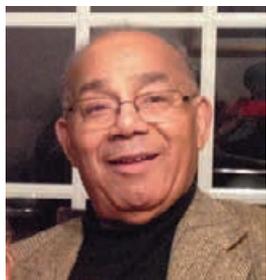


Volume 32 — Issue 10 ~ October 2015

Remembering Bob Curvin, Founding NCC Board Member, 'Loyal Son Of Newark'



Bob Curvin at a celebration of his 81st birthday with family and friends.

Bob Curvin enjoyed a good challenge, which was why he possessed such a love for Newark.

He cared deeply for his city—its neighborhoods, political power structure and progress as a postindustrial city—and dedicated his life as a civil rights leader towards the cause of social justice.

As a founding board member of New Community, Curvin crossed paths in the early 1960s with Monsignor William J. Linder, founder and current board chairman of NCC, and continued to be an enthusiastic supporter and friend of the agency. Curvin passed away on Sept. 29, 2015 at

age 81.

"I had a lot of respect for him," Monsignor said of Curvin. "He was incorruptible."

Renowned as an activist, intellectual and civil rights leader, Curvin served the Congress of Racial Equality, known as CORE, as the Newark chapter head and national vice chair, and played a critical role in responding to causes and results of the summer disorders that erupted in Newark in 1967. The ensuing chaos caused much destruction in the Central Ward but also brought about the establishment of New Community, which was formally incorporated a year later.

"He was incorruptible."

— Monsignor William J. Linder of Bob Curvin

Continued on page 9

NCC Celebrates Annual Festival, Brings Community Together



It was a perfectly crisp autumn day. Green, white and yellow balloons danced in the breeze along South Orange Avenue and Hayes Street in Newark, a corner that was transformed into a one-day street festival that brought together residents of the neighborhood and New Community staff.

Hosted by New Community, the 32nd Annual Street Festival was a fun-filled occasion for

community members—from children to seniors—who enjoyed music, entertainment and food in a family-friendly environment. Youth of all ages participated in activities offered in the Kids Zone and adults 21 and up enjoyed the beer garden.

New Community thanks all the partnering agencies, vendors, staff and volunteers who helped make the festival possible.

More photos on page 4

A Place To Call Home

Editorial

By Monsignor William J. Linder

Military veterans deserve not only our utmost appreciation and respect, they deserve to have a roof over their head and a dignified place to call home. It sounds superfluous to say, doesn't it?

I strongly believe there's a need to advocate for veterans who have found themselves homeless after returning from service, because it appears that they have been all but forgotten by our society.

These are the men and women who selflessly served our country. Let us not forget that veterans from the Vietnam War era were drafted into the military. Decisions made by Congress reverberated in our neighborhoods and left indelible marks, for instance, when well over a dozen teens from Newark's Central High were conscripted. These young men were not the family members of leaders seated in the corridors of power. They were shipped off to fight someone else's war.

The reality of war is sobering. When I was a young priest at Queen of Angels parish in Newark, the Marines requested that I accompany them to the high-rise, public housing buildings when they had to deliver the news of a death to the family. I still find that scene ironic: a priest escorting members of the fearsome U.S. Marine Corps.

Meanwhile, for those fortunate enough to return, finding a "home" has remained stubbornly elusive. At New Community, we show what true commitment to veterans looks like.

When we hear of a veteran who needs housing from doctors at the VA facilities in East Orange or Lyons, caring people like Madge Wilson, an NCC board member who also serves as our outreach coordinator, immediately acts. The man or woman who is at risk of ending up on the streets becomes Madge's No. 1 priority and she has worked with our Property Management to fast-track about a dozen vets for placement in a New Community apartment.

We are also diligently making progress on an important supportive housing complex called A Better Life, which will offer veterans and other chronically homeless individuals in Newark with a refuge. A Better Life will allow vets to live independently and also receive mental health and other support services where they reside.

Let me be clear, I am eagerly awaiting the groundbreaking of this complex because the urgency of the need. Let us reexamine our priorities when it comes to our veterans and align our actions with what we claim we value as a society.

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



New Community
Wishes To Thank

All Our Staff, Volunteers,
Vendors

And Supporting Agencies
For Your Participation In
The 32nd Annual Street
Festival

Together We Are
Building Stronger
Communities!

Around the Network

Back-To-School Backpacks For NCC Families



The Foundation for Newark's Future donated 225 new backpacks to New Community's Health and Social Services department to go towards families in need of book bags as students returned to school in September. The book bags—which came in pink, blue and gray—were distributed by Care Coordinator Dorothy Artis at 220 Bruce St. in Newark. Clockwise from top left: Relena Cooper, 9; Kaniyah Wright, 2; Care Coordinator Dorothy Artis and Shanique White, 10; Johnny Fonseca, 10; Jaidae Kearney, 3; and Anny Martinez, 11.

Starting Fresh: NJIT Students Serve At NCC



As part of an annual tradition, incoming freshman at the New Jersey Institute of Technology kicked off their first semester at college by fanning out across Newark to tackle various service projects at local agencies such as New Community. At NCC, the students rolled up their sleeves to clean up Meditation Park on South Orange Avenue, working alongside the staff of the Environmental Services department. Another group of NJIT students based at the New Community Extended Care Facility handled a variety of tasks, from delivering clean laundry to each resident's room to painting and tidying the grounds. Students from NJIT also assisted the staff at Harmony House Early Learning Center with preparing their classrooms for the upcoming school year. More than 1,000 incoming freshman at NJIT participated in First Year Service Day 2015.

See more photos on:  
facebook.com/newcommunitycorporation

Employee Of The Month: John Zaccheus



Instructor John Zaccheus has launched many careers in the auto industry from NCC's Automotive Training Center.

Like any teacher, John Zaccheus must wait to see the fruits of his labor.

What makes his job as an instructor at New Community's Automotive Training Center worthwhile is witnessing a student complete the course and launch a successful career in the automotive industry.

"It's when I see my student get a job and do well at that job," Zaccheus said of the most rewarding part of his job, which he began at New Community in 2013.

Former students such as Kennard Irving, a single dad who was hired by Gensinger Volkswagen in Clifton earlier this year, credit Zaccheus' impact on their careers.

Current automotive student Ahmad Bowers said that Zaccheus has a reputation for being an effective teacher.

"He breaks things down very easily," said Bowers, 32. "He holds up his end of the bargain."

For Zaccheus, who worked for years in the automotive industry before

transitioning into a teaching gig, equipping his students to succeed is his ultimate goal.

"I want them to excel in life," Zaccheus said. "Above the sky is the limit."

Zaccheus epitomizes what it means to be a team player, according to Director of Workforce Development Rodney Brutton, who supervises Zaccheus.

"John comes in early, stays late and sacrifices his personal time to meet the needs of our students," Brutton said. A number of recent graduates from NCC's Automotive Technician Training Program have secured jobs as technicians at Ford, Volkswagen, Infinity, Toyota, Sansone Automall and other auto retailers, according to Brutton.

"Because of John's commitment to excellence, our students are well prepared and are proud representatives of the New Community Workforce Development Center," Brutton said.

Zaccheus, in turn, credits Brutton and his colleagues in Workforce for collectively being a supportive team.

Before coming to NCC, Zaccheus said he worked as assistant service manager at Mullane Ford in Bergenfield and as the service manager at Pep Boys in Hackensack. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in automotive engineering from Virginia State University in 1986.

Born in Ibadan, Nigeria, Zaccheus is the second oldest of 13 siblings. He moved to New Jersey in 1981, leaving behind his former job as a quality control officer for Volkswagen in Nigeria. As a young father, he decided to switch to teaching so that he could spend more time with his four children and worked for the New York City Board of Education as a vocational automotive instructor. In his younger years, Zaccheus was an avid soccer player and now enjoys tennis during his leisure time.

NCC Pays Tribute On Grandparents' Day



NCC's Community Hills Early Learning Center honored its foster grandparents for the important role they fill in the lives of the students at CHELC during a special Grandparents' Day celebration. The grandparents offer students support, both physical and emotional, and provide a comforting presence in each classroom. To show appreciation, students at CHELC created cards for the foster grandparents from felt material that were displayed in the hallway, and staff prepared a delicious luncheon. From left: CHELC Director Cheryl Mack; Linette Wint, Infant Room foster grandparent; Family Worker Abigail Osorto, Joyce Blakey, Pre-K foster grandparent; Mattie Allison, Pre-K 3 Classroom foster grandparent; Gena Johnson, Toddler 2 Classroom foster grandparent; and Family Worker Yvette Johnson. For more information about CHELC, call 973-621-0852.



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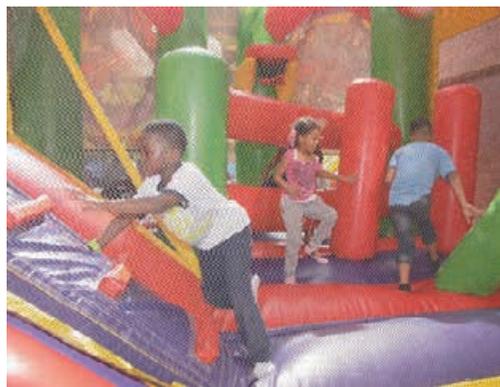
MASQUERADE PARTY WITH UNFINISHED BIZZNESS



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

NCC Celebrates Annual Festival, Brings Community Together

Continued from page 1



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

A 'Tiny Prince' Leaves Giant Mark On Newark



Carl Brinson, a longtime friend of New Community, passed away on Aug. 19, 2015.

He was affectionately called “Tiny Prince,” but there was nothing diminutive about Carl Brinson.

He earned the nickname because of his stature and courtly manner, but Brinson’s legacy in the city of Newark was anything but small.

As an advocate for human rights and affirmative action, Brinson was a friend of New Community and a member of St. Rose of Lima Church in Newark, according to Monsignor William J. Linder, founder and board chairman of NCC, who served as the pastor of St. Rose for nearly four decades.

Brinson passed away on Aug. 19, 2015, at age 97.

Brinson served as the minority business coordinator at the Newark Housing Authority Affirmative Action Office. As a staunch supporter of affirmative action, Brinson marshaled his role at the housing authority to ensure that African-Americans and other minority residents of Newark were hired for construction jobs, Monsignor said. He worked for the housing authority for 18 years, during which time NCC built or developed more than a dozen properties and employed thousands of construction workers, according to Monsignor.

As a result, Brinson went head to head with union leaders. He succeeded in advocating for minority workers with the support of leaders from the state level.

“The state respected him very much and we did (as well),” Monsignor said.

Brinson displayed a great affinity for Newark. He experienced the city’s jazz heyday and rubbed shoulders with the likes of Harry Belafonte, Ella Fitzgerald and countless others. He also lived through the rebellion of the Summer of 1967 and its aftermath.

“People look at Newark today and they think it’s a bad place. It’s not a bad place,” Brinson said in a Star-Ledger report published April 2, 2007. “It’s just that different people come here and make changes.”

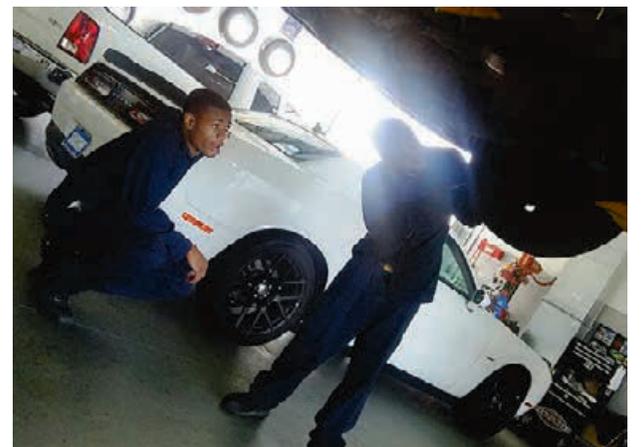
Born in Newark, Carl Joseph Alexander Brinson resided in East Orange and was a widely-respected publisher of Newark’s Black Mirror News as well as the founder and publisher of an independent news service called Trend Publishing Company, which was established in 1949 to serve the interests of the black community. He was also a columnist and feature writer for publications such as the Black Herald News, Amsterdam News and other small publications.

On Brinson’s part, the changes he effected in Newark played a significant role in New Community’s growth and now holds a place in NCC’s history, Monsignor noted.

Brinson is survived by four children: Carletta Mitchell, Carlton Keys, Marla Brinson and Tawana Brinson. His memories are also cherished by eight grandchildren, five great grandchildren and many more relatives and friends.

NCC Auto Students Tour Sansone Auto Mall

New Community Workforce Development Center toured Sansone Auto Mall recently with a group of students in the Automotive Technician Training Program. The trainees are students participating from Fast Track Academy, an alternative high school that has partnered with NCC to offer vocational training to older youth in the automotive and healthcare industries. The auto students met with management from Sansone, toured the dealership and even put their mechanical knowledge to use under the hood. *Photos courtesy of Rodney Brutton.*



Social Security News

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Q: I applied for my child's Social Security card in the hospital but have not received it. How long does it take?

A: In most states it takes an average of three weeks to get the card, but in some states it can take longer. If you have not received your child's card in a timely manner, please visit your local Social Security office. Be sure to take proof of your child's citizenship, age, and identity as well as proof of your own identity. And remember, we cannot divulge your child's Social Security number over the phone. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: Is it illegal to laminate your Social Security card?

A: No, it is not illegal, but we discourage it. It's best not to laminate your card. Laminated cards make it difficult — sometimes even impossible — to detect important security features and an employer may refuse to accept them. The Social Security Act requires the Commissioner of Social Security to issue cards that cannot be counterfeited. We incorporate many features that protect the card's integrity. They include highly specialized paper and printing techniques, some of which are visible to the naked eye. Keep your Social Security card in a safe place with your other important papers. Do not carry it with you.

Q: I've been turned down for disability benefits. How do I appeal?

A: When we make a decision on your application, we will send you a letter explaining our decision. If you do not agree with our decision, you can appeal. Appealing means you can ask us to look at your case again. You must appeal within 60 days from the date you got our decision letter. You can:

- File a disability appeal online at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/appeal and provide documents to support your request electronically. You can file an appeal online even if you live outside of the United States; or
- Visit your local Social Security office.

For more information, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Ozella Williams



Ozella Williams is known around New Community Gardens Senior for crafting and her delicious coconut cake recipe.

Ozella Williams likes to work with her hands, which means that this is a busy time of year.

When the weather turns crisp and signals the holiday season, Williams starts working on creating a variety of arts and crafts.

Her first order of business is to complete 50 holiday wreaths, which she donates each year to Abyssinian Baptist Church in Newark, where she was baptized years ago.

"You just go to work. I love working with my hands," Williams, 76, said.

Like any veteran crafter, Williams is strategic and thrifty with her materials. She can fashion a decorative basket from popsicle sticks. She's figured out which dollar store items can be artfully repurposed into something festive. For her wreaths, which grace the doors around New Community Gardens Senior where Williams resides, wire coat hangers, plastic tablecloths and pine cones are invaluable items.

"I can do Halloween decorations, I can do it all," she said. Everything, Williams noted, except for knitting. For that particular craft, she hasn't got the patience.

She's also got talent with baking and has earned a reputation in the building for whipping up a mean coconut cake for special events, according to Sister Lucy Modester, assistant care coordinator at Gardens Senior.

With her playful sense of humor, Williams often seems to be the life of the party, Modester said. "She's very entertaining," Modester added. "You'll find her surrounded with people."

Born in the small town of Lumpkin, Ga., Williams moved with her family to New Jersey at age three. Upon graduating from Central High, she attended evening classes at Essex County College for half a year before leaving for a job, and later to care for her ill mother.

Williams worked for four years as the nurse on the floor at what's now called Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital in Morris Plains. For 18 years, Williams worked at an establishment in Bloomfield that manufactured cassette and record cases. Meanwhile, she raised her son, Daryl, as a single parent and eventually stopped working due to taking medical leave for a back injury, she said.

Williams recalls specific memories about each place that she's lived in Newark. She moved into 265 Morris Ave. in 2001, the day before the September 11 terrorist attacks. "You move around until you hit the right spot," she said.

When she's not crafting, Williams said she enjoys watching sci-fi shows.



Wellness Tip
October, 2015

In honor of National Home Care and Hospice Month which will be observed in November, we're reviewing the purpose and principles of **Hospice Care**. Consider these FAQ's about the true meaning of hospice care.

Q: Does choosing to receive hospice care hasten end-of-life?

A: Hospice does not hasten or delay end-of-life. Even where there is no cure, there is much healing that can take place. Hospice care focuses on providing relief of symptoms so patients can focus on quality of life.



Q: Do hospice services end when the patient dies?

A: No, hospice is there for the entire family, including grief and bereavement support that continues for 13 months following a death. VNAHG Hospice offers free community bereavement groups that NJ residents can participate in, as well as special bereavement activities all year-round.



Q: Doesn't going on hospice care mean that a family has given up hope?

A: End-of-life hospice care means redefining hope—there may no longer be a cure but there is hope, the opportunity to be pain free and pursue long-awaited interests and activities, and to spend quality time with loved ones.



Q: Will New Jersey hospice care cost the patient and family a fortune?

A: Hospice is covered by most insurance companies, Medicare, Medicaid and commercial plans. Most HMO patients revert to Medicare for coverage.

Hospice care is our entitlement. We do have a choice at end-of-life.

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

To learn more, please visit vnahg.org/hospice-care-faqs.aspx

Spotted On The Hudson River: NCC Residents Aboard Spirit Cruise



Residents of New Community Hudson Senior recently enjoyed an afternoon aboard the Spirit Cruise, which tours the Hudson River. Accompanied by family and friends, the residents of Hudson Senior, NCC's senior and disabled adult residence in Jersey City, departed from Weehawken to take in the sights and have lunch aboard the Spirit Cruise. The outing was free for seniors and sponsored by Hudson County. *Photos courtesy of Tao Ho.*

Walking The Talk: NCC Medical Director Ditches Junk Food, Slims Down



A new look: Dr. Nicholas Guittari, New Community's medical director, recently lost nearly 30 pounds after adopting a healthier lifestyle.

The bagginess of his work attire speaks volumes.

But Dr. Nicholas Guittari isn't going on a shopping spree for new, more fitted clothes just yet. He still believes he can shed a few more pounds, for the sake of his health.

Guittari, New Community's medical director, recently underwent a visible transformation after making changes to his daily diet and exercise habits.

He walks at least two miles a day by opting to take the stairs instead of the elevator at work. His meals are comprised of healthy options like

grilled chicken salad, nuts and dry cereal. He's ditched the junk food, including the six liters of soda he guzzled daily.

As a doctor, he's now walking the talk when it comes to his health. However, it took a major health scare to set him straight.

Over Memorial Day weekend, Guittari, 55, said he felt heart palpitations that would not go away. He arrived at the hospital flushed and saw a cardiologist who performed a stress test. His blood pressure was measured at 200/100, which was well above the norm. At 5-foot-11, he weighed 198 pounds. The doctor told Guittari that he needed to lose weight.

"Lose weight? What do you mean?" Guittari said. He soon decided to take the advice.

Step by step, Guittari said he began making wiser choices. He immediately stopped eating out at McDonald's or pizza joints, which were his staples previously. Instead, he eats more fish and vegetables. At work, instead of distracting himself with candy, he pops chewing gum. Junk food is no longer kept at home. He weighs himself twice a day to keep tabs on his progress.

And four months later, the progress is remarkable. Sharon Pleasant-Jones, director of Health and Social Services, called him a "good example" of making positive changes.

"When he got a health scare, he immediately went into action," she said. Guittari said he now weighs between 168 to 174 pounds and dropped four pant sizes.

Bernice Fitzpatrick, a resident of New Community Associates who visits Guittari for appointments at the senior building's health clinic, said she was proud to see her doctor change old habits, such as his overconsumption of soda, which she reminded him about regularly.

"He was drinking Pepsi all the time," Fitzpatrick, 69, said. "If you tell me what to do, you gotta do what I ask you."



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Feeling, Looking Good: Former Harmony House Residents Pamper Current Families



Sisters Who Amplify Greatness (aka SWAG) hosted an empowerment event for young girls who live with their families at New Community Harmony House, a transitional housing facility in Newark for homeless families. SWAG Founder Claudette Craig, a former Harmony House resident, organized the special day, which featured a Mary Kay consultant who provided the young ladies with a skin care exercise. Mothers from Harmony House also received giveaways such as free movie tickets and gift cards for free hairdos at D'Personal Touch Salon and Spa. Also on hand was a barber from Million Dollar Cuts, Alonzo Ward, himself also a former resident, who gave free cuts to young men at Harmony House. *Photos courtesy of Lisa Chavis.*

Remembering Bob Curvin

Continued from page 1

“He really believed that Father Linder and the people around him had a vision for the city. It was a vision of supporting children, older people, housing, employment—a total village approach of finding ways to enable people to have their dreams,” Patricia Curvin, his wife, said.

Curvin demonstrated fearless leadership when it came to battling discrimination in key areas such as employment and police brutality, said Richard Cammarieri, a friend of Curvin and director of Special Projects at NCC.

Under Curvin’s leadership, CORE organized several dozen activists to occupy telephone booths and wield signs at Newark airport, protesting the racially discriminatory hiring practices of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, a subsidiary of AT&T, in the 1960s. The protest got Bell executives to pay attention.

“He was very attuned to the need to have dynamic leadership but within the framework of an organization that could move things forward,” Cammarieri said.

A self-described “elder of the Newark story,” Curvin was born in Newark, grew up as a child in Belleville and then attended college at Rutgers Newark. He resided in Newark ever since returning from the military in the 1950s, except for his time in graduate school at Princeton University.

Curvin previously served as the head of the Ford Foundation’s Urban Poverty Program from 1988 to 2000. He was also a member of the editorial board of *The New York Times* from 1978 to 1984, among his other accomplishments.

Despite having many accolades to his name, Curvin was easy to approach and eager to engage in a dialogue. Discussing his city, of course, was a source of endless conversation.

“He was not into small talk. He really liked to chew on an issue,” Curvin’s wife, Patricia, said.

In his book titled *Inside Newark: Decline, Rebellion, and the Search for Transformation*, Curvin documents a critical period of Newark’s history from the mid-twentieth century through the present with the focus on the socio-economic and political challenges people of color, especially African Americans, have faced over the years. It is a seminal and landmark work exploring, explaining and analyzing his beloved city, a book which will become a large part of his own legacy.

“The passion that went into writing this book stems from the inseparability of my life and attachment to Newark, not to mention the trauma of witnessing a historic rebellion,” Curvin wrote in the book’s introduction.

In addition to his wife, Patricia, Curvin is survived by his son, Dr. Frank Curvin; daughter, Nicole; and beloved grandchildren.

14 Years Later, Remembering September 11 Heroes



NCC’s Harmony House Early Learning Center marked the anniversary of 9/11 by organizing lessons and activities for students that explained the events of the day.



HHELHC students and staff culminated their observation of the 9/11 anniversary by marching around the block with flags, posters and signs.



The focus of the day was on the heroes of 9/11, which included emergency responders who risked their lives to help rescue victims.



Even the youngest HHELHC students, in the Infant Classroom, dabbled in the lesson by finger painting with the patriotic colors of red and blue.

Volunteers Host Family Fun Day At Harmony House



Volunteers from the Courtyard Marriott Outreach Program in Parsippany hosted a Family Fun Day for the residents of New Community Harmony House, a transitional housing facility in Newark for homeless families. The family-friendly occasion, organized by volunteer Tonya Harclerode, took place at the Harmony House playground and included face painting, balloon animals and lunch. Photos courtesy of Lisa Chavis.



Pure Freshness: NCC Seniors Flock To Farmers Market



Seniors from New Community lined their baskets with fresh greens including cabbage, spinach, basil, collard greens and more.



Zeeran Sahadatalli, a resident of New Community Associates, checks out the eggplants at the farmers market hosted in the parking lot of her building.



Organized by the Essex County Division of Senior Services, the farmers market provided NCC seniors with \$20 vouchers to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.



A woman purchased plums at the farmers market.



New Community Commons Senior resident Larry Coley, left, fills his basket with produce including carrots and greens.



Seniors from NCC perused a variety of sweet potatoes, yams and regular potatoes offered at the farmers market.



The produce at the farmers market came from Matarazzo Farms, a family-owned farm based in Belvidere and North Caldwell.



Sisters Anna Sherman, left, and Victoria Britt, right, both residents of New Community Associates, explore the different types of peppers for sale.



New Community Adult Learning Center

563 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey 07107

(973) 558-5536

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

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Sábados:
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Computadora – Nivel Básico e Intermedio

Sábados: 9 AM a 12 PM o 12 PM a 3 PM

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

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

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Serenity Prayer Remix: It Is What It Is!

By Lesley Leslie



Many decades ago, Alcoholics Anonymous and several other 12-step recovery programs adopted the well-known “Serenity Prayer,” written by the American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. Although there are several stanzas to this well-known prayer, it is the first three sentences that have become recognized as one of the most sincere and impactful ways to deal with addiction, despair and many of life’s uncertainties:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.

Fast forward to the 21st century and we see that even with modern advances in technology, we still live in a world where the more things change, the

more they remain the same!

The Serenity Prayer helps its reader understand that there are certain circumstances in life that are simply a fact and must be accepted or dealt with as they exist. The reader must acknowledge the truth and then admit that they are powerless to change some situations that life presents. They further need to call upon a higher power (God) to give them the bravery to make the adjustments in their circumstances in places where they are legitimately able to do so. Finally, the higher power is ultimately asked to provide the person with the ability to recognize and understand where the two situations differ. That brings us to the modern-day, re-mixed version of the Serenity Prayer, the popular phrase of, “It is what it is!”

Whether you subscribe to the “throwback” version of the well-known prayer, or believe you can “get with” today’s adaptation of it, this decades-old prayer continues to provide inner peace to many who recite it.

NCC Welcomes HR Director



Ben Galvez previously worked in human resources, administration and job placement.

Ben Galvez may be a new face to many of his current colleagues at New Community, but this is not his first time working at NCC.

Shortly after graduating from then Kean College (now Kean University), Galvez worked on a project that spanned about six months where he and a team of staff at NCC researched and prepared a youth drug prevention grant.

“My impression (then) was that it was vast,” Galvez said of his introduction to New Community in the early 90s. “It was serving people on a lot of levels, from youth to seniors to children.”

Galvez officially joined New Community as director of Human Resources on September 2.

In his new role, Galvez is quickly getting acquainted with the various departments around the network. He likes the fact that as a department, HR relates to every single person working at NCC.

Human resources “touches every area of the workplace. It’s a broad spectrum of contact with an entire agency,” Galvez said.

Before arriving at NCC, Galvez worked at Covenant House New Jersey, an agency that serves homeless and at-risk youth that’s located on Washington Street in Newark. Prior to Covenant House, he also worked at Winchester Gardens, a continuing care retirement community in Maplewood, Tri-City Peoples Organization and Edison Job Corps Academy. It was at Edison Job Corps where Galvez started as a job placement specialist but then shifted his professional focus on working in administration and eventually human resources.

“We are fortunate to have Ben join the NCC family. His depth of experience working for organizations that serve the public is a great asset to New Community. We are excited to have him in this new role. Welcome, Ben!” said New Community CEO Richard Rohrman.

Born and raised in Elizabeth, Galvez is the youngest of four siblings. In his free time, he enjoys golfing and can be found playing league deck hockey twice a week.

He graduated from Kean with a degree in public administration and criminal justice, initially wanting to work as a federal investigator. However his role at the Elizabeth YMCA as director of youth programs helped shape a different career path.

The son of Cuban immigrants, Galvez is also bilingual in Spanish. He and his wife, Susan, have two children.

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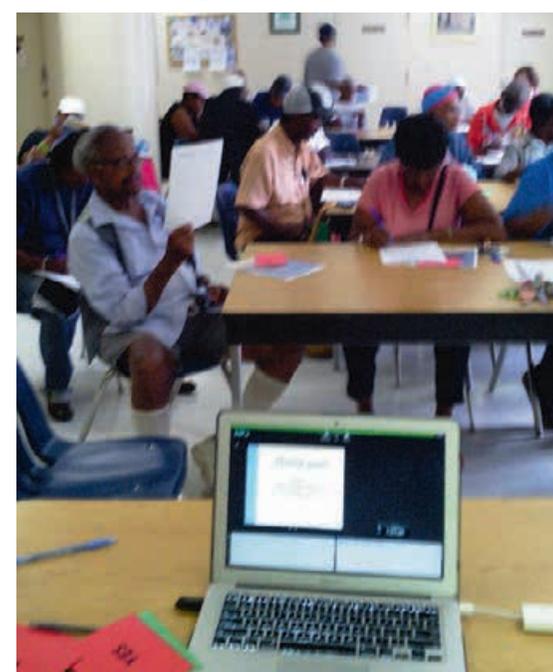
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On The Boardwalk: NCC Seniors Visit Seaside Heights



No summer is complete without a trip down the shore. That's exactly what seniors from three New Community residences in Newark did on an afternoon excursion organized by NCC Health and Social Services. Residents from New Community Associates, Douglas Homes and Manor explored the boardwalk and enjoyed the salty sea breeze. **Photos courtesy of Angeli Martinez.**

More Lessons On Financial Exploitation



Residents of New Community Gardens Senior learned tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of financial exploitation. Seniors are often targeted due to their dependence on others, diminished physical mobility and reliance on medication, among other reasons. **Photo courtesy of Sister Mary Prisca.**