



# CLARION

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK

Volume 33 – Issue 7 ~ July 2016

## A PLACE TO CALL HOME: NCC'S HOMELESS VETERANS HOUSING PROJECT MOVES FORWARD



A rendering of Better Life, a supportive housing project in Newark that will offer mental health service, counseling and resources to the chronically homeless.

For decades, New Community founder Monsignor William J. Linder has fought for safe, attractive and affordable housing for the most vulnerable members of society—single mothers, the elderly and disabled. Now, his vision to serve the chronically homeless, including military veterans who have sacrificed for their country but often end up

living on the streets—is another step closer to becoming a reality.

A Better Life, the inspirational name given to the project that will provide 24 units of supportive housing, including designated units for chronically homeless, and on-site mental

Continued on page 10

## Spirits High At NCC's 22nd Annual Golfing For A Cause Golf Outing Benefits Homeless Families, Education



Claremont Construction, foursome pictured above, participated in the Golf Outing as a Platinum Sponsor. Greystone (not pictured) also supported the event as a Platinum Sponsor.

Jasmine Thompson's greatest fear in becoming homeless was having her family split apart. When she arrived at Harmony House, New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families, she discovered a 102-unit haven in Newark with apartments for each family, 24-hour security and supportive services.

"The most important thing was keeping my family together," said Thompson, 31, of Newark, who came to Harmony House with her husband,

Gordon, and their two young children after Gordon lost his job and they could no longer afford rent.

Thompson shared her personal story at New Community's 22nd Annual Golf Outing, which benefited Harmony House and educational programs at New Community. More than 90 golfers registered for the event, dubbed as "Golfing For A Cause," hosted at the Montclair Golf Club in West Orange.

Golfing For A Cause brought together prominent leaders in the business, finance, construction and real estate industries for an afternoon of golf followed by a cocktail hour, networking and an evening reception that featured testimonials and remarks from Monsignor William J. Linder, founder of New Community, and Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, board member of New Community. Philanthropy Officer Tracey Battles headed the event committee. Golfers in foursomes and twosomes played 18 holes on 300 acres of lush rolling hills at the Montclair Golf Club. Spirits were high despite a scattered afternoon drizzle.

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## About Hillary

Editorial By  
Monsignor William J. Linder

It's been my enormous privilege to have witnessed the grace and diplomacy of Hillary Clinton in action well before she was the Secretary of State or Democratic nominee for president.

It confirms, to me, that her leadership qualities have deep and far-reaching roots and further casts her in remarkable contrast to her GOP counterpart.

During the Clinton Administration, I traveled with Bill, Hillary and Chelsea to Ireland as part of the official delegation involved in the peace talks. Conflict had plagued Northern Ireland for years as groups of republican and loyalist paramilitaries, British security forces and civil rights groups clashed violently. An estimated 3,500 were killed during a span of roughly three decades.

As First Lady, Hillary played a vital role in the peace talks. She leveraged her position and strategically arranged meetings with groups of women as a grassroots method to get real buy-in for the peace accords. She made multiple trips back to meet with local women to help solidify support for the reconciliation effort.

In working closely with Hillary, what I saw was an extremely intelligent individual with a tremendous commitment to the peace effort. She showed an astounding level of personal investment in improving the quality of life for those residing in a strife-filled region. Hillary ingratiated herself with members of all parties and "was soon on first name terms with Irish leaders of every stripe," the Irish Central reported. While I met with groups that were interested in learning about launching community development corporations, I also got an insider's view into Hillary as a leader in her own right and a genuine people person.

Her leadership style is to hear from the people themselves. When she visited New Community years ago as First Lady, Hillary wanted to get a real grasp on the challenges teenage mothers face. So she met with them at Babyland 3. She wanted to hear their ideas so they knew they were important. Her interest was not with the politicians or news media, who clamored for her attention behind the closed door. She gave the teen moms her undivided attention—and then departed without a minute of media fanfare

In contrast, presidential hopeful Donald Trump has shown an alarming lack of interest in real people's ideas or problems. Despite having a well-known presence in Atlantic City, Trump has put no effort into reaching out to New Jersey residents who are literally at his doorstep. Rather, he chases the spotlight and feeds the beat of the 24-hour news cycle with outrageous and inflammatory statements. Let me be clear, these things are telling of a person's character.

## 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.

### Publisher

New Community Corporation  
233 West Market Street, Newark, NJ 07103  
973-623-2800

### Editor, Writer and Photographer

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### Graphic Design and Layout

RayZo Marketing Inc.

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Visit [www.newcommunity.org](http://www.newcommunity.org)



### 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

### Annual Parade And Festival Set For September 17



Mark your calendar: New Community's Annual Parade And Street Festival is set for Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016.

This year's parade theme is "Out Of The Ashes Came Hope" and will feature several floats that each illustrate a decade of the history of New Community Corporation, which was founded in 1968 by Monsignor William J. Linder. The daylong celebration will also include a street festival with family-friendly activities, food, vendors, a health zone and youth zone.

The extravaganza coincide with a series of citywide celebrations commemorating the 350th anniversary of Newark's founding. Over 150 marquee programs will highlight Newark's rich history, remarkable achievements, diverse communities and extraordinary culture presented by a coalition of local groups such as New Community and other cultural organizations, educational institutions and citizen groups, according to the Newark Celebration 350 website.

## Around the Network

### Goals In Sight: NCC Auto Students Tour BMW



Automotive students from New Community Workforce Development Center recently toured the BMW Training Center based in Mahwah. The group of students, who are in the 1,200-hour Automotive Technician Training Program based at 210 West Bigelow St. in Newark, met with BMW staff and heard first-hand about applying for technician positions at area dealerships. *Photos courtesy of Rodney Brutton.*

### Ocean Breeze: NCC Residents Stroll Down The Boardwalk



Summer is in full swing. Residents from New Community recently enjoyed an outing down the shore at Seaside Heights, where they strolled the boardwalk and enjoyed perfect weather. The trip was organized by Health and Social Services, located at 220 Bruce St. in Newark, which offers activities to residents ranging from day trips to educational presentations. For more information, call Social Services at 973-623-6114. *Photos courtesy of Sister Mary Prisca.*

### Beautifying NCC For Spring Up

Flowers are blooming across the New Community network, thanks to the efforts of all employees who participated in the annual beautification project known as Spring Up. For a few hours, staff donned gloves and literally got in the dirt to pull weeds, plant flowers and tidy the grounds around NCC buildings. A special acknowledgement goes to Property Management and Environmental Services for providing the supplies, equipment and oversight for the cleanup effort. Thank you to all the employees and residents of New Community who pitched in to spruce up NCC's properties.



## Employee Of The Month: Sammy Gebreyesus



Samson "Sammy" Gebreyesus started his career at New Community and is the asset manager.

from local and federal agencies.

"Your eyes always have to be open," Gebreyesus, who is known to most as "Sammy," said of his role as asset manager.

Gebreyesus was previously promoted from property manager to asset manager, a position that oversees all of New Community's portfolio of properties, said Fonda Porter, director of Property Management.

He is also a certified federal, state and city inspector, according to Porter.

No two days on the job look the same for Gebreyesus, who spends most of the workday outside his office. He spends significant time ensuring that NCC buildings are ready for the scrutiny of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which administers the Real Estate Assessment Center Inspection, a high-stakes visit that yields either a pass or fail score and can potentially impact the amount of federal housing subsidies received by the corporation.

Additionally, he ensures that New Community properties receive certifications from state inspectors

and also abide by the city's code enforcement.

"I make sure they're up to standards," Gebreyesus said. He also works closely with the property managers to troubleshoot any issues on site.

In 2014, Gebreyesus marked 25 years of working at NCC and was awarded the Monsignor William J. Linder Award, New Community's highest honor.

He started his career as a waiter at the PRIORITY restaurant, which has since been transformed into the headquarters of the corporation. As New Community expanded, so did the number of responsibilities held by Gebreyesus. He worked his way up to maître d' and then restaurant manager before transitioning to the department of Property Management.

He also takes on special projects, such as spearheading the city's recycling initiative within New Community's senior buildings and worked with La Casa de Don Pedro to take advantage of the agency's weatherization program, which resulted in \$450,000 in building improvements such as new windows at New Community Sussex Gardens.

Gebreyesus feels privileged to have worked at New Community long enough to witness Monsignor William J. Linder's vision grow, flourish and positively impact the city.

"The more I work, the more I appreciate the company," he said. In his free time, Gebreyesus said that he enjoys spending quality time with his family. He is married to Helen Abraha and they have two daughters.

Samson Gebreyesus knows the ins and outs of every building across the New Community network.

It's his job to ensure that the properties meet specific standards and pass a battery of inspections

### NCC's Founder Celebrates 80th Birthday



Happy Birthday, Monsignor! New Community's founder and board chairman, Monsignor William J. Linder, celebrated his 80th birthday last month at St. Joseph Plaza in Newark. The evening was filled with jazz music as a tribute to the visionary leader who established New Community in 1968 and brought music back into the walls of the formerly shuttered church that is now the corporation's headquarters. Surrounded by family, friends and associates, Monsignor Linder celebrated his milestone birthday in style. Monsignor is pictured above with Madge Wilson, New Community outreach coordinator, who shared remarks at his celebration. Best wishes for the upcoming year, Monsignor!



#### New Community Corporation

St. Joseph Plaza  
233 West Market St. Newark, NJ 07103  
(973) 242-8012 | www.newcommunity.org

### Where the Music Comes Alive

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#### Live Entertainment & Music Calendar

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

JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>

CLOSED FOR VACATION

JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>

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JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>

JAN CARDEN



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

## Spirits High At NCC's 22nd Annual Golfing For A Cause

### Golf Outing Benefits Homeless Families, Education

Continued from page 1

During her family's 11-month stay at Harmony House, Thompson participated in job training and secured permanent employment. She enrolled in New Community Workforce Development Center's ShopRite Partners-In-Training, where she gained skills in customer service, cashier and store management and was hired as a front-end supervisor at the ShopRite in Newark, where she continues to work today. She also renewed her lapsed Certified Nursing Assistant license.

"We're here to help people," said Monsignor Linder, also board chairman of the Newark-based community development corporation.

During the evening reception, golfers also heard powerful testimonials from two additional

speakers—Maurice Culley, a graduate of the New Community Workforce Development Center Building Trades Program, and single mother Harvishia Murray, who currently resides at Harmony House with her children after leaving a domestically violent relationship. "I love the staff at Harmony House and I am a survivor," said Murray, who is actively seeking permanent housing.

Culley, an East Orange resident, learned skills such as electrical, plumbing, hanging sheet rock, roofing and painting from the Building Trades Program. He initially landed a job as a pipefitter. Soon thereafter, he applied for a job at Delta, based at Newark Liberty International Airport, and was hired as a painter before being promoted within six months to the position of

mechanic.

"My goal is to be better tomorrow than I was today and help young men like me reach their ultimate goals," Culley said during his testimonial.

The golf outing co-chairs were Michael Kasian, senior vice president at Tishman Construction; Michael Pintabone, partner at Withum; and Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, Essex County College president emeritus and a board member of New Community.

"The lives that are enhanced by the work of New Community is really worth the effort," said event committee member Antonio Lolo of Ferry Carpet.

More photos on page 5



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



## Social Security News

## We're Working Together To Secure Today And Tomorrow

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

Your first job is a landmark occasion. You're meeting new people, making professional connections, and probably cashing that first paycheck. You might be a little surprised when you see a portion of your earnings go to a tax called "FICA" for the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. This deduction goes to Social Security and is your way of helping us secure your today and tomorrow. It's our job to keep the safety net of Social Security strong through your incremental contributions.

Understanding how important your contribution is takes some of the sting away because your taxes are helping millions of Americans. By law, employers must withhold Social Security taxes from workers' paychecks. While referred to as "Social Security taxes" on an employee's pay statement, sometimes the deduction is labeled as "FICA." This stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act, a reference to the original Social Security Act. Sometimes, you will see "OASDI," which stands for Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance, the official name for the Social Security Insurance program.

The taxes you pay now mean a lifetime of protection — for retirement in old age or in the event of disability. And when you die, your family (or future family) may be able to receive survivors benefits based on your work.

You probably have family members — grandparents, for example — who already enjoy benefits that your Social Security taxes help provide. Social Security is completely solvent through 2033. At that point, retirement benefits will be reduced to 75 percent, unless changes are made to the law. In the past, Social Security has evolved to meet the needs of a changing population — and you can count on Social security in the future.

Because you're a long way from retirement, you may have a tough time seeing the value of benefit payments that could be many decades in the future. But keep in mind the Social Security taxes you're paying can provide valuable disability or survivors benefits, if the unexpected happens. Studies show that of today's 20-year-olds, about one in four will become disabled, and about one in eight will die before reaching retirement.

To learn more about Social Security and exactly what you're earning for yourself by paying Social Security taxes, take a look at our online booklet, How You Earn Credits, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10072.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10072.html).

We're doing this job together. The small amount you contribute with every paycheck allows us to help millions of retired workers, disabled people, and veterans. You can learn more about how we're with you through life's journey at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Marilyn Watson



Marilyn Watson was born in Goldsboro, N.C., and has lived at New Community Associates for the last 19 years.

Marilyn Watson's cheerful demeanor has made her a well-loved resident of New Community Associates.

A longtime resident of the senior and disabled building located at 180 South Orange Ave. in Newark, Watson has lived there 19 years and serves as treasurer of the Tenant Association. She attends meetings in the building, volunteers to host, serve food and actively participates in outings such as bus trips. She also sings soprano in the New Community Gospel Choir.

"Ms. Watson is very helpful and outgoing. She is always involved in every event and has a beautiful personality," Care Coordinator Lourdes Fuentes said. Earlier this year, Watson was honored at the City of Newark's Annual Senior Fashion Show as a member of the executive committee.

Before retiring, Watson, now 67, worked for 17 years as a Certified Nursing Assistant. She started her career in healthcare as a candy striper at age 12. Watson said that she was devastated when a health condition forced her to go on disability. She tried several times to get hired, and was successful, only to have her former boss call her new employer and get her terminated.

"I said, 'But I'd rather work,'" said Watson, a mother of two children, a step-daughter and several grand, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Watson was born in Goldsboro, N.C., the third oldest of six children. She attended Camden Street School, West Kinney Junior High and graduated from West Side High in Newark.

She met the man who would become her husband when she walked into the neighborhood hardware store where he worked. Robert Watson Jr. would soon be drafted and sent to fight in the Vietnam War. They married when he came home briefly on leave, when she was 18 and he was 20. The couple had a daughter and son.

Despite her sunny personality, Watson has experienced great tragedy in her life. Her husband was stabbed to death in 1969 and Watson became a widow.

In her free time, Watson enjoys walking around the Central Ward of Newark, playing bingo at her building and window shopping during trips to Atlantic City.

vna Health Group  
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Wellness Tip  
July 2016

## Stay Hydrated!

It is important to stay hydrated during the hot summer months. 75% of Americans suffer from chronic dehydration. If you experience extreme thirst, lack of urination or perspiration, dizziness or confusion, headache or fever, you may be dehydrated. Follow these tips to keep your body hydrated:



### Track & Set Reminders

Set alerts on your phone to remind you when you should be reaching for that next glass of water. Track your progress to know how much you drank.



### Avoid Sugary Drinks

Avoid sugary drinks and limit caffeine. Drinks such as soda and juice will actually make you more dehydrated.



### Drink More During Activity

Drink more water when being physically active to replace the fluids you may lose through sweating.



### Bring a Bottle with you

Bring a water bottle with you wherever you go. Flavor your water with fruit, mint, or cinnamon to spruce it up!



### Eat Fruits & Veggies

On average, 20-30% of your daily water intake comes from food. Eating fruit and vegetables is the best way to ensure you stay hydrated.



### Check Urine Color

Checking your urine is a good indicator of dehydration. If your urine is a light pale yellow or white, then you are hydrated. Darker yellow urine may mean you're in need of some water!



## 2016 Fabulous Me Conference: 'Journey To The Top'



The Fabulous Me Conference was organized by the staff of the Family Service Bureau of Newark and held on the campus of Seton Hall University.



Keynote speaker Victoria Mahand urged the young women to embrace their individual journeys.



New Community CEO Richard Rohrman gave a warm welcome to the more than 120 attendees at Fabulous Me.

A journey has a beginning and an end, but Victoria Mahand wants to talk about everything that happens in between.

Mahand, a National Training Specialist at the One Circle Foundation, served as the keynote speaker at the fifth annual Fabulous Me Celebration of Womanhood Conference, which is organized by the Family Service Bureau of Newark, an affiliate of the nonprofit New Community Corporation.

More than 120 young women from across northern New Jersey attended the daylong event organized by the Family Service Bureau, which included breakout sessions on topics ranging from healthy relationships to cyberbullying, a resource fair, improvisational performance by the Rutgers SCREAM Theater and a rousing session of African drumming.

A dynamic and energetic presenter, Mahand focused on each young woman's "Journey to the Top," the theme of the daylong empowerment conference hosted at Seton Hall University.

"It's important to give girls a voice, and when they do have a voice, to share their ideas and opinions in a safe environment," said Mahand, who spoke about topics such as self-esteem and goals.

The participants, ages 12 to 17, include a diverse group of students who are referred by their school social workers and community leaders. Some participants are identified as at-risk while others have excelled in school, according to Dr. Sam Pirozzi, executive director of the Family Service Bureau of Newark. "The conference is designed to educate and



The students attended breakout sessions on topics ranging from healthy relationships to cyberbullying.

empower young women," he said.

During the lunch break, 14-year-old Rashidah Babb noted that discussing tough topics such as bullying and self-image in the era of social media with peers helped her feel united with the young women at the empowerment event.

"Normally I am the shy girl that doesn't want to talk," Babb, a resident of Hillside, said. "We all bring out the best in each other."

For Kinsey Thorpe, 15, one highlight of the Fabulous Me conference was meeting and hearing from speakers representing careers such as medicine, social work, academia and the nonprofit sector.

"You get to meet people from different professions," said Thorpe, a resident of Morristown.

Dr. Grace May, dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Seton Hall University, encouraged the young women to see life as a series of learning lessons.

"Everything can benefit and teach us something," she said. "Keep your mind open to these life experiences."

Organized by the Family Service Bureau, the event is funded by a grant from the New Jersey Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee, administered by the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission under the state



The day ended with a rousing session of African drumming.

Attorney General's Office. The conference is co-sponsored by the Department of Family and Marriage Therapy at Seton Hall University.



Rutgers SCREAM Theater gave an improvisational performance of a real life situation involving social media and cyberbullying followed by a Q&A session.

### Thank You To Our Sponsors and Donors

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- New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission
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- Ocean Avenue Silks
- Rowkin
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- Muse Monthly
- Nicole Larue and Naomi Davis Lee (Small Made Goods)
- New Jersey Performing Arts Center
- Applebee's
- Noah Scalin (Make Something 365 and Get Unstuck)
- Sticker You
- Art with Heart
- New Community Harmony House

*"Normally I am the shy girl that doesn't want to talk... we all bring out the best in each other."* — Rashidah Babb, 14, a Hillside resident



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## Onward And Upward: Harmony House Early Learning Center Honors Grads

Wearing their caps and gowns, pre-kindergarten students at Harmony House Early Learning Center marked the first of many milestones to come in their academic careers. “Today is an important day in the lives of the children moving on,” said Sister Maurice Okoroji, who listed the accomplishments that the students have achieved during the school year, including learning to count, colors, spelling their names and even dreaming of future career aspirations. “Most of all, they have learned to love learning,” Okoroji said. Afterwards, parents and staff celebrated the occasion with a reception in the Harmony House lobby.



## Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow: Community Hills Early Learning Center Students Move On

The 2016 Moving On Ceremony at Community Hills Early Learning Center was a packed house and for good reason, Director Cheryl Mack said. “We could be looking at the next president (or) attorney general,” Mack said of the students who donned caps and gowns to celebrate their completion of pre-kindergarten. Each class performed skits, dances, rhymes and stories before an adoring crowd. Mack acknowledged several parents for their participation and support of CHELC. Afterwards, students, families and staff enjoyed refreshments in the classrooms.

### Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself  
any direction you choose.

You're on your own. And you  
know what you know.

And YOU are the guy who'll  
decide where to go.

- Dr. Seuss,

“Oh, The Places You'll Go!”



## FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU OF NEWARK

### Kids Club and Moms Empowerment Programs

Family Service Bureau’s clinical staff is working with New Community’s Harmony House to bring the residents of the transitional housing facility the Kids Club and Moms Empowerment programs. The two programs are designed to coincide with each other, with both the mothers and children of Harmony House, which is New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families, to participate in weekly groups.

Kids Club is a preventive intervention program that focuses on children’s knowledge about family violence; their attitudes and beliefs about families and family violence; their emotional adjustment; and their social behavior in the small group. The program is phase-based, such that early sessions are designed to enhance the child’s sense of safety, to develop the therapeutic alliance and to create a common vocabulary of emotions for making sense of violence experiences. Later sessions address responsibility for violence, managing emotions, family relationship paradigms, conflict and resolution. Activities rely on displacement and group lessons are reviewed and repeated, as needed, each week.

Moms Empowerment is a parenting program that provides support to mothers by empowering them to discuss the impact of the violence on their child’s development; to build parenting competence; to provide a safe place to discuss parenting fears and worries; and to build connections for the mother in the context of a supportive group. In essence, this ten-session

intervention is aimed at improving a mother’s repertoire of parenting and disciplinary skills, and enhancing social and emotional adjustment, thereby reducing the children’s behavioral and adjustment difficulties.

The goals of Kids Club are to:

- Reduce children’s internalizing and externalizing behavioral adjustment problems
- Reduce children’s harmful attitudes and beliefs about the acceptability of violence
- Enhance children’s ability to cope with violence by learning safety skills, additional conflict resolution skills and enhanced ability to identify and regulate emotions related to violence
- The goals of the Moms Empowerment are to:
- Reduce the level of each mother’s traumatic stress and violence exposure
- Enhance each mother’s safety and ability to parent under stress
- Provide support and resources in a group setting

For more information on the Kids Club and Mom Empowerment programs at the Family Service Bureau, call 973-412-2056.

*The Family Service Bureau has offices located at 274 South Orange Ave. in Newark and 379 Kearny Ave. in Kearny, and is an affiliate of New Community Corporation.*

## A Place To Call Home: NCC’s Homeless Veterans Housing Project Moves Forward

Continued from page 1

health services, reached a major milestone when financing for the \$8 million project officially closed on June 3.

Construction for Better Life, located on the corner of 14th Avenue and Camden Street, is slated to begin in the coming months.

The project highlights a dynamic collaboration between New Community, University Behavioral Health Care and the City of Newark. UBHC will provide a staff of clinical supervisors, counselors and nurses to give on-site treatment to the homeless, including veterans, who are often forced to frequent emergency rooms for medical care.

“A lot of these people are veterans who we sent to the Vietnam War,” Monsignor Linder said.

Better Life will demonstrate that stable housing can serve as an effective first step in addressing long-term homelessness, debilitating mental illness, and substance abuse, according to UBHC officials. Services offered at Better Life will include counseling, crisis intervention and linkages to wellness and recovery supports available locally.

“Better Life represents the commitment that New Community has always had to help individuals reflect their individual God-given dignity,” CEO Richard Rohrman said. “This project is a payback for our veterans as well as others who have been left behind. Better Life is a

comprehensive approach to help people function at their highest level,” he said.

The project is the result of a public-private partnership and was a major endeavor that spanned nearly five years, according to Douglas Angoff, director of real estate and general counsel at New Community. Red Stone served as New Community’s financial partner and other funding sources include the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development McKinney Funding for the Homeless and Special Needs Housing Trust Fund, Newark HOME Program, Essex County HOME Program, New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency and the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York. NCC officials worked closely with partnering agencies and firms on a range of issues related to zoning board approval, financing, receiving a tax abatement from the city and hammering out a lease deal.

“Better Life is a major effort from public and private partners who worked to overcome legal and financial compliance. It is a project that New Community, our partners and supporters can all be proud of,” Angoff said.

Rosemarie Rosati, interim president and CEO of Rutgers-UBHC, also expressed enthusiasm for the project moving forward.

“Rutgers-University Behavioral Health Care is honored to partner with New Community on the creation of this special residential program for people with behavioral health problems who

have been chronically homeless,” Rosati said.

“These individuals also tend to have significant medical problems and overuse hospital emergency rooms since it is difficult for them to follow through with regular care. At the Better Life facility staff and services will be available onsite 24/7 and connections will be made to other services and resources in the community,” she said.

### Nursing Home Residents Get Out The Vote



Staff at New Community Extended Care helped ready and transport a group of residents from the 24-hour skilled nursing facility to the nearest polling place so that residents could cast their votes for the primary election on June 7. Photo courtesy of Robert Smolin.



**New Community Adult Learning Center**

563 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey 07107

**(973) 558-5536**

[www.newcommunity.org/services/adult-learning-center/](http://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:  
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**Free Services**

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**Open Community**

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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.

**Celebrating Fathers And Mothers Together**



Residents of New Community Gardens Senior gathered to celebrate both Father's and Mother's Day at a luncheon organized by Health and Social Services.



Carol Morris, seated right, serves desserts from a spread of several types of cakes and bread pudding.



Residents enjoyed the luncheon, which featured fried chicken, cornbread, macaroni spaghetti, and more, and also participated in raffle drawings.



Each attendee received an appreciation gift presented by Care Coordinator Sister Mary Prisca, right.



**The Least Of These**

By Lesley Leslie

We live in an ever-changing world, a world filled with people who have become obsessed with self and obtaining "things." It seems like the more some people get, the more they want and that helping hand that we were always taught to extend to the less fortunate has become a tightly closed fist. What has happened to our sense of community?

There was a time when witnessing a homeless person begging on the street would evoke a range of emotions within an individual. You would experience feelings of sympathy and compassion to such a degree that you felt compelled to be of assistance, compelled to give. You looked beyond the disheveled exterior and saw the human being that was in need. You understood that that person was somebody's child; you recognized that person was somebody.

Things are different today, or at least they appear to be. We have forgotten about the less fortunate,

those who are not fairing off as well as ourselves. Some we actually blame for their predicament, and others we view as an annoyance because of their predicament.

Then there are the less fortunate that we pretend we don't see. The homeless that have become invisible to us because we have grown to be so desensitized to their plight. Think for a moment: Where might you be today if some catastrophic event, such as a life-altering accident occurred, an accident that rendered you incapable of earning a living every day? What recourse might you have today if your home burned down in a fire? How might you rebound emotionally and economically if you lost the love of your life, perhaps the primary wage-earner in your family? Or consider how many of us live paycheck to paycheck and how one missed paycheck could affect your family? We often make payment arrangements on the paycheck that we expect to receive the next week or so. In our minds, we spend the paycheck before we even receive it!

These are some things to really think about the next time a hopeless person crosses your path. There but for the Grace of God!

We don't have to set out each day to save the world, however, we can always remember to lend a helping hand to at least one person. We can all help in some capacity knowing that we could have easily have been one of the "Least of These."

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## BBQ At Douglas Homes



Care Coordinator Luz Toro, right, grills for a barbecue for residents at New Community Douglas Homes.



Residents of Douglas Homes enjoy sunny weather on the back patio and garden. Photos courtesy of Donnette Burrowes-Williams.

## Workforce Staff Bid Farewell To Longtime Colleague



New Community Workforce Development Center staff threw a surprise goodbye party for their veteran colleague Martha Davis, who has been the receptionist for 15 years and retired at the end of June. Organized by colleague LaToya Bass, the farewell gathering included a potluck luncheon, cake and a parting gift of a lottery ticket for Davis. Best wishes for your retirement, Ms. Davis.

## Summertime At Hudson Senior



New Community Hudson Senior enjoyed an afternoon barbecue on the patio of the NCC building located in Jersey City. Music played and people danced as residents and staff fired up the grill for the afternoon gathering. The barbecue included hot dogs, chicken wings and several side dishes. Photo courtesy of staff.