



CLARION

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK

Volume 33 – Issue 12 ~ December 2016

NCC Founder Receives Humanitarian Award



Dr. Jim Oleske, left, founder of the Circle of Life Children's Center, with Monsignor William J. Linder, founder of New Community, who was awarded the Humanitarian Award.

Two remarkable men. Two mission-driven organizations. A common thread of dedication, compassion and service to those most in need.

That was the theme of the Circle of Life Children's Center's inaugural Concert Gala Dinner on Nov. 16, 2016, where Monsignor William J. Linder was honored with the Humanitarian Award.

An elegant affair, the gala was held at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston and benefited children with life-threatening illnesses. Circle of Life Founder Dr. Jim Oleske, a pioneer in the field of pediatric AIDS treatment, is a longtime friend of Monsignor Linder and was honored that same evening with the Founder's Award.

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Madge Wilson Honored At Statewide Convention In Atlantic City



Madge Wilson, right, received an engraved plaque that honored her as the Health Care Association of New Jersey's Volunteer of the Year. John Dolan, president and CEO of HCANJ, is on left. Photos courtesy of Pattie Tucker.

Madge Wilson was the guest of honor at the 68th Annual Health Care Association of New Jersey Convention and Expo in Atlantic City.

Known for her giving spirit and constant acts of service, Wilson was the winner of the association's 2016 Volunteer of the Year award.

Wilson, a board member and outreach coordinator, was nominated by the staff at New Community Extended Care Facility in July. She has been a volunteer at Extended Care, a 180-bed capacity skilled nursing facility in Newark, for the last five years. She dedicates her time to helping discharged residents secure housing and furniture. Beyond that, she even ensures that residents are supplied with groceries. On a regular basis, Wilson visits nursing home residents to inquire about their wellbeing and happiness while staying at Extended Care.

"All of us have a shared goal," Wilson said in her remarks delivered at the convention, which drew more than 2,500 healthcare providers and 200 vendors from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and beyond.

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Unanswered Questions

Editorial By
Monsignor William J. Linder

During the 1960s, when I was a young priest, the city of Newark suffered from a massive fire that destroyed an entire city block. Newark firefighters responded in force, but it wasn't enough. Emergency responders from neighboring municipalities came to help. One of those was the Bloomfield Fire Department. As flames ripped through buildings, it was apparent that the Bloomfield firefighters were outmatched. Yet they stood their ground and fought back the blaze, side by side, with the other firefighters.

That incident seared a vivid image in my mind that I later mentioned during a Sunday sermon at Sacred Heart Parish. Apparently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation got wind of my sermon and had a problem with it. Two FBI agents soon paid a visit to the church pastor and accused me of being a communist. They also informed the pastor that the FBI had a file bearing my name. This was the frightening reality of life during the McCarthy era.

Let me be clear, some things haven't changed with the FBI. While there are no longer witch hunts to expose communists or communist sympathizers, the Bureau's actions have put many Americans ill at ease. I never trusted them, period.

I was gravely dismayed by FBI Director James Comey's actions 11 days before an extraordinarily critical presidential election, when he reported that the FBI had relaunched its investigation into the email controversy surrounding Hillary Clinton. Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid pointed out that Comey may have violated the Hatch Act, a federal law passed in 1939, by making a dramatic announcement about the investigation in the eleventh hour of a fiercely contested race.

I stand by Hillary Clinton in her response to Comey's letter to Congress, which blindsided her campaign and undoubtedly influenced a number of voters: "The American people deserve to get the full facts immediately," she said in October.

What I want to see is a studied biopsy of the election. Reports have trickled out but what I believe we need is a deep analysis of why Americans voted for Trump. Certainly, Hillary Clinton's campaign suffered from controversies surrounding the Clinton Foundation, but we deserve more answers.

Also, Congress is badly broken and in need of an overhaul. In my opinion, lawmakers have become far too comfortable and the needs of the American people have been ignored. When politicians are constantly revving up the campaign machine, they are beholden to funders rather than their constituents. Thus, I strongly believe that we must set term limits for both the House and Senate. It's time that legislators stop cruising by on unlimited terms on the taxpayer's dime. That's what makes a democracy work.

The New Community Clarion

The New Community Clarion is published as a community service. The editor reserves the right to withhold articles and photographs once they are submitted. Opinions expressed in columns are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the view of the newspaper.

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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
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- A model among non-profit, social entrepreneurship, and CDC communities
- Having beneficial partnerships on the local, national, and global level.

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It's easy and secure. Happy shopping and happy giving!

Around the Network

NCC Students Participate In National Literacy Campaign



Who ate my sandwich? According to students at New Community, "The Bear Ate Your Sandwich." Students at NCC's Community Hills Early Learning Center read "The Bear Ate Your Sandwich" by Julia Sarcone-Roach as part of a national literacy campaign called Read for the Record organized by Jumpstart. Coordinated locally by Newark Public Schools, the literacy event brought parents into the classrooms to read the story to students. Students also participated in making crafts inspired by the book—in this case bear ears. **Photos courtesy of Cheryl Mack.**

Next Stop, College Degree: Academic Enrichment Students Tour Rutgers



First stop, diploma. Next stop, college: Students enrolled in the Academic Enrichment Program for Older Youth at the New Community Workforce Development Center recently toured Rutgers University - Newark. The Academic Enrichment program provides students with classroom learning and literacy skills that will lead to a high school diploma or equivalent, as well as vocational training and entry level job placement. Led by Instructor Odette Phillip, the students toured the campus, learned about educational opportunities and even visited the Baker Trial Courtroom at the law school. For more information about Academic Enrichment and other post-secondary vocational programs at the Workforce Development Center, call 973-824-6484. **Photos courtesy of Rodney Brutton.**

New Community Got Out The Vote



New Community was abuzz with activity on election day, with polling sites located at four buildings in Newark, including New Community Commons Senior.



Woman votes at New Community Roseville Senior. Staff made announcements, knocked on doors and reminded residents to cast their votes.



Care Coordinator Sister Pauline Echebiri, left, with two poll workers at New Community Orange Senior.



New Community staff mobilized residents from each building to get out the vote. Douglas Homes pictured above.

Employee Of The Month: Lateisha Telfair



Lateisha Telfair, a veteran teacher at Community Hills Early Learning Center, dressed in costume for Family Literacy Night.

Lateisha Telfair knows how to dress the part. When she wants her students to get excited about reading “The Big Hungry Bear,” she will transform herself into a furry bear.

When she is teaching students about St. Patrick’s Day—and the colors and shapes associated with the holiday—she gets decked out in green from head to toe.

For New Community’s annual Parade and Family Festival, she wears her NCC t-shirt and proudly marches with her colleagues from Community Hills Early Learning Center.

As the lead teacher of Toddler 1 at CHELC, Telfair is known to show her enthusiasm for teaching by literally wearing her heart on her sleeve.

“I’m so blessed to have a job I truly love,” she said.

Director Cheryl Mack noted that Telfair was promoted to the lead teacher position following the retirement of a veteran colleague.

“Concerned about continuity for the children, Ms. Telfair jumped into the lead role without hesitation,” Mack said. “Ms. Telfair displays a genuine love for the development of small children and avails herself

in any capacity she is needed at CHELC,” she added.

Now in her eighth year of teaching at CHELC, Telfair works with children ranging in age from 14 to 30 months.

“I look at each child as an individual with their own strengths and needs,” she said.

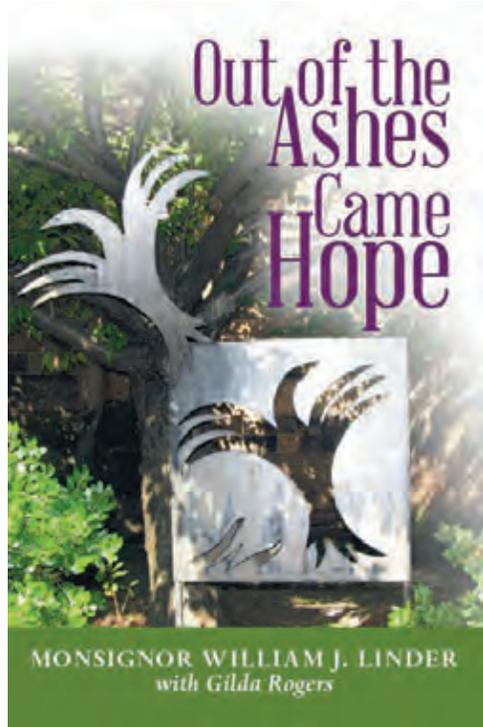
Telfair also credited her three teaching assistants for making her even more passionate about her profession. “It’s true what they say: Teamwork makes a dream work,” she added.

Mack described Telfair as “a model for the teacher assistants she works alongside” and “a strong asset to the Community Hills family.”

As a lead instructor, Telfair said that she works to promote the five domains of teaching: social and emotional, approaches to learning, language development and communication, physical and motor development and cognitive development.

Telfair has been working in the early childhood education field for more than two decades. She earned her Childhood Development Associate credential in 2003.

Monsignor Linder’s New Book Is The Perfect Holiday Gift!



Story is a gift that keeps on giving. Monsignor William J. Linder’s new book, called “Out of the Ashes Came Hope,” is an inspirational and timely story that reveals the inside story of how an organization founded by a small group of concerned citizens grew into one of the largest, most comprehensive community development corporations in the United States. Presently chairman of the board of directors at New Community, Monsignor Linder recounts his childhood growing up West New York, arriving in Newark a young priest fresh out of seminary and experiencing revelation and life transformation as he began his ministry at Queen of Angels Church during the turbulent 1960s. To purchase a paperback copy of “Out of the Ashes Came Hope” and to pick it up at New Community, call Helen Abraha at 973-497-4400 or order online at Amazon (hardback, paperback and ebook available).



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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.

Financial Opportunity Center At NCC Spells Success For Clients

My Success Story: Viola Thomas



Viola Thomas said she scored big when the Financial Opportunity Center at New Community helped her improve her credit rating.

Her score shot up a whopping 75 points—from

650 to 725.

“I was so happy that it happened because it was holding me back,” said Thomas, who went from subprime to prime borrower status based on her improved score.

Financial Coach Victor Silva was giving a presentation at her workplace when Thomas happened to overhear his talk on her way over to the copy machine. She was dealing with some credit problems, so she decided to stop and listen.

Thomas’ credit score had suffered because of a nearly \$1,000 debt that a collections agency claimed that Thomas owed for purchasing an iPhone from Verizon Wireless. Thomas said that she never purchased an iPhone (she uses an Android smartphone) and suspected that the fraudulent charge occurred during a period where she had lost her pocketbook. She tried dealing directly with Verizon, to no avail.

“I didn’t know the steps to take,” Thomas said. Then the collection agency came knocking.

“Working with Viola gave me an opportunity to understand her debt and the burdens she encountered when receiving those unwanted phone calls and unsolicited letters demanding her to pay,” Silva said. He worked with Thomas to draft and submit validation dispute letters to the collection agency, which were sent via certified mail. The

collection agency had to prove that the debt belonged to Thomas and because the agency was unable to prove such, the item was taken off her credit report. Thomas also sent letters to Verizon and the three major credit rating agencies.

Meanwhile, Silva advised her to pay off minor debts and helped her to secure a credit card from Dress Barn.

“It was rewarding to coach Viola with managing and validating her debt, which resulted in a sizable amount of debt being removed from her credit report. As a result, Viola’s credit score increased, making her more financially sound,” Silva said.

Thomas noted that at one point, after her initial meeting with Silva, she had decided to visit another financial assistance center where she was charged \$10 and left without any real help. “I should have stuck with Mr. Silva. I would still have \$10 in my pocket,” she said.

Since her credit score jumped in June 2016, Thomas, 56, of Newark, said she was able to refinance her car payment and save more than \$200 a month. Thomas said she periodically emails Silva to continue working on improving her financial stability.

“Nobody did for me what Mr. Silva did,” she said.

My Success Story: Satiney Myers



When Satiney Myers visited the Financial Opportunity Center at New Community, she was saddled with more than \$20,000 in student loan debt.

What was even more overwhelming was the fact that she didn’t have a plan to address the debt. Financial Coach Victor Silva was ready to help. Silva worked with Myers to create a budget that cut out unnecessary spending habits that he described as “spending leaks.”

Myers had recently completed the Automotive Training Program at the New Community Workforce Development Center in January 2016 and was earning a steady income working at Valvoline in East Hanover. She was hired in March 2016.

“Satiney was serious about developing a personal budget,” Silva said. “Through our collective work, Satiney was able to apply a portion of her income towards her savings account.”

Working one-on-one with Silva, Myers said her financial situation improved dramatically. The Financial Opportunity Center also referred her for outside help to address specific issues.

In the past, Myers had allowed a credit card to be closed, which had a negative impact on her credit score. At the Financial Opportunity Center, she received a referral to the Intersect Fund, a credit-building program that assists individuals with establishing credit and was ultimately able to improve her credit score.

“It gave me a lot of tools,” Myers said.

Also, Myers was referred to Volunteer Lawyers For Justice, a free legal service that assisted her with debt-related legal issues and helped prevent her from being subject to legal garnishments or liens against her wages or bank account.

Previously, Myers worked a string of temp jobs for about four years and had taken out student loans to pay for training programs to learn to become a dental assistant and medical assistant. Neither of the programs panned out for Myers and, in the meantime, she became homeless and also struggled with managing a rocky relationship with her teenage daughter.

“Satiney was determined to pay off her student loans. Building a financial strategy became her priority, so she reached out to the Financial Opportunity Center for help with identifying how to increase her savings and eliminate unnecessary spending habits,” Silva said.

Myers, 30, of Newark, expressed gratitude to Silva and the Financial Opportunity Center at New Community for helping her achieve financial stability by tackling her student debt and other credit issues.

“I feel like he went the extra mile,” she said of Silva.

Myers benefited from the integrated services provided by the Financial Opportunity Center and the New Community Workforce Development Center. Once she completed the automotive program, she worked with the Center’s job developer, Rudolph Drakeford, who connected her with job opportunities. Myers said that went on about 30 interviews in two months, thanks to Drakeford who helped with everything from bus tickets and directions to the interview sites. The Workforce Development Center even provided her with interview attire, Myers noted.

Meanwhile, Myers has advanced in her career in the automotive industry and was promoted to the position of senior technician in August 2016, five months after being hired at Valvoline. She said her goal is to become a master technician and one day open her own shop.

The Financial Opportunity Center is located at 274 South Orange Ave. in Newark. For more information, call 973-824-6484.

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

Support New Community: Help Us Touch More Lives



Steed Amegbor, an Irvington resident, will be graduating from Stevens Institute of Technology in the spring.

Dear Friends of New Community, Have you ever wondered, “How many lives does New Community touch?” Earlier this year, we launched a project to find out.

Dubbed as Project Green Thumb, New Community’s department leaders tracked how many lives we touched as a community development corporation serving a vast range of needs by counting the number of people served during the month of August 2016.

One of the lives that New Community has impacted over the years is 22-year-old Steed Amegbor of Irvington. Steed is currently studying at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. Raised by a single mother, Steed was born in Togo in West Africa and came to the United States during his junior year of high school. Through the financial assistance of the

Monsignor William J. Linder Scholarship, he was able to enroll at St. Benedict’s Preparatory School in Newark and receive a rigorous education to prepare him for college.

But Steed needed help. At a time when most of his peers at St. Benedict’s were planning their college applications and studying for the SATs, Steed was just starting to learn English (his native language is French). He received intensive guidance from knowledgeable teachers and attentive counselors, one of whom pointed him to Stevens Institute of Technology. Steed will be earning his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering in Spring 2017, completing a five-year program that included several internships related to his major.

“I didn’t know anything about engineering back then, but I knew I wanted to do something with applied science,” said Steed, who graduated from St. Benedict’s in 2012 with a special recognition for his achievement in mathematics. Born more than 5,000 miles from his college campus, Steed said he “absolutely could not imagine” being where he is now and credited the scholarship with providing an educational opportunity during a crucial period of transition in his life. “It was definitely a great help,” he said.

Steed said his dream is to work for Google and that dream is possible because of supporters like you.

Steed’s story represents just one “touch” that New Community has made since its founding in 1968. Project Green Thumb illustrates our present day impact and while the numbers

may astound some people, the results will be no surprise to those who are familiar with New Community’s work. In a single month, New Community touched 42,000 lives.

That’s more than half a million touches each year. Lives touched just like aspiring mechanical engineer Steed Amegbor.

We ask for your support to help New Community to continue touching lives. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for inner city residents to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement. Our mission must remain alive and grow to give people—such as youth, homeless veterans, job seekers, and single mothers—hope for the future. Every gift is valued and the return on your investment will be counted many times over in the lives you touch. Touch a life today by sending us your donation in the giving envelope enclosed or by making a secure online donation at newcommunity.networkforgood.com.

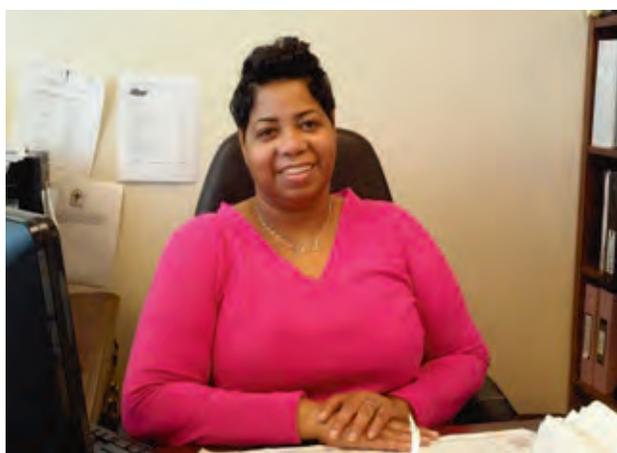
May God bless you for giving. It really does make a difference and we are so grateful.

With Sincere Appreciation for Your Generosity,

*Monsignor William J. Linder
Founder and Board Chairman
New Community Corporation*

P.S. Online giving is easy and secure at newcommunity.networkforgood.com or you can mail a check to the Monsignor Linder Scholarship Fund, 233 West Market Street, Newark, NJ 07103.

NCC Employee Pursues Doctorate Degree



Jackie Andrews, director of SAIF, is working towards her PhD in psychology and criminal justice at University of the Rockies.

Working full time and pursuing a PhD isn’t easy, but Jackie Andrews has her sights set on the horizon.

“One day, it’s going to pay off,” said Andrews, director of New Community’s Supportive Assistance

to Individuals and Families (SAIF) Program.

Since 2011, Andrews has been studying for her doctorate degree in psychology and criminal justice through an online program offered by the University of the Rockies. In October, Andrews was awarded a merit-based scholarship by the school.

“I love the study of the mind,” said Andrews, whose projected graduation date is in 2017.

On evenings and weekends, Andrews logs onto her online courses. Two or three times a year, she attends in-residence workshops held in Colorado. Despite the sacrifice of time spent with family, socializing or sleeping, Andrews said she was motivated by both her husband and daughter to earn her doctorate degree. “I wanted to be an example for my family,” she said.

This isn’t the first time that Andrews has gone back to school. In 2009, she completed a master’s course online through Kaplan University. In 1998, Andrews earned her bachelor’s degree from Rutgers University - Newark. She has also earned a paralegal certificate.

“Once you have identified your goals, you have to put every effort to stay focused to achieve that goal and work hard to make it happen,” Andrews said.

Andrews has worked at SAIF since its inception as a grant-funded pilot program in 2004. SAIF provides individuals who receive public assistance and have exhausted their time limit on welfare with intensive case management and up to 24 months of cash benefits, in addition to support services for mental health and substance abuse treatment. Because the program relies on grant funding, Andrews said she wanted to make sure that her own education and training was in top form, in case she ever found herself out of a job. “Basically I was thinking about my future,” she said.

Studying psychology has helped Andrews work with SAIF clients, many of whom suffer from depression or mental disorders as well as challenges such as lack of education or substance abuse. Andrews said she can also better guide her intensive case managers now. “It helps me give the right direction to the staff,” she said.

Social Security News

Between Holiday Festivities, Visit My Social Security

By Ammy Plummer
Social Security District Manager
Springfield Avenue, Newark NJ

The holiday season is upon us, bringing with it family gatherings and familiar traditions. As you bustle about from place to place, sharing turkey dinners and catching up with loved ones, there's one errand you can avoid — a visit to the Social Security office.

Why take time out of your busy holiday schedule to visit an office when you can conduct most of your business online?

At www.socialsecurity.gov, we have a variety of services available to you, all from the comfort of your home. You can apply for disability benefits or appeal a disability decision.

You can also file for retirement benefits, spousal benefits, or Medicare-only benefits while enjoying leftover pumpkin pie. Our secure, easy-to-navigate website is sure to add plenty of comfort and joy to the festivities.

Even if you're currently receiving benefits, or aren't quite ready to file, Social Security has services to bring you holiday cheer.

With a my Social Security account, those receiving benefits may change their address and direct deposit information, get proof of their benefits, and request replacement documents like a Medicare card. In addition, if you aren't currently getting benefits, you can still check your earnings record, get estimates of your future benefits, and view your Social Security Statement.

In some areas, you can even request a replacement Social Security card online. Open your account today at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

With the New Year just around the corner, it's never too early to start planning for your future. Once you've conducted your business at www.socialsecurity.gov, you may want to visit www.myRA.gov. myRA is a retirement savings account from the Department of the Treasury designed to help you put aside money for your retirement. You can invest in the fund according to your budget, putting you in control of your financial prospects. Give yourself a gift this holiday season and invest in your future.

Holidays are fun, and sometimes stressful, times. Let our online offerings reduce the holiday stress so you can focus on what's important — your loved ones.

When you need services from Social Security, start a new tradition. Go online at www.socialsecurity.gov.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Walterine Hatton



Walterine Hatton assists fellow residents of New Community Manor Senior and helps keep her building clean.

At times, Walterine Hatton says that others may think she's a busybody.

When a resident moves in, Hatton introduces herself and quickly learns whether her new neighbor needs help securing food stamps or transportation. She likes to make sure that the tables and chairs in the community room are neat and orderly. If there's water on the floor, she notifies the building superintendent.

"It's not being nosy; it's being a concerned resident," said Hatton, who most residents know as "Liz" (the first part of her second name is Elizabeth).

A resident of New Community Manor Senior since 2012, 68-year-old Hatton is often spotted helping all around the building and has been told she moves "like a spirit."

Officially the eighth floor's captain, Hatton informally helps on the second, seventh and tenth floors as well. When the food bank makes a delivery, she notifies either the superintendent or security officer and makes sure that residents receive their bag of food. She also helps to garden around 545 Orange St. in Newark. At every gathering for special events, Hatton offers a helping hand. "I know it's not my job," she said.

Hatton treats the common spaces at Manor Senior

as if it were her own apartment, according to Care Coordinator Giselle Oviedo.

"Ms. Hatton, along with other residents, makes sure all common areas such as the community room, kitchen, laundry and mail room are closed and secure at night," Oviedo said. "I can personally say she is an asset here at Manor Senior and I wish I had more seniors like her," Oviedo added.

Tenant Association President Cynthia Sears recalled an instance where Hatton literally saved her life just by being neighborly. While getting ready for church on a Sunday morning, Sears said she had a sudden and life-threatening allergic reaction to a medication that she had routinely taken. Her tongue swelled and her throat tightened. Sears dialed 911 but could not speak to the dispatcher due to her restricted airway. At that moment, Hatton came by her apartment, snatched the phone out of Sears' hand and got an ambulance to respond. Once the ambulance arrived, Hatton rode to the hospital next to Sears, staying by her side until Sears' sister arrived.

"I call her my lifesaver," Sears said. "She's the eyes and ears of the building."

Born in the village of Rosignol located on the west bank of the Berbice River in British Guyana, Hatton was raised in a household that instilled in her a sense of industriousness. She recalled growing up around rice paddies and making brooms out of coconut branches. She was the fourth oldest of 15 children and was primarily raised by her grandmother.

Aside from raising her own 12 children—six boys and six girls—Hatton also worked for the People's National Congress as an area representative for seniors for more than a decade. "It takes an ambitious woman to accept all the stones thrown at her and build a new foundation," she said.

Hatton moved from Guyana to Jersey City in 1993, where she stayed with her daughter. From 1995 to 2011, Hatton worked in home health care in the New York metro area. She retired in 2012 and moved to Manor Senior.



Wellness Tip
December 2016

Prevention and Wellness

As we age, we can help prevent serious illness by being proactive about our health. Being proactive means getting regular checkups and seeing a doctor right away if you notice something doesn't look or feel right.



Preventative Measures

Get checkups and screenings that include:

Colonoscopy	Cholesterol
Blood Pressure	Weight Check
Blood Sugar	Moles
Vision	Immunizations



Blood Tests

The following blood tests should be done with every physical exam:

CBC & Differential	Blood Glucose
Renal Panel	Lipid Panel
Liver Panel	Urinalysis

GIVING THANKS: FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS AROUND NCC



NCC Founder Receives Humanitarian Award

Continued from page 1



Samuel Varsano, left, executive director of the Circle of Life, shakes hands with Monsignor Linder.

Oleske founded the Circle of Life in 2002 with the mission to provide a comprehensive program of palliative and end-of-life care for children with life-limiting illnesses and support for families. During the evening program, the Schorbel family recounted how Oleske stood by their side for more than two decades as their daughter, Lisa, received treatment from Oleske as she battled a rare and ultimately fatal disease.

“It’s not hard to think of Jim as the most important person in your life,” said Monsignor Linder, who first met the renowned physician when he was a medical student. “He’s spectacular.”

Samuel Varsano, executive director of the Circle of Life, also highlighted Monsignor Linder’s tremendous work serving a different type of need—impoverished families in Newark.

“Monsignor Linder, himself the founder of New Community Corporation, is an essential contributor to the economic and social well-being of families throughout Newark,” Varsano said.

The Circle of Life is a nonprofit organization in Elizabeth that, in addition to caring for sick children and their families, advocates to make palliative care an integrated part of both medical school curricula and local hospital offerings.

The gala featured musical performance from Ray Cetrell, the Symphonics and the Cameos, who entertained guests as they danced the night away.

For Monsignor Linder, being honored at the gala alongside Oleske—who has saved the lives of hundreds of children and compassionately cared for bereaved families—made receiving the Humanitarian Award a very special occasion.

“That’s the greatest honor I’ve gotten,” he said.

See more photos on: [facebook.com/newcommunitycorporation](https://www.facebook.com/newcommunitycorporation)



More than 150 guests attended the gala held at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston where musical performances included the Symphonics.

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NCC Welcomes New Nursing Director To Extended Care Facility



Beverly Spencer, the new director of nursing at New Community Extended Care Facility, said that nursing is her life's calling.

attention from a physician. Her nursing professors encouraged her to study pre-med coursework and become a physician.

"I strongly believe my calling is to be a nurse," says Spencer, who joined New Community Extended Care as the new Director of Nursing in August. "One key difference between being a nurse and a physician is the amount of time spent with a patient observing, learning and listening for clues in the person's presence," Spencer said. "That's how you will feel what they are not telling you," she added.

Nursing Administrator Veronica Onwunaka highlighted Spencer's range of clinical experience gained by working with several community healthcare providers, including East Orange General Hospital, St. Michael's Medical Center and Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation.

Spencer "has over 27 years of clinical, holistic, and administrative and nursing experience combined," according to Onwunaka.

Prior to beginning her tenure at Extended Care, Spencer excelled in providing quality medical administrative expertise and care as a school nurse in an urban high school. "The opportunity to work with the children brought me full circle; although much of my interest is with senior patients and geriatric care, attending to the daily medical needs of young people

gives a new perspective on the continuum of health and well-being." Spencer said.

In regard to her current position at Extended Care, a five-star rated skilled nursing facility located at 266 South Orange Ave. in Newark, Spencer said, "I see where I feel I can make a difference. I expect the professional staff here is eager to impart the changes necessary to continue advancing our level of service and care. I look forward to being a part of that growth."

Spencer has several goals for the facility, including increasing the overall census, improving customer service, staff wellness and cohesiveness, as well as cultivating an environment for professional networking. She believes these goals are not only attainable, but should also be priorities for the entire Extended Care family.

Spencer said she would like to see New Community Extended Care Facility become "a household name."

"We have to be a trusted provider for the senior community – for the entire community," she said.

Spencer is also looking forward to collaborating with Onwunaka, who served as director of nursing for many years before accepting a position as the facility's Nursing Administrator in September.

"I enjoy working with someone who seems to have such a special relationship with the staff," Spencer says of Onwunaka.

While her demeanor may appear "stern," Spencer described herself as having a gentle personality and an open door policy.

A longtime Essex County resident, Spencer enjoys reading, exercising, and learning more about nursing and holistic care in her free time. "I live for challenges," she said. "Everything that is good can be better."

Fast Figures About Senior Expo At NCC



Fast facts: New Community Health and Social Services hosted a Medicare Information and Senior Expo where 22 residents received information about the WellCare Health Plan.



Twenty residents had their blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol checked.



Staff from Clara Maass Medical Center provided 80 residents with resources on its Wellness Assessment Van for Elders (WAVE) program.



Guardy's Pharmacy provided free flu shots to about 30 residents and NCC employees.



Also present was the American Heart Association, which shared resources on stroke prevention and hands-only CPR with 80 residents.



Horizon NJ Health Medicaid assisted 14 residents with enrollment information. Photos courtesy of Donnette Burrowes-Williams.

FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU OF NEWARK

Kinship Legal Guardianship Program

Kinship caregivers are exceptional people who have taken on the responsibility of caring for the children of relatives who are unable to live in the same household for different reasons. According to the New Jersey fact sheet in 2005 for grandparents and other relatives raising children and the 2000 U.S Census Report, “there are 127,263 children living in grandparent-headed households in New Jersey and 63,514 of these children are living there without either parent present.”

Many caregivers have become multitaskers who are responsible not only raising their own children but the children of their relatives as well. Therefore, taking on additional responsibility can be stressful, especially for low income families.

The Kinship Legal Guardianship Program at the Family Service Bureau of Newark (FSB) supports grandparents and other relative caregivers so that children and siblings can remain within their extended families and communities.

During support groups, grandparents will have an opportunity to refresh their parenting skills, build new relationships with their grandchildren,

learn how to work in partnership with their grandchild’s school, acquire helpful information and get linked to community resources, learn tips for managing money and even find out how to navigate any legal issues that may arise.

The Kinship Legal Guardianship Program is open to all Newark residents and their relatives or caregivers, and referrals are accepted from schools, community based organizations, faith-based organizations, family members and even self-referrals. Each year, the Kinship Program helps families by providing tools and resources that help develop skills and gain insights that enable families to become a more stable household.

Through bi-monthly support meetings, family activities, holiday celebrations, home visits and free assistance services, including food, financial assistance and clothing, the Family Service Bureau is helping families grow stronger and more stable.

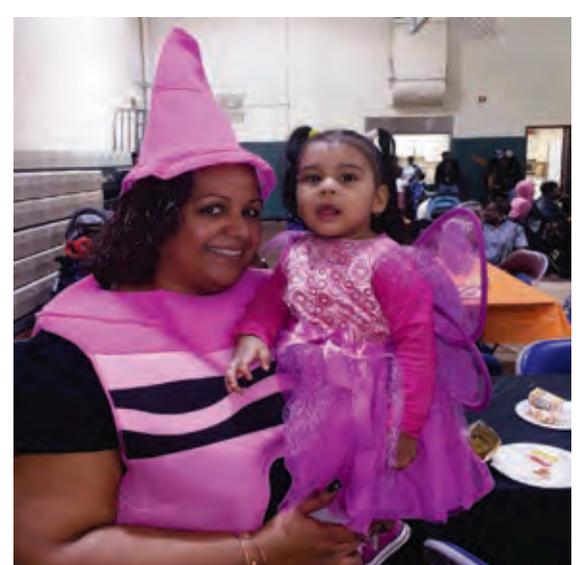
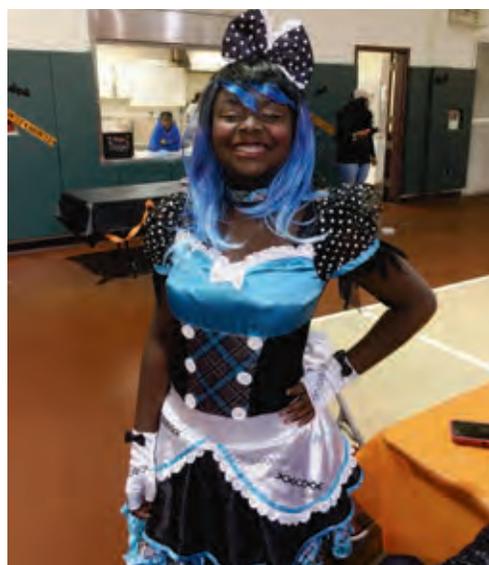
Our families have expressed their gratitude about our services and their need to continue receiving our support. Our program aspires to continue growing and make a difference in the life of our families.

Gospel Choir Makes Melodies



The New Community Gospel Choir recently held a concert that filled St. Joseph Plaza with music. Photos courtesy of Mother Roxanne Crawley.

Celebrating With Costumes, Candy



Super heroes, skeletons and princesses at play: Families from New Community’s neighborhoods in Newark enjoyed a safe and fun-filled night on the weekend of Halloween. The Department of Youth Services, led by Director Edward Morris, hosted its annual Halloween Party at the New Community Neighborhood Center on Hayes Street. Children and parents alike dressed up in their finest costumes and enjoyed activities such as a haunted classroom tour, costume contest, music, dancing, refreshments and, of course, plenty of candy. Photos courtesy of Edward Morris.



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 (Ingles 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 publico 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.

Reasons To Still Celebrate

By Lesley Leslie



If you are like thousands of other Americans who voted for the candidate who would have been the first ever woman president of the United States of America, you are most likely still in shock over the recent election results.

Various groups showed up to the polls in record numbers and that was a good thing. However, in the weeks that have passed since the election, there have been reports of incidences occurring to individuals that only serve to further divide our country.

The holidays could not have come at a better

time because our nation could really use a huge dose of cheer. It's as though our country really needs a hug. Thanksgiving showed us that we still have so much to be grateful for. Christmas will hopefully allow us to see that giving is still so much better than receiving. The Holy Bible tells us that "unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." We still have a reason to celebrate.

How you choose to embrace this holiday season can really determine the temperament that you take into the New Year. Remember those that are less fortunate and those that have been singled out and made to feel like they don't belong. We have the ability to come together and support one another. You can be the "silver lining" in someone's bad day. We still have a reason to celebrate!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Madge Wilson Honored At Statewide Convention In Atlantic City

Continued from page 1



Madge Wilson, at podium, gave remarks at the award ceremony, which was held at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City on November 1.

"We serve the elderly and disabled in various different capacities. We help make sure they are comfortable. We love to see them smile. We want them to know that someone truly cares," she said.

HCANJ's mission is to "promote the highest quality of health care services to residents in New Jersey's long term care facilities," its website said. The annual Conference and Expo, from November 1 to 3, featured education sessions, tours of exhibits, roundtable discussions and networking among long term health care professionals.

Wilson attended the HCANJ award ceremony and luncheon accompanied by CEO Richard Rohrman, Chief of Staff Kathy Spivey and other colleagues from New Community. Her daughter, Rhonda, and grandson, Michael, also attended the affair, which was held at Harrah's Resort.

"Ms. Wilson is a dedicated person that always watches out for the good of others," Facility Administrator Veronica Onwunaka wrote in her letter to the nominating committee. "She is very committed to serving the poor, the aged and physically challenged individuals. She is always willing to share her bright spirit with everyone that she meets," Onwunaka added.

The association has also selected Wilson as New Jersey's nominee for the National Adult Volunteer of the Year Award through the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living Convention in 2017.



From left: Frances Teabout, Helen Abraha, Mulu Gebreyesus, Fonda Porter, Michael Wilson, Madge Wilson, Richard Rohrman, Wayne Gravesande, Sammy Gebreyesus and Kathy Spivey.

See more photos on: facebook.com/newcommunitycorporation

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Withum Hosts Holiday Dinner For Harmony House Families



Employees from accounting firm Withum hosted its annual Thanksgiving dinner for the families of Harmony House.



Withum provided an extravagant holiday meal complete with turkey, ham, pasta, rolls, drinks and several desserts.



Harmony House families enjoyed dinner as well as deejay music at St. Joseph Plaza.



New Community Harmony House appreciates the tremendous generosity of the employees at Withum who volunteered to decorate the space, cook and serve dinner.



Withum employees served drinks, dessert and food to the residents and staff of Harmony House, a transitional housing facility for the homeless located in Newark.



After enjoying a delicious dinner, children and adults alike got up and danced.