages of 16 and 21, through quality life skills programming and employment," said Rodney Brutton, director of NCC Workforce Development.

Ny'Asia Baptist, 17, of Newark, quickly gained confidence on the sales floor after making her first sales. "I felt good. I felt like I could take anybody who came through the door," she said.

However, at times her work schedule put her in the store when there was less customer traffic. Thus, Baptist learned that she had to maximize each customer interaction. "You've got to make the best of it while you're there," she said.

Whether something good or bad happens, Toro said he now remains focused on the job at hand. "Just blow past it and continue what you're doing," said Toro, a recent graduate of Newark Leadership Academy.

"Your check is gonna look a lot bigger," he said. "It's all adding up at the end of the day."

At the end of the summer program, interns competed in Philadelphia before a panel of judges who sized up the business pitches that each intern presented. The following eight interns were offered employment at the Newark store to open in 2015: Ny'Asia Baptist, Taleiah Gary, Tatyana Hall, Jason Jackson, Jason Layton, Jonathan Torro, Darrin Walker and Briannah Wilkins.

Intern Katherine Angulo contributed to this report.



The Greater Opportunities Summer Program placed interns at Kicks USA stores in northern New Jersey for hands-on training and experience selling merchandise.



The interns competed to present compelling business plans at a final competition held by Kicks USA in Philadelphia. Photo courtesy of Rudolph Drakeford.

Home Health Aide Grads To Care For NCC Residents

New Community Workforce Development Center is helping to directly link graduates of the Certified Home Health Aide Training Program to jobs caring for NCC residents.

Thanks to a new partnership with Allied Care Corporation, the Metuchen-based personal care service provider has agreed with NCC to exclusively hire Certified Home Health Aides from NCC to provide care for clients residing at New Community buildings, according to a linkage agreement signed by both parties in May.

"The partnership with Allied Care is a 'win-win' for all stakeholders," Workforce Development Director Rodney Brutton said. "It will help to ensure that the Workforce Development Center's Certified Home Health Aide program graduates are employed and

remain within the New Community family by providing home care services to our residents."

In addition to the Workforce Department supplying trained caregivers, the NCC Health and Social Services Department, overseen by Director Sharon Pleasant-Jones, R.N., will play a key role in identifying residents who may possibly benefit from the assistance of a home health aide.

Home health aides assist residents with bathing, hygiene, toileting, dressing, errands, light housekeeping, meal preparation and medication reminders, according to Allied Care.

CEO Steve Taylor said that Allied Care's "primary goal is to provide accountable, punctual, and well-trained CHHAs to each and every customer," in an email to the care coordinators of Pleasant-Jones' department.

Understanding The Past In Order To Impact The Present



Richard Cammarieri, director of special projects at New Community, provided an overview of the history of New Community to a group of psychology interns and staff from Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care. Dr. Paula Iudica-Costa, seated center, assistant director of the psychology internship training in Newark, brings her interns to NCC each year.

Social Security News

Replacing Your Social Security Card?

By Ammy Plummer

Social Security District Manager
Springfield Avenue, Newark NJ

Keeping your Social Security number card in a safe place is vital to protecting you against identity theft. Never keep it in your purse or wallet — this is the most common way people lose their card. No matter how hard you try to keep track of your important documents, sometimes they get lost or even stolen.

Getting a replacement Social Security number card is free, but you will have to provide the proper documents to get a new one. Being prepared will save you time at the Social Security office or card center. If you are replacing your card, you will need original or certified copies of the required documents, which include:

Proof of citizenship:

- If you have not already established your U.S. citizenship with us, we need to see proof of U.S. citizenship. We can accept only certain documents as proof of U.S. citizenship, like your U.S. birth certificate or U.S. passport.

Identity:

- We can accept only certain documents as proof of identity. An acceptable document must be current (not expired) and show your name, identifying information (date of birth or age), and preferably, a recent photograph. For example, as proof of identity, we must see your:
 - U.S. driver's license;
 - State-issued non-driver identification card; or
 - U.S. passport.

If you do not have one of these specific documents, or you cannot get a replacement for one of them within ten days, we will ask to see other documents, including a(n):

- Employee identification card;
- School identification card;
- Health insurance card (not Medicare card); or
- U.S. military identification card.

Remember, you are limited to three replacement cards in a year or ten in your lifetime. Legal name changes and other exceptions do not count toward these limits. For example, changes in immigration status that require card updates may not count toward these limits. Also, you may not be affected by these limits if you can prove you need the card to prevent a significant hardship. Legal name changes and other exceptions do not count toward these limits. For example, changes in immigration status that require card updates may not count toward these limits. Also, you may not be affected by these limits if you can prove you need the card to prevent a significant hardship. Legal name changes and other exceptions do not count toward these limits.

For example, changes in immigration status that require card updates may not count toward these limits.

For more information about replacing a lost or stolen Social Security number card, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Eric Myrkalo



Eric Myrkalo pictured in the gazebo at the courtyard of New Community Extended Care Facility on July 15.

Editor's note: Eric Myrkalo died at age 60 on July 29, 2015. Despite having passed, he is being featured in the Clarion's Senior Spotlight as a way to honor Myrkalo's life.

Eric Myrkalo lived a colorful life, but he was the first to tell you that it wasn't an easy one.

In the mid-2000s, Myrkalo had both legs amputated—first his right in 2004 and then he left in 2006—which resulted from his having diabetes. It was after his first leg was removed that Myrkalo came to New Community Extended Care Facility to receive care. He returned to Extended Care for a second time earlier in 2015.

Robert Smolin, administrator of Extended Care, described Myrkalo as a person who has displayed “lots of courage.”

Born and raised in Newark, Myrkalo said he came of age during a time when public parks were purposefully flooded during the cold winter

months so that neighborhood kids could come out and ice skate.

“Newark changed so much, I'm telling you,” he said wistfully. His father worked for the city of Newark as an inspector and his mother had friends here, so Myrkalo's family stayed anchored in the Brick City.

The middle sibling of three children, Myrkalo attended Mount Vernon Elementary School and later went to Vailsburg High through the tenth grade. After getting booted from his high school (due to being labeled as a “disrupting influence,” according to Myrkalo), he bounced from West Side High to East Side High. A mischievous grin slowly spread across Myrkalo's face when he recalled antics such as climbing atop tall structures in town and eluding the police who gave chase.

A career automotive mechanic, Myrkalo said he first got his start at age 16 while working at a gas station. “I was minding my own business pumping gas,” said Myrkalo, when his boss took leave for vacation and left the teen in charge of the entire gas station and repair shop. Myrkalo quickly learned that he could earn a solid livelihood and worked at the Mobil gas station for the next 10 years, until the land was sold to a church.

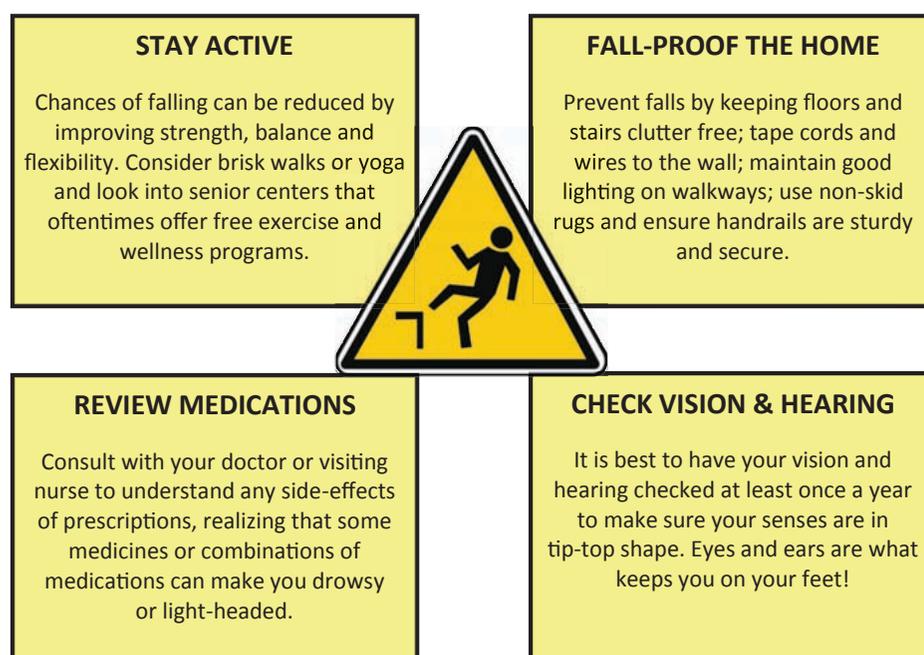
While working part time at the gas station, Myrkalo enrolled at a vocational school, where he worked and studied at the same time, he said. He worked at several other gas stations and auto repair establishments, where he enjoyed a good living. “I was making serious money,” Myrkalo said.

Intern Katherine Angulo contributed to this report.



Wellness Tip
September, 2015

Every 13 seconds, an older adult is seen in an emergency room for a fall-related injury, according to the National Council on Aging. Falls Prevention Awareness Day, observed in September, is the perfect time to discuss safety tips with aging loved ones, so they can continue to stay safe and independent in their homes.



Set aside time with your family and aging loved ones to review these practical lifestyle adjustments to help substantially reduce the number of falls among seniors: **just because aging is unavoidable, doesn't mean falling has to be!**

For more information about VNA Health Group services & programs, please call 800.862.3330 or visit www.vnahg.org

To learn more, please visit ncoa.org/FallsPrevention

Paying It Forward: Longtime Camper Returns To NCC As Summer Volunteer

By Katherine Angulo



Latasia Anderson, center standing, is 14 and started attending summer camp at NCC since first grade. Photo by Katherine Angulo.

Latasia Anderson is currently a volunteer at New Community Youth Services Summer Camp, a place where everyone is valued and welcomed. Born and raised in Newark, Anderson is the third oldest out of four siblings, with an older brother who is 21, a younger brother,

er, 5, and a newborn sister who is 11 months old. Anderson said she likes to help her mother, who works as a Cablevision operator, and in her free time volunteers at the New Community Youth Services Summer Camp, where Anderson works with 9-year-old campers.

Out of all the things Anderson could be doing this summer, why did she choose to be here? Most of her free time is doing nothing, really, she said, so she loves being at the camp.

“This place just welcomes you with open arms,” said Anderson, who began attending NCC’s summer camp upon completing kindergarten.

Anderson, 14, knows that her future plans will include applying to college and therefore also need to include volunteer activities. But Anderson is not only interested in the camp just for the college applications process, but more importantly because she just enjoys being with kids, she said. Looking forward, Anderson’s ca-

reer goal is to become a lawyer and she knows that every step she takes now will eventually lead her to her goal. She’s practicing being a leader at the summer camp in preparation for her future dreams.

Alicia Tucker has participated in the camp for two years and was one of the campers under Anderson’s guidance this summer.

“She plays and dances with us...she’s funny and she’s fun,” Tucker, 9, said. Anderson enjoys interacting with the campers and doesn’t simply keep to herself, according to Tucker.

Edward Morris, the director of Youth Services, has known Anderson since she began attending camp nearly a decade ago.

Morris praises Anderson’s leadership skills and said that she has contributed greatly to the program. He said he even considers Anderson to be like his “daughter to a degree.”

For Anderson, being around other campers and helping as a volunteer makes her feel right at home. “It’s like a family,” she said.

It’s great that there are kids out there in Newark, like Anderson, who are aiding their community and brightening their future.

NCC Music Awards: Big Finale For Summer Camp 2015



Lights, camera, action! New Community Youth Services hosted a talent show to cap off a successful session of summer camp. Boys perform the song “Yeah!” by Usher.



A high-energy performance of “Single Ladies,” by Beyoncé, was well received by the audience.



The Notorious B.I.G. made an appearance in the rendition of his famed song “Mo Money Mo Problems.”



Girls perform the song “What About Your Friends,” by TLC. The theme of the talent show was the NCC Music Awards.



Continuing with another popular Beyoncé song, a second group of girls took the stage to perform “Run The World (Girls).”



Get into character: Girls channeled their inner divas for a performance of Jennifer Lopez’s song “Get Right.”



Current billboard chart topper Bruno Mars’ song, “Uptown,” brought everyone to their feet.



Move your feet: Fast-paced dance moves awed the crowd during a performance of Cajmere’s song “Percolator.”



Dressing the part: Boys donned coordinated outfits and hats as they performed Jodeci’s song “Get On Up.”

Continued on page 10

University Hospital Welcomes Newark Teens



(rear) Julian DeJesus (l-r) Naomi Williams, Alisa Farley and Taquiuddin Abdul-Kareem

University Hospital (UH) and the City of Newark have once again teamed up to provide summer jobs for qualified Newark high school students, through the Summer Youth Work Experience Program (SYWEP). The 19 students who worked at UH for six weeks got paychecks that were automatically deposited and debit cards to access their accounts. The program exposes teens to the workplace and encourages them to go on to college. UH has participated in the program for more than 25 years.

Meet four of the teens who came to UH.

Taquiuddin Abdul-Kareem

Taquiuddin Abdul-Kareem loves a challenge. Whether discussing the next presidential race or playing basketball with friends, the 17-year-old likes stretching his mind and his muscles. Ta-key, as his friends call him, did his stint in the UH Legal Management office. “I saw how government really works,” says the Newark Collegiate Academy student. “That will be helpful in the future.”

That future includes going into law enforcement. With a solid GPA and plans to go to Berkeley College, he is well on his way. And his fortitude is certain to help. “I know there will be bumps along the way,” he says. “But as Frederick Douglas said, if there’s no struggle, there’s no progress. It just takes hard work and faith.”

Naomi Williams

Naomi Williams was on a school trip at Rutgers Newark when she zeroed in on a career. The

West Side High School junior was thinking of becoming an accountant—she loves math—but was intrigued with becoming a private investigator. The guide explained a forensic accountant does both, and the 17-year-old’s mind was made up.

Naomi’s UH assignment was in Patient Care Services Administration and Finance, where she helped with clerical duties and data entry. “I interacted with employees a lot, and that helped improve my people skills,” she says. “And I had to keep paper work in order, which helped my organizational skills.” When she’s not studying, Naomi likes to shop, especially for shoes.

Julian DeJesus

For a teen aspiring to become a chef, what could be better than working in a fast-paced, hospital kitchen? In the words of Julian DeJesus, “Absolutely nothing!” The 15-year-old, who started cooking when he was 7, was thrilled to help prepare and season foods, under the direction of the UH chefs. And he got a feel for life in the kitchen. “The UH chefs made working fun,” he says. “The environment was really nice.”

When not in the kitchen, the Science Park High School sophomore studies, which accounts for his straight-A average. Julian is in the school band and on the swim team. He’s considering going to Howard University but isn’t sure yet. What he is sure of is that his UH experience will serve him well. “I’ll definitely remember what I learned,” he says. “It was my first time in a work environment, and I really liked it a lot.”

Alisa Farley

Alisa Farley loves to dance. She started in fourth grade and hasn’t stopped since. She practices two hours a day at Newark’s Arts High School, but she’s not planning on becoming a professional dancer. Instead, the 16-year-old wants to be a neurosurgeon and do research on the brain. She decided after studying neuroscience/premed at the Dubois Scholars Institute at Princeton University last summer.

Alisa’s stint was in the neuroscience/EEG lab. She got insight into the field by performing clerical duties and by attending several neuroscience lectures on campus. “It was very interesting,” she says. “And everyone was so kind and helpful.”

The high school junior, who is looking to go to Columbia, Johns Hopkins or Georgetown, knows becoming a doctor will be a long haul. But while she’s working toward her dream, dancing, she says, will keep her on her toes.



University Hospital Heart Program offers Help for Heart Failure

If you are one of the six million Americans who have congestive heart failure, University Hospital’s Healthy Heart Program can help you monitor your symptoms and improve your quality of life.

You will be cared for by University Hospital’s renowned cardiologists and have access to a team of healthcare professionals who will help you manage your care at home. The program also includes individualized and group educational sessions.

For more information on the Healthy Heart Program, call 973-972-1182.

If you or someone you know has heart problems and needs a physician, you can call University Hospital’s Cardiology Department at 973-972-7400.

Teens Take Urban Plunge In Newark At NCC



Students from St. Peter's Prep learned how to change tires at the NCC Automotive Training Center, with instruction from John Zaccheus, far right, automotive instructor.



The teens also volunteered at NCC's Adult Learning Center and assisted English learners with writing exercises.

Eric Nieves figured that spending a week of his summer break at New Community would be similar to volunteering at a soup kitchen.

Instead, his urban immersion in Newark was an opportunity to engage with low-income residents served by NCC and involved “kind of getting into people’s lives,” he said.

Nieves, 16, was among a dozen students from St. Peter’s Preparatory School in Jersey City who volunteered at New Community for a week—lodging in apartments at New Community Commons Senior and volunteering at various NCC sites during the day.

During their first two years at St. Peter’s Prep, a private all-male high school that follows the Jesuit tradition of cultivating an attitude of service (“men for others”), students learn about social justice and are introduced to concepts such as marginalization and solidarity.

“This is the first time they are immersed in it,” Mark Doherty, one of the chaperones for the trip, said.

“Our goal overall is to break down the barrier of ‘us’ and ‘them,’” added Will Reese, who served as the other chaperone.

As a rising junior, Andrew Ferrier said his summer was busy with college visits, including trips to Georgetown and Villanova. He recognized that spending time at New Community sites, such as the Extended Care Facility, would be a distinct change of pace from his vacation and require an open mind.

“It’s a completely different environment,” Ferrier, who lives in Bayonne, said. “You don’t know what response you’re going to get.”

After each day, the teens gathered for a time of reflection facilitated by Reese and Doherty. As the week progressed, both adult leaders said they saw the teens process their experiences and

emotions.

“We encourage them to feel more useless, to feel more than to think about it,” Reese said, who noted that no cell phones or internet access for the week helped cut out distractions.

“The overall goal is to broaden their view,” Doherty added. “Not everyone lives the way they do.”

Nieves recalled how answering the phones for an afternoon at the NCC Family Resource Success Center threw him into the middle of some dire situations that folks dealt with.

“I was basically going into people’s issues,” Nieves, 16, of Berkeley Heights said.

The group also met with CEO Richard Rohrman and Frances Teabout, director of Mission, for a lunchtime discussion about NCC’s economic model of community development.

Later in the week, the group cut loose for an afternoon with the Youth Services summer camp program, where the teens played basketball and other games with the campers.

Sanaiyh Grayson, a 10-year-old camper, said she appreciated meeting the students from St. Peter’s. “I had a chance to learn a lot about them and what they do,” she said.

“It was very fun. They were very nice to us,” added Lania Hannah, 10. “We gave them nicknames.”



Play ball: St. Peter's Prep students played basketball and other activities with the NCC Youth Services summer camp at the Neighborhood Center.



Richard Rohrman, standing, CEO of New Community, met with the teens for a lunchtime discussion about NCC's community development model.



The high schoolers also volunteered with children at both early learning center, including Harmony House Early Learning Center, pictured above.



Despite a sweltering morning, the students spent part of their last day at NCC painting fences around New Community Estates.

Firing Up The Grill At Hudson Senior



Two women from New Community Hudson Senior enjoy the annual summer potluck barbecue held in the courtyard of the building on Orchard Street in Jersey City. Photos by Katherine Angulo.



Resident Raymond Mohabir helps man the grill and serve residents.

FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU OF NEWARK

Work At NCC? Check Out The Employee Assistance Program

Are you an employee of New Community Corporation and feeling overwhelmed or in need of counseling to resolve an issue? If so, the Family Service Bureau of Newark, an NCC affiliate, is available to provide free and confidential help immediately. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) was designed as a tool to help employees work through personal problems that may adversely affect their work performance, health and overall well-being.

In addition to counseling for Newark residents, the Family Service Bureau allows for four free sessions to employees within the NCC network or their household family members. Issues ranging from depression, marital issues, occupational stress, emotional stress, substance abuse,

relationship issues and difficult life events are some of the many topics in which counseling can be useful.

Employees and family members seeking EAP services would be guaranteed the highest level of confidentiality when seeking counseling services. In addition to privacy, employees would be seen by senior clinicians who would provide quality services to alleviate the burden of issues that concern the employee. EAP can also be used as a preventative measure for employees who may be feeling overwhelmed with work or personal issues and want to seek counseling before a crisis situation or major life event arises. Family Service Bureau has provided counseling for NCC employees for years and continues to

offer such services for free.

Located at 274 South Orange Ave. on the second floor, the Family Service Bureau is available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays. Under the Employee Assistance Program, NCC employees will undergo an assessment, receive support and possibly referral to other services, if needed. Utilizing these free services may help the employee to increase productivity and reduce overall stress within the family. Therapists are also available for individuals who are Spanish speaking.

Please contact FSB at 973-412-2056 for more information on how to participate in the Employee Assistance Program.

NCC Environmental Services Throws Department BBQ To Celebrate Hard Work



New Community's Environmental Services Department marked the completion of a busy season of building inspections from government agencies by hosting a decadent barbecue to celebrate the team's accomplishments, Supervisor Bryant Hall said. Held on the lawn of New Community Roseville Senior, the department, which is under the direction of Wayne Gravesande, director of Environmental Services, took a rare moment to bask in the relaxing atmosphere of the festivities, which included a spread of food such as chicken wings, garlic shrimp, fish, ceviche and ribs, among other dishes.

NCC Music Awards: Summer Camp Finale

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Edward Morris, far left, director of Youth Services, acknowledges his hardworking team of summer camp staff.



Family and friends filled the NCC Neighborhood Center on Hayes Street for an evening of memorable performances by the more than 110 youth that attended this year's camp.



The NCC Music Awards culminated in a multi-part tribute to Bad Boys and kicked off the final week of summer camp.



New Community Adult Learning Center

563 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey 07107

(973) 558-5536

www.newcommunity.org/services/adult-learning-center/

Available Courses

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Mondays through Thursdays:
10 AM to 12 PM or 6 PM to 8 PM

Citizenship

Saturdays:
9 AM to 12 PM

Computers □ Basic & Intermediate Levels

Saturdays: 9 AM to 12 PM or 12 PM to 3 PM

ABE, Pre-GED, & GED (English only)

Mondays through Thursdays:
9:30 AM to 1:30 PM or 5:30 PM to 8 PM

Free Services

Health Screenings

Physicals, Mammograms, Cholesterol, Nutrition, etc.

Open Community

Free workshops conducted by private institutions and/or volunteers for the general public

Other Services

- Community organizing
- Community rooms
- Social services referrals

Cursos Disponibles

Inglés para Hablantes de otras Idiomas

Lunes a jueves:
10 AM a 12 PM o 6 PM a 8 PM

Ciudadanía

Sábados:
9 AM a 12 PM

Computadora □ Nivel Básico e Intermedio

Sábados: 9 AM a 12 PM o 12 PM a 3 PM

ABE, Pre-GED, & GED (Inglés solamente)

Lunes a jueves:
9:30 AM a 1:30 PM o 5:30 PM a 8 PM

Servicios Gratuitos

Exámenes Médicos Gratuitos

Físicos, Mamografías, Colesterol, Nutrición, etc.

Comunidad Abierta

Talleres gratuitos conducidos por instituciones privadas y/o voluntarios para el público en general

Otros servicios

- Organización de la comunidad
- Sala de reuniones
- Referidos a servicios sociales

*Weekdays and Saturdays courses are 9, 10, and 21 weeks long depending on the selected course.

Where Do You Start?

By Lesley Leslie



Have you ever watched the evening news and come across a story about a young person who has been involved in a crime or some other misfortune? You probably

found yourself shaking your head at what you believe to be yet another lost cause, another misguided or wasted young life. For a moment, you even allow yourself to have pity on the young person as you wonder where things could have gone wrong so early in that youth's life.

As the months and years pass and you start to see that the same sort of occurrences happening over and over again, all across the nation, you can become resigned towards what appears to be an epidemic. So what do you do? Where do you start?

As someone who has had guidance from numerous positive adults throughout my childhood, I would suggest that you start with one young person. You would be surprised to know the difference that one caring adult can make in a young person's life. Statistics have proven that youth who meet with a caring adult, such as a mentor, regularly are about 45 percent less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs. Mentored youth attend school more regularly than their peers and they tend to have a better attitude towards school. Mentoring is one of the most effective strategies when it comes to positive youth development.

So the next time you turn on the news and see another story about a young person who appears to be headed down the wrong path, think about how you might be able to bridge that gap and affect the change you want to see. The time you invest in a child today can result in the world we live in tomorrow.

Globetrotting: International Students Visit NCC

Continued from page 1

As part of a lesson on NCC's history, Ford and his peers in New Community's summer program called the Newark Youth Leadership Project and Newark One Stop performed a dramatic skit depicting the racial tensions that led to the summer disorders of 1967. The teens acted out how NCC was formed through the leadership of Monsignor William J. Linder. Afterwards, the group sang the song "Lean On Me," led by vocalist Essence Rivera.

The reenactment was part of a lunchtime program held at St. Joseph Plaza, where NCC CEO Richard Rohrman and other officials gave remarks. Over a lunch of fried chicken, macaroni and cheese and collard greens, the students from Newark and around the world began building bonds.

The Social Ventures for Social Development seminar is an intensive certificate-based mini-course developed by FDU with support of the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, an organization promoting youth leadership and peace through cultural exchanges.

Ford said he "would do this event again."

As part of the cultural exchange, a group of NCC teens also had the opportunity to visit the United Nations in New York City to participate in the annual Youth Assembly, which draws hundreds of students from around the globe.

Intern Katherine Angulo contributed to this report.



Richard Rohrman, at podium, CEO of New Community, addressed more than 100 students representing countries from around the globe gathered at NCC's headquarters in Newark.



Teens participating in NCC Youth Services Summer Employment and Enrichment Program performed a dramatic reenactment of the history of New Community, which began in the aftermath of the summer rebellion of 1967.

Rehab Gets More Equipment



The rehabilitation area of New Community Extended Care Facility recently received a donation of an elliptical machine and a home gym for use by therapy patients. The donation was made by a local resident, Susan Burrell, formerly a resident of South Orange who was moving out of state and looking to donate the exercise equipment. The equipment was reassembled by housekeeping staff under the direction of Ramon Acosta, director of Housekeeping and Maintenance, at the nursing home.

