Extended Care Facility Achieves Five Star Rating

New Community Extended Care Facility achieved an overall five star rating based on three factors: quality measures, staffing and health inspections.

New Community, a non-profit skilled nursing center at 266 South Orange Ave. in Newark, has achieved an overall five star rating—the highest possible score for a nursing home—from Medicare.gov.

The new rating catapults Extended Care to the top of the list of quality nursing homes in Newark, according to Administrator Robert Smolin.

“We’re the only five star (facility) in the city of Newark,” Smolin said.

Medicare.gov releases ratings for nursing homes across the United States on a quarterly basis via Nursing Home Compare, an online database that’s accessible to the public and shows how many stars a nursing home has achieved (on a scale of one to five) in the following three areas: quality measures, staffing and health inspections.

Located in the heart of Newark in the city’s Central Ward, New Community Extended Care Facility was established in 1986 and has built a reputation of providing quality, holistic care to the most vulnerable residents in the community.

“The people we serve are people who have been through a lot,” Director of Nursing Veronica Onwunaka said. Many people who come to Extended Care have dealt with major health challenges, whether related to chronic illness or general aging.

“We look beyond that—we look at where they are coming from, what they have been through in life,” Onwunaka said, referring to the comprehensive approach that the staff use to care for a person’s body, mind and spirit.

Extended Care has a reputation of providing quality, holistic care to the most vulnerable residents in the community.

New Community Workforce Development Center to become a registered nurse.

In Cruz’s own words, “New Community changed my life. That’s why I’m still here.”

Joyce Misiani was homeless when she came to New Community. She and her children arrived at NCC’s transitional housing for the homeless, known as Harmony House, in 2007. Misiani began studying to become a licensed practical nurse in 2001. As a testimony to the level of care she provides, Cruz gets notes and visits from former residents who want to express their deep gratitude. She’s now studying to become a registered nurse.

Born in Nigeria, Daberechi Amadi is a registered nurse who came to the U.S. in 2014 and has been serving the residents of Extended Care for two years. As a youth, he dreamed of becoming a lawyer. However, his uncle selected the field of nursing as Amadi’s chosen career path and Amadi has been dedicated to his job ever since. Now the assistant unit manager of the third floor, Amadi has focused all his energy on helping residents improve their physical conditions, in spite of various challenges. “We are getting them well,” he said.

Joyce Misiani was homeless when she came to New Community. She and her children arrived at NCC’s transitional housing for the homeless, known as Harmony House, in 2007. Misiani began studying to become a licensed practical nurse at New Community Workforce Development Center and graduated in 2008. She has gone from being homeless to now studying to become a registered nurse.

“Do you know what makes my heart happy? It’s when I’m able to help others,” Misiani said. “It’s seeing them convalesce. It becomes a second home.”

The five star rating highlights the level of care that residents receive but also celebrates the fact that residents into Springfield Village, a mixed-use development where HMFA was a major funder. More recently, the Manor properties around NCC received crucial upgrades as part of a project that HMFA was integrally involved with for several years.

In late April, New Community welcomed the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency to its headquarters at St. Joseph Plaza for HMFA’s board meeting, which featured housing heavyweights such as New Community’s founder, Monsignor William J. Linder, and the agency’s executive director, Anthony Marchetta.

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Continued on page 4

N.J. Housing Agency Meets At NCC, Tours Newark

Continued on page 11

Doing Well, Doing Good

Editorial By Monsignor William J. Linder

A nursing home is more than just a place to convalesce. It becomes a second home.

The staff function as your family, fellow residents become friends and areas like the rehabilitation therapy room, cafeteria and lobby serve as living room for social interactions.

For the most vulnerable residents of the inner city, New Community Extended Care Facility has provided quality care in a patient-focused environment. The residents have long known what Medicare.gov officially reported in April.

Let me be clear, the staff is second to none and does their work with tremendous care. The nursing staff, led by Director of Nursing Veronica Onwunaka, as well as activities, housekeeping, dietary and business office provide excellent care because of the way that NCC has personally touched their lives. Allow me to share the stories of Maria Cruz, Daberechi Amadi and Joyce Misiani.

Maria Cruz grew up in Newark and became a certified nursing assistant in 1997 under the instruction of Onwunaka. A single mother of four, Cruz decided to go back to school at the New Community Workforce Development Center to become a licensed practical nurse in 2001. As a testimony to the level of care she provides, Cruz gets notes and visits from former residents who want to express their deep gratitude. She’s now studying to become a registered nurse.

Joyce Misiani was homeless when she came to New Community. She and her children arrived at NCC’s transitional housing for the homeless, known as Harmony House, in 2007. Misiani began studying to become a licensed practical nurse at New Community Workforce Development Center and graduated in 2008. She has gone from being homeless to now studying to become a registered nurse to advance her ability to care for patients. Her life experience has engrained compassion into her every action, just as Amadi’s work is more than a job.

In Cruz’s own words, “New Community changed my life. That’s why I’m still here.”

The five star rating highlights the level of care that residents receive but also celebrates the fact that the mission of New Community is alive and well: To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.
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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Sign-up for the e-clarion.
Visit 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.

Golfing For A Cause

Tuesday, June 28, 2016
Montclair Golf Club
23 Prospect Avenue
West Orange, NJ

New Community Is Proud To Have As Our 2016 Golf Outing Co-Chairs:

Michael Kasian
Senior Vice President
Tishman Construction

Michael Pintabone, CPA
Partner, Withum

Dr. A. Zachary Yamba
President Emeritus
Essex County College
NCC Board of Directors

All proceeds benefit New Community education programs and homeless families.

NCC Appreciates Our Teachers

Community Hills Early Learning Center showered its teachers with appreciation during Teacher Appreciation Week May 2 to 6. Each day of the week featured a special tribute to the teachers and included “Flower Power” day, where students presented a plant or flower to their teacher, or “Snack Attack” day, where teachers received a special snack or healthy fruit treat.

Photos courtesy of Cheryl Mack.

Greater Newark LISC Volunteers At NCC

Staff from Greater Newark LISC spent a day at New Community volunteering their services around the network. On left: Jerrah Crowder, far right, program officer at Greater Newark LISC, reviews a lesson in biology with three students at the New Community Adult Learning Center, 563 Orange St. in Newark. On right: Three volunteers from Greater Newark LISC spend time with seniors diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia at Extended Care, 266 South Orange Ave. in Newark. LISC is a national organization that helps community-based nonprofit organizations transform distressed neighborhoods.

Look, See Easier: Disability Rights New Jersey Offers NCC Seniors Help

As the body ages, seniors often find themselves facing daily difficulty with hearing, seeing and mobility. Curtis Edmonds of the nonprofit Disability Rights New Jersey recently gave a presentation at New Community Gardens Senior where he introduced residents to a number of senior-friendly devices—also called assisted technology—such as amplified telephones (large contrast buttons), television remote controls (also with larger buttons), single hand nail clippers, hair combs with extra-long handles (for those with arthritis), electronic canned good identifiers and more. Gardens Senior resident Anita Moore, on right, looks through a magnifying glass with an attached light.
There’s something about Doreatha Wertz that compels residents at New Community Commons Senior to pull up a chair and turn her office into a therapy session.

Sharon Pleasant-Jones, director of Health and Social Services, noted that Wertz, as a care coordinator, “is a team player with the vision of NCC deeply embedded in her heart.”

“Her quiet, self-assured demeanor is misleading at times, because she possesses a heart of gold. Doreatha goes out of her way to assist the staff, residents and myself with whatever needs to be done,” said Pleasant-Jones.

Residents of Commons Senior, located at 140 South Orange Ave. in Newark, appreciate the time that Wertz takes to assist them, whether with food stamps and public assistance or medical paperwork.

“She takes time with you. She listens,” Henrietta Myrick, 59, said. “There are no words for her, really.” “She’s real patient with people,” 74-year-old resident Madelyn Derrick said.

“I’ll tell them I’m not a therapist but I’ll help and I’ll listen,” Wertz said.

Wertz has been at Commons Senior for five years but her time working at New Community stretches for more than 15 years. A Newark native, Wertz said she moved in to the family units on Bruce Street (green doors) at New Community when she was 10 years old.

Before joining NCC in 2000, Wertz was an autopsy technician, certified phlebotomist and a lab technician. She wanted to become a mortician at one point. Instead, Wertz was hired at New Community as part of the Ryan White Meals on Wheels Program. After a few years, she worked in a capacity similar to that of a care coordinator under the outreach care management with the Essex County Division of Senior Services. Instead of being based at a building, as she is now, Wertz visited seniors and helped them locate services, handle prescription medications, open mail and more.

Now that she is based at one location, Wertz has gotten to know many in her building as residents and friends.

“First I get greeted at the car,” Wertz said with a laugh, describing a typical day that starts before she even has a chance to set foot inside the office.

“You get to know what’s going on just by listening,” she said of her residents.

Wertz has one adult daughter, Dametria, who works at the Family Service Bureau of Newark.

Registration is open for the New Community Youth Services Summer Camp, which runs from June 27 to August 12. This year’s camp will focus on a new academic theme of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), according to Edward Morris, director of Youth Services. Weekly field trips will include destinations such as the Liberty Science Center, Sony Wonder Technology Lab and New York Hall of Science, Morris said. The emphasis on STEM-related activities will provide campers with an educational experience for seven weeks during the summer that helps bridge the gap while school is out of session. Many Newark Public Schools have implemented STEM initiatives into the curriculum.

“This summer we will be implementing a STEM Program as part of our academic enrichment component,” Morris said. “It is essential that the campers continue to learn while they are on summer vacation and we try to make that learning a fun and engaging experience,” he said. The camp, which is open to students ages 5 to 13, takes place at the NCC Neighborhood Center at 56-68 Hayes St. in Newark. To register for Summer Camp, download a registration form at http://bit.ly/1WK8b0H or contact Edward Morris at emorris@newcommunity.org.
New Community CEO Says ‘Thank You’ To The ‘Faces’ Of Agency

When clients walk into Harmony House, they first meet Elisabeth Barahona. When a job seeker visits the Workforce Development Center, he or she is helped by Martha Davis. When parents walk into Community Hills Early Learning Center, they are welcomed by Tyrone Green.

Administrative professionals at New Community—who include many other employees in addition to Barahona, Davis and Green—play a major role in providing a first impression as well as positive ongoing experience to those who receive services at the NCC.

“When people see the faces of New Community, it’s you,” Richard Rohrman, CEO of New Community, said. “It’s you who wear the face of New Community and you do it so well,” he added.

Rohrman, as well as other NCC officials, expressed heartfelt thanks during the Administrative Professionals Appreciation Luncheon on hosted by the Human Resources department.

Human Resources Director Ben Galvez thanked the administrative staff for routinely going above and beyond to help their departments run smoothly. “Thank you for staying longer than you have to. Thank you for your patience,” he said.

When people visit the administrative offices at New Community, said. “It’s you who wear the face of New Community. It’s you who earn the ‘face of NCC’ award.”

“Thank you for your patience,” he said. “Thank you for staying longer than you have to. Thank you for helping your departments run smoothly.”

“Thank you for all your hard work,” said CEO Richard Rohrman to the administrative staff of NCC during their appreciation luncheon.

Continued from page 1

Each resident’s room includes a flat screen television with more than 45 cable channels.

Lillian Morales, 65, is president of the Extended Care Resident Council and said that she was thrilled to learn that the facility she’s called home for the last six years scored high marks.

“I know they have the best nurses. The nurses are very competent,” Morales said. “I’m pretty comfortable,” she added.

Previously, Extended Care was rated as an overall four-star facility, with five stars in the category of quality measures.

“I’m happy they have a five star rating. They worked hard for it,” Morales, a Newark resident, said.

Onwunaka has worked at Extended Care for about 25 years and said that the improved rating that NCC earned “builds courage and confidence” among her staff. “If I keep doing good, I could achieve more,” she said of the message that the five star rating sends to employees.

“I was very happy. I want my staff to have the fulfillment that their hard work eventually paid off,” Onwunaka added.

In addition to acknowledging the role of the nursing home’s residents and staff, Onwunaka emphasized that each family member plays an important role in creating a successful plan of care for the residents.

“It took everyone—residents, families and staff—in order to get it done,” Onwunaka said of achieving the five star rating.

“I think they deserve a big applause,” she said of the families who entrust their loved ones to the caring and professional staff at New Community Extended Care Facility. “It takes a lot for somebody to trust you,” she said.

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<th>NCC OURANKS NEWARK AREA NURSING HOMES IN OVERALL RATING</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NEW COMMUNITY EXTENDED CARE FACILITY</strong></td>
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<td>266 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE, NEWARK, NJ, 07103</td>
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<td><strong>5 STARS</strong></td>
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<td>New Grove Manor</td>
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<td>Sinai Post-Acute Nursing and Rehab Center</td>
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<td>New Vista Nursing and Rehabilitation Center</td>
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<td>Forest Hill Healthcare Center</td>
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<td>Park Crescent Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center</td>
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<td>Alaris Health at St. Mary’s</td>
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<td>Inglesmoor Rehabilitation and Care Center of Livingston</td>
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<td><strong>3 STARS</strong></td>
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<td>Source: Medicare.gov Nursing Home Compare</td>
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Instructed the students to roll their balls into a classroom and helping teachers infuse their lessons with creativity. Watson spent five weeks at CHELC bringing the arts into the classroom and helping teachers infuse their lessons with creativity.

Holmes is part of NJPAC’s Early Learning Through the Arts program where she relies solely on the power of imagination to keep a captive audience of 4-year-olds.

Holmes led an interactive 30-minute session where she relied solely on the power of imagination to keep a captive audience of 4-year-olds.

For the pre-kindergarten students of Room 1 at Community Hills Early Learning Center, goop was an imaginary object that she dubbed as “goop.”

The lessons that Holmes shared were based on the Wolf Trap Foundation For the Performing Arts, which uses the arts to improve learning. Based in Vienna, Va., Wolf Trap provides teachers with “arts-integrated tools” to make lessons come alive.

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The concept of using one’s imagination helps students to grasp abstract concepts. The exercise prepares young minds to absorb concepts such as math and science as their education advances.

In another activity, Holmes led the students in a quick exercise of pouring an imaginary glass of water. Step one, get a glass. Step two, open the refrigerator door. Step three, take out the water pitcher. Step four, close the door. Step five pour water. Step six, drink the water.

“Just give them something exciting to think about,” McLean said.

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“Ahhh!” the group of students chorused as they quenched their imaginary thirst.

McLean said she plans to adopt the goop exercise as a practical go-to activity when students have a few minutes before transitioning to another lesson or for a rainy indoor day.

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Social Security News

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Q: How do I apply for disability benefits? And, how long does it take to get a decision after I apply for disability benefits?

A: You can apply for disability benefits online at www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/apply.html. Getting a decision on your disability application usually takes three to five months. The time frame can vary depending on:

• The nature of your disability;
• How quickly we can get your medical evidence from your doctor or other medical source;
• Whether it’s necessary to send you for a medical examination; and
• Whether we review your application for quality purposes.

Q: When a person who has worked and paid Social Security taxes dies, are benefits payable on that person’s record?

A: Social Security survivors benefits can be paid to:

• A widow or widower — unreduced benefits at full retirement age, or reduced benefits as early as age 60;
• A disabled widow or widower — as early as age 50;
• A widow or widower at any age if he or she takes care of the deceased’s child who is under age 16 or disabled, and receiving Social Security benefits;
• Unmarried children under 18, or up to age 19 if they are attending high school full time. Under certain circumstances, benefits can be paid to stepchildren, grandchildren or adopted children;
• Children at any age who were disabled before age 22 and remain disabled; and
• Dependent parents age 62 or older.

Even if you are divorced, you still may qualify for survivors benefits. For more information, go to www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: Will my son be eligible to receive benefits on his retired father’s record while going to college?

A: No. At one time, Social Security did pay benefits to eligible college students. But the law changed in 1981. We now pay benefits only to students taking courses at grade 12 or below. Normally, benefits stop when children reach age 18 unless they are disabled. However, if children are still full-time students at a secondary (or elementary) school at age 18, benefits generally can continue until they graduate or until two months after they reach age 19, whichever is first. If your child is still going to be in school at age 19, you’ll want to visit www.socialsecurity.gov/schools.

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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Cora Farmer

Cora Farmer is the seventh floor captain at New Community Douglas Homes, where she has lived for 13 years.

“My day be full,” Farmer said. “It’s a dull life but I enjoy it—it keeps me busy,” she added.

Care Coordinator Luz Toro noted that Farmer treats everyone that she encounters with a caring attitude.

“Mrs. Farmer brightens anyone’s day with her kindness and ability to help others,” Toro said.

Originally from South Jersey, Farmer grew up in Bridgeton and lived there with her family through high school.

In 1955, she came to live with her sister in Newark after finding little work in South Jersey. She grew up as one of 12 siblings. “It was fun. We learned how to share,” Farmer, now 77, said.

Early on, Farmer had enrolled in a vocational training program to become a nurse’s aide at New Community but decided not to pursue the field due to her fear of needles. Instead, she worked for 14 years in retail management at a women’s clothing store. She retired in 2004.

A mother of three grown children, Farmer said she helped to raise eight other children besides her own. “That was my life—working and raising children,” she said.

In her free time, Farmer enjoys playing bingo and cooking Italian cuisine.

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vnaHealth Group

Weingarten-Asociado Healthcare & Hospice

Wellness Tip
June 2016

Sun Safety

Sunglasses

Wearing sunglasses reduces the risk of cataracts. Sunglasses protect your eyes and eyelids from UV rays.

Hat

Wear a hat with a brim all the way around to protect your face, ears and neck.

Clothing

Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when possible. Tightly woven fabrics offer the best protection against harmful UV rays.

Shade

Protect yourself from the sun’s UV rays by seeking shelter under an umbrella or tree.

Sunscreen

Apply sunscreen before you go outside (even on cloudy and cool days.) Opt for SPF 15 or higher. Put a thick layer on exposed areas and ask a friend’s help for those hard-to-reach places.

Always check with your doctor, health professional or dermatologist before spending long periods of time in the sun.

For more information about VNA Health Group services & programs, please call 800.862.3330 or visit www.vnahg.org
Man Turns His Life Around, Commits To Earning GED

For Hugh Townsley, using drugs and alcohol had become a way of life. But his life has a new direction now and working towards earning his GED symbolizes a major milestone.

Townsley enrolled in the GED course at the New Community Adult Learning Center in October of 2015. He had dropped out of Lakeland High School in his hometown of Wanaque before junior year. According to GED Instructor Virginia Lewis, Townsley has been working hard to make up for lost time.

“He’s attendance is near perfect, his TABE scores have accelerated, and he is very attentive in class,” Lewis said. “I believe Hugh has a solid future in all his endeavors, as he is very determined!”

But to build his future, Townsley has had to deal with his past. Most recently, Townsley resided at Urban Renewal Halfway House in Newark to finish serving his sentence after his 2013 arrest for eluding police under the influence of narcotics. Formerly an addict, Townsley, 43, says he has been clean since then.

“I hate to keep looking back at what I did but I have to in order to keep going forward,” he said.

As a young man, Townsley became involved in the bar scene and said that his life soon spun out of control. On June 27, 2013, Townsley was arrested after leading police on a high speed chase in Morris County. The pursuit lasted 15 minutes, involved police from multiple towns, and resulted in Townsley driving on the wrong side of the road, knocking over barriers, and ended with officers tackling Townsley to the ground. Four motorists were hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries, according to a news report.

Townsley, who was 40 at the time, was charged with eluding police while under the influence of narcotics and sent to prison. In an interview, Townsley said he was high on cocaine and also transporting a large amount of the drug.

After he was incarcerated, Townsley said that he quit drinking and drugs. “I needed this—my life was out of control,” he said. Also, he made earning his GED before returning home his top priority.

Townsley said he dropped out of school after getting involved in a relationship and becoming a father at age 16. He got a job at Hackensack Roofing but despite reliable work, his life was still unpredictable. Townsley eventually split with his high school sweetheart and met another woman whom he married. But a mere 24 hours after getting hitched, he decided to end the marriage.

After serving part of his sentence at Northern State Prison, Townsley was transferred to Urban Renewal Halfway House in Newark. A caseworker there told him about New Community and Townsley signed up for the GED and began taking classes last year.

Townsley said that he plans to return to his former roofing job after completing his sentence at the halfway house. But he also wants to be realistic about other employment options if, for instance, he is physically unable to work roofing.

“The diploma was definitely standing in my way,” he said. He credits Lewis, his instructor, for helping him prepare for the exam, which he plans to take in June. “She’s been nothing short of a blessing to me,” Townsley said.

One goal that Townsley says he has is to partner with local police departments and their D.A.R.E. programs to speak at schools and offer a real life testimonial to students about the consequences of drug addiction. Townsley said he looks forward to returning home to West Milford and reuniting with his wife, Michelle. He has four biological children and four stepchildren.

‘Simple Cooking With Heart’: Healthy Eating Demo By Chef Delilah

Delilah Winder, who goes by Chef Delilah, prepared a healthy and quick dessert at New Community Commons Senior.

CHOCOLATE AVOCADO PUDDING RECIPE

Two servings

2 ripe avocados
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1/3 cup coconut milk
2 tsp vanilla extract
1 pinch ground cinnamon

Place all ingredients in a blender or food processor and blend until smooth. Refrigerate to chill or serve immediately.

Source: Modified from allrecipes.com.

Residents enjoyed a complimentary healthy lunch provided by Guardy’s Pharmacy in Newark.

Hugh Townsley says he hopes to share his story through D.A.R.E., an anti-drug education and awareness program.

It’s not your typical recipe for dessert, but Chef Delilah Winder wants you to give chocolate avocado pudding a taste test.

It’s an easy, blender-ready mix of cocoa powder, avocado and coconut milk, plus a dash of cinnamon and vanilla extract for flair. The result? A creamy concoction that nutritionally schools the Snack Packs that used to fill your lunchbox.

No artificial add-ons, just fresh and natural ingredients. That’s the mantra that she lives by.

“You need to go the whole food route,” said Chef Delilah, a South Jersey-based culinary wonder woman who previously owned restaurants for 28 years.

Chef Delilah recently partnered with the American Heart Association and New Community’s department of Health and Social Services to host a healthy cooking demonstration dubbed, “Simple Cooking With Heart,” at New Community Commons Senior in Newark.

Margaret Cammarieri, regional vice president of Multicultural Initiatives and Health Equity for the American Heart Association, introduced Chef Delilah and urged seniors to adopt simple heart-healthy habits, such as reading nutrition labels and exercising portion control.

“We have to be open to that,” Cammarieri said.

Before she whipped up a healthy dessert, Chef Delilah addressed important healthy eating topics with the seniors and disabled adults in attendance.

Eating healthy doesn’t have to be expensive, either, she noted. One cost-saving tip that she recommended to help lower sodium intake is to purchase greens (lettuce, kale, collard greens, etc.) as whole produce instead of chopped and bagged. Packaged and processed foods, even if they are raw, will result in sodium being added as a preservative, she explained.

For Chef Delilah, her relationship with food is part of her heritage. She grew up with the culinary influence of her grandmother and later attended the Restaurant School, set up a shop at Reading Terminal Market in Center City Philadelphia and then opened a Southern-themed restaurant, according to a report on BET.com.

When a woman at the cooking demo asked Chef Delilah about whether yellow rice is healthy, the chef’s recommendation was this: “Do brown rice, put turmeric and your doctor will be happy with you.”

Turmeric, noted Chef Delilah, has powerful anti-inflammatory benefits.
University Hospital is Now Monitoring Product Safety

University Hospital (UH) has been invited to join a national study, with support from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, on product safety. The hospital will collect data on emergency department visits that are caused by product-related injuries. UH is one of 96 hospitals nationwide that is participating in the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS).

“University Hospital was chosen because it is home of the highly regarded New Jersey Trauma Center, a busy Level 1 center serving a densely populated area,” explains Robert Lavery, Manager of the Trauma Registry at UH. “And also because of our ongoing interest in injury prevention.”

As an NEISS hospital, UH will collect and report on specific product-related injuries. This will serve as a valuable research tool that can help identify public health problems associated with such injuries. It also provides a wealth of information that can be used to determine product recalls and/or changes that will make a product safer.

The primary goal of this important national public health initiative is to produce safer products. Here is an example. Statistics revealed an alarming incidence of children under 5 being poisoned because they confused baby aspirin with candy. Regulations were then put in place to reduce the number of baby aspirin in each bottle. And, when hospitals reported a growing number of young teens were being injured in ATV accidents, a new law made it illegal for anyone under 16 to operate one.

Anita Puran, Assistant Trauma Registry Coordinator, described a recent trauma center patient. A two-year-old, who was riding a tricycle ran into a chest of drawers that had a television on top. Everything toppled over on the child. “Our first job was to attend to the child’s injuries. But then, because of this program, we asked questions to get information about the tricycle, the chest and the TV,” she added. “Perhaps one of them contributed to the accident.”

The UH team completed two days of training with experts from the NEISS. They expect to collect statistics from 7,000 to 8,500 patients each year to contribute to the national database. A grant from the Consumer Product Safety Commission will cover much of the cost. The information itself will be invaluable.

Calendar of Events

June 2016

Every Monday
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Milk and Cookies
Lactation Support Group
UH Room F-425

Every Wednesday
10 a.m. - Noon
Postpartum Support Group
ACC Building
140 Bergen St.
Newark

Every Thursday
10-11 a.m.
Sweet Talk
Diabetes Self-Management Education Program
UH Room F-1627

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Financial Opportunity Centers From PA, NY, RI Convene At NCC

There is power in numbers—especially if you want to hone your skills.

New Community played host to a dozen agencies hailing from New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and New Jersey that all recently launched Financial Opportunity Centers (FOCs) and are looking for ways to best serve those who walk through their doors.

FOCs are career and personal finance centers that offer services such as financial coaching, employment services, credit counseling and access to income supports to low and moderate income families with the end goal of building their wealth.

“An FOC is not a place, it’s a model. It’s the bundling of services together to (achieve) a greater impact,” said James Crowder, program officer at Philadelphia LISC, one of four Philadelphia-based organizations that visited NCC for the regional gathering.

New Community officially opened its Financial Opportunity Center on February 23 at the Workforce Development Center, 274 South Orange Ave. in Newark, with funding provided in part by a grant from the Nicholson Foundation and support from Greater Newark LISC, which organized the daylong FOC event. LISC has a network of about 80 FOCs across the U.S. that are “embedded in local community organizations that are trusted,” according to its website.

CEO Richard Rohrman highlighted how New Community’s new FOC brings together existing resources at NCC, such as the job training programs, one-stop Family Resource Success Center and services at the New Community Federal Credit Union.

“The FOC dovetails into what we’re doing perfectly,” he said.

Nursing Home Celebrates Adopt A Resident Day

By Robert Smolin, Extended Care Administrator

New Community Extended Care Facility celebrated Adopt A Resident Day on Wednesday, May 11, 2016. Adopt A Resident Day was part Extended Care’s way of marking National Nursing Home Week, May 8 to 14.

This year’s theme for National Nursing Home Week was, “Everyone is family here.” The theme fits quite well with Extended Care’s Adopt A Resident Day, when the staff of ECF invite all NCC employees to spend time with our residents. Adopt A Resident Day has been a long tradition at Extended Care, thanks to Elizabeth Brookins, who has carried on this tradition since she became director of Recreation 24 years ago.

Ms. Brookins coordinated the day’s events, with help from the activities staff, nursing department, social services, business office, admissions, chaplains, dietary, dietitian, housekeeping, maintenance and laundry staff.

During the previous week, all NCC staff were encouraged to sign up and choose several residents to adopt. On Adopt A Resident Day, many of the nursing staff brought home-cooked meals for their residents. Others purchased food from restaurants and some staff purchased gifts, such as clothing, for their residents. This is a significant day for residents as many have no family, friends or significant others to visit them.

Of the 120 residents at ECF, all 120 received a gift and enjoyed a great feast prepared by the staff. One resident said to me, “It was a wonderful day and I had such fun.”

Ms. Muobo Enaohwo, the Assistant Director of Property Management for New Community, participated by purchasing some pajamas and lotions for her resident. Ms. Enaohwo said that the day has a very positive impact both on the residents and staff. “It was a great day to volunteer your time for the residents of the facility,” she said. She plans on continuing to visit the resident throughout the year.

As Administrator, I would like to thank all the ECF and NCC staff who participated in this great tradition.
Kinship Legal Guardianship Program

Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) Family Support Group had a marvelous time recently at Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, where the group spent a day enjoying various activities. “I had so much fun I didn’t want to leave. I wanted to spend more time at the Sid the Science Kid: The Super Duper Exhibit,” said Volland. It was also an exciting day for Vonetta, who was selected to be one of the participants for the Nikola Tesla Lightning Show. There were activities for all ages.

“It was a really good experience. I was grateful that the KLG program was able to provide the trip. I think the children will always remember the fun they had at Liberty Science Center,” said Ms. Rashad.

Program Manager Mary Jenkins noted that, “Overall, it was an educational and fun day!”

The Kinship Legal Guardianship Program at the Family Service Bureau of Newark (FSB) offers services to families in need. Each year, the Kinship program helps families develop skills and gain insight that enable them to become a more stable household. Through bi-monthly support meetings, home visits and supportive services, the program serves as a resource to assist individuals like Ms. Banks and Ms. Rashad and their family to develop a support network that fosters healthy relationships.

The Kinship program supports grandparents and other relative caregivers so that children and siblings can remain within their extended families and communities. The program is open to relative caregivers living in Newark and referrals are accepted from schools, community-based organizations, faith based organizations, family members and even self-referrals.

FSB supports the caregivers, as well as their family, through the programs and resources offered at New Community. Services offered through the Kinship program include:

- Family advocacy
- Case management
- Supportive counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Linkages to legal services, support groups, workshops and training, family activities and other resources

According to Ms. Banks, “The KLG program is very good. I had the opportunity to meet new people, learn about current events and available community resources. I am extremely thankful that the program provides workshops and family trips that some of the family members may not have been able to afford otherwise.”

Kinship program families are often headed by a grandparent, older sibling, aunt, uncle, cousin or close friends. The length of the stay in the program is 12 months. No paperwork is required. Only contact information and needs must be identified. During the time in the KLG program, the family is assessed for self-sufficiency and stability.

Are you currently caring for underage relatives in your home because they cannot live with their parents? Are there children placed within your household through the Department of Child Protection and Permanency, formerly the Division of Youth and Family Services? Are you a Newark resident? Would you like to have people you can turn to for support, resources and assistance. To learn more about the Kinship Legal Guardianship Program, contact Mary Jenkins at 973-412-2056.

NJ Teens To Attend FSB’s Celebration Of Womanhood Conference: Fabulous Me On June 10

The Family Service Bureau of Newark will host its sixth annual Celebration of Womanhood Conference: Fabulous Me, on June 10. More than 250 young women from across New Jersey will attend the conference organized by FSB, an affiliate of New Community, where teens learn about leadership skills, healthy relationship building and cyberbullying, and also have an opportunity to network and attend a resource fair.

Victoria Mahand, a licensed social worker and national training specialist at One Circle Foundation, will headline the daylong conference as the keynote speaker. A graduate of Rutgers University, Mahand has spent years working with youth who have severe mental, behavioral or economic difficulties by collaborating with the public schools and court systems. She is also a member of the National Association of Social Workers.

The Celebration of Womanhood Conference is made possible by funds from the New Jersey Governor’s Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee, which is administered by the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission.

The conference, which is open to young women ages 12 to 17, is from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Seton Hall University in South Orange and will include a continental breakfast and lunch. Registration is required. For more information, email Kathy Taylor, training coordinator at FSB, at ktaylor@newcommunity.org.
Celebrating Literacy With NCC Families, Students

NCC Community Hills Early Learning Center hosted its annual Family Literacy Night to promote reading and literacy among parents and children. Family Worker Yvette Johnson coordinated the event, which transformed the activity room on the second floor of CHELC into interactive scenes from popular storybooks and featured family-friendly activities such as cooking pancakes, making insect crafts, playing with puppets and more. Each classroom donated a goodie basket that parents won as raffle prizes.

Treat Yourself

By Lesley Leslie

If you are a mother, when was the last time you did something really nice for yourself? Although Mother’s Day was in May, it was a time for your family—particularly your children—to celebrate you and do something special for you.

And I don’t forget the dads either, although many others do. Father’s Day, which this year is on June 19, never truly gets the attention that it deserves.

As a parent, you find yourself constantly sacrificing for your children when they need or want things. While it is important to be a responsible caregiver for your children, you can easily get in the habit of putting yourself last. Then one day, you look up and find that you have denied yourself for so long that you no longer believe you deserve some of the things that you want for yourself. That’s no way to live your life.

Treat yourself to something nice today! You deserve it. Pretend that it’s date night and take yourself out and spend some quality time with you. It doesn’t have to be an expensive date, just intentional. Life is what you make it.

N.J. Housing Agency Meets At NCC, Tours Newark

Continued from page 1

“Each of these projects plays a significant role in revitalizing Newark’s downtown and surrounding neighborhoods,” Marchetta, executive director, wrote in an email.

HMFA is also one of NCC’s partners for the project known as Better Life, a supportive housing development that will serve the chronically homeless, including military veterans, in Newark.

Photos of CHELC literacy celebration continued on page 12

St. Joseph Plaza served as an ideal meeting site to kick off the tour. Photos courtesy of HMFA.
Seniors At Fashion Show

Residents from New Community enjoyed lunch, entertainment, caricature drawings and a resource fair.

Residents Lillie Rivers, left, and Johnny Killbrew, right, made a splash at the Senior Fashion Show at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark.

More Scenes From Literacy Celebration

Students and staff at Community Hills Early Learning Center dressed up for character day, which featured Doc McStuffins, a Stormtrooper, pirate, Thing 1 and Thing 2, and more costumes.

Students enjoyed watching a puppet theater performance. Photos courtesy of Cheryl Mack.

Firing Up Grill At Manor Senior

Residents of New Community Manor Senior shook off the winter doldrums with a barbecue organized by Health and Social Services.

Residents enjoyed delicious food, including hot dogs and kabobs, in the warm weather. Photos courtesy of Donnette Burrowes-Williams.

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