



CLARION

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK

Volume 33 – Issue 8 ~ August/September 2016

ANNUAL PARADE AND FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE NCC'S LEGACY Festivities Are Part of Citywide Events Marking Newark's 350th Anniversary



File photo of 2015 parade marchers from Harmony House, a transitional housing facility for homeless families.

at the corner of South Orange and Littleton avenues.

The parade route will head east on South Orange Avenue, in front of the New Community Extended Care Facility, which earned a five-star rating earlier this year and will be celebrating its accomplishment during the event (keep an eye out for the parade float).

The festival runs from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and will include family-friendly activities such as a kid's zone—featuring a rock climbing wall, video game truck, bouncy house and pony rides—as well as musical performances, food, vendors and a beer garden (ID required).

The festival will be located near New Community Commons Senior at 140 South Orange Ave. in Newark.

New Community's parade and festival will highlight the impact that NCC has made in the major areas of community development—affordable housing, childcare, job training and healthcare.

It's a big year for the city of Newark, which is marking its 350th anniversary in 2016, and New Community's Annual Parade and Festival is playing a unique role in the city-wide festivities by celebrating the corporation's nearly five decade history.

"Out of the ashes came hope" is this year's parade theme and will take a look back on the decades of New Community's impact on the city since the agency's founding in 1968 by Monsignor William J. Linder. The parade is Saturday, September 17, and begins at 12 p.m.

The Definition Of Dedication: Robert 'Tank' Allen

By Aliyah Rawles



Known to most as 'Tank,' Robert Allen retired after working as a security officer for New Community since the agency's early days.

Heavily armored fighting machinery—that's what comes to mind when you think of a tank.

This "Tank," however, happens to be Robert Allen, a longtime security officer at New Community who retired in May and received the nickname "Tank" while playing semi-pro football years ago.

Contrary to a vehicle used in combat zones, Allen seems to only be heavily armed with good

manners.

Director of Security Prentiss Thompson said that Allen was "an officer that you could always depend on, rain or shine."

"He commanded respect and he gave respect," Thompson added.

Allen, 80, worked for numerous buildings across the New Community network—the former Homes Court, Harmony House, the Extended Care Facility, and St. Joseph Plaza.

Founder Monsignor William J. Linder said that Allen started at New Community by providing him with personal security on a volunteer basis. He accompanied Monsignor to public meetings that often got heated during a time when the city was in upheaval. "He was so faithful. That's why we hired him," Monsignor said.

Allen worked at New Community for a total of 40 years, though formally on the books he has been recognized for 30 years. Security officer Phillip Cobbs worked at New Community for nine years, including six years serving alongside Allen.

He described Allen as a very respectful person who is also funny

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The Real Price Of Prescriptions

Editorial By

Monsignor William J. Linder

For those who rely on prescription medication to maintain their health, staying alive doesn't come cheap.

A stunning new report by the AARP Public Policy Institute shows that for many Americans, medication costs about 75 percent of the average annual Social Security retirement benefit.

In 2006, the average retail cost of a one-year supply of a life-saving drug was \$5,571, according to the report. By 2013, the average cost soared to \$11,341, the report said. That's double—it's just simple math.

The AARP study should stop us in our tracks. People who need these prescription medications need help—they are not cash cows for pharmaceutical companies to ruthlessly milk.

And yet we find that these giant and politically powerful corporations are raking in billions of dollars in profits. It's not hard to see why. Let's take a look at a few examples:

Turing Pharmaceuticals jacked up the price of Daraprim, a drug used to treat parasitic infections in pregnant women and HIV patients, from \$13.50 to \$750 per pill, hoping to score a quick profit with its 5,000 percent price hike.

The cost of a popular antibiotic called Doxycycline hyclate jumped from \$20 to \$1,849 for 500 capsules.

Rodelis Therapeutics increased the price of 30 capsules of its tuberculosis drug cycloserine from \$500 to \$10,800. (The company later caved under pressure and opted to sell the rights for the drug to the Purdue Research Foundation, which lowered the price to a cool \$1,050.)

Let me be clear, these kinds of costs are unbearable for the vast majority of Americans. For seniors, the population that most heavily relies on medications, paying for a prescription can quickly become a cruel calculation of whether to pay for food, rent or other basic necessities.

I believe that we need more studies conducted—using the latest, up to the minute research—to scrutinize the rising cost of prescriptions. Some of the largest pharmaceutical companies spend roughly double on marketing and selling their meds than they do on the actual research and development, according Consumer Reports.

To add insult to injury, many of these profit-driven companies shift their earnings offshore to avoid U.S. taxes.

Finally, it should also come as no surprise that Big Pharma throws more money at elected officials than any other industry, by far. Last year, the pharmaceutical and health product industry spent more than \$230 million lobbying American politicians. They left in the dust the insurance industry, which spent \$157 million on lobbying.

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

Editor, Writer and Photographer

Eunice Lee

Editorial Intern

Aliyah Rawles

Graphic Design and Layout

RayZo Marketing Inc.

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OUR MISSION

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

New Community is recognized as:

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

Madge Wilson Receives Volunteer Of Year Award



New Community Board Member Madge Wilson was selected as Volunteer of the Year by the Health Care Association of New Jersey for her dedication to serving residents of the New Community Extended Care Facility. Wilson, who has worked at New Community for 35 years, is tireless in her efforts to secure housing for seniors, veterans and disabled adults, and goes the extra mile to furnish their apartments through donations. At the same time, Wilson is involved with several annual events such as holiday toy drives, Thanksgiving turkey distributions, Back 2 School Store and more. Wilson will be formally recognized and receive a plaque at the Health Care Association of New Jersey's 68th Annual Convention in Atlantic City on November 1. Congratulations to Madge Wilson!

Around the Network

\$25K Grant Awarded to New Community



New Community Workforce Development Center recently received a \$25,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. The check was presented to New Community CEO Richard Rohrman by Jossue Bonilla, vice president and financial center manager at Bank of America, at the NCC headquarters of St. Joseph Plaza. Rodney Brutton, director of New Community Workforce Development Center, Tracey Battles, philanthropy officer and Ronald Prysock, job developer, plus several students from Workforce job training programs also attended the check presentation. New Community thanks the Bank of America Charitable Foundation for its continued support!

Rutgers Grad Students See Newark's History Through Lens Of NCC



A history lesson of Newark isn't complete without a visit to New Community. Psychology interns and staff from Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care came for the school's annual tour of New Community and its affiliate Family Service Bureau of Newark. New Community emerged out of the civil unrest that erupted in the city in the 1960s, according to Richard Cammarieri, director of special projects, who gave an educational presentation to the group at the Martin Luther King Jr. room at St. Joseph Plaza. **Photos courtesy of Aliyah Rawles.**

Summer Jam At NCC Associates



New Community residents from eight senior buildings gathered for a Summer Jam hosted by the Department of Health and Social Services at New Community Associates. Residents of NCC's senior and disabled adult residences in Newark, Orange and Jersey City enjoyed an afternoon of camaraderie, food and music at 180 South Orange Ave. in Newark. Health and Social Service, located at 220 Bruce St. in Newark, provides a range of services to residents including an Emergency Food Pantry, educational workshops, holiday needs, transportation assistance and referrals for basic needs. For more information on Health and Social Services, call 973-623-6114. **Photos courtesy of Health and Social Services staff.**

Employee of the Month: Virginia Lewis



Virginia Lewis is an instructor at New Community's Adult Learning Center.

Virginia Lewis is determined to help students at New Community's Adult Learning Center succeed. That's why after class ends at 1:30 p.m., Lewis, who teaches the GED course, stays later to meet with any students that want extra help.

Her determination comes, in part, from the fact that her students face serious challenges.

Some students are still learning the English language. Others show up at her classroom not by choice, but because they are compelled by a parent or as part of a requirement to receive public assistance. Still others have learning disabilities that may be undiagnosed. Plus, it's not easy being

in school as an adult. (Her class ranges in age from 18 to 60 years old, she said.)

"It's an uphill battle," Lewis said. "Even for the most serious students."

According to the center's director, Cristian Barcelos, Lewis "has dedicated innumerable hours" to helping her students prepare for the high school equivalency test. She first began working at the Adult Learning Center in 2009.

"Ms. Lewis' dedication to her students is boundless and you can always find her looking for new ways to teach the material to her students as well as assisting them in finding information related to their personal lives and needs," Barcelos said.

During the first part of the day, Lewis focuses on vocabulary, grammar and essay writing, as well as social studies. In the afternoon, she focuses on math. "I write on the board non-stop," she said with a smile. "We have a lot of information to cover in nine weeks."

Before working at New Community, Lewis was a teacher at a Catholic school in Morristown and also volunteered as an ESL tutor for Literacy Volunteers of America, until they recruited her for a job.

A New Jersey native, Lewis attended Montclair State University where she graduated with a degree in art history. She became interested in literacy after she adopted her two daughters from Korea and began volunteering in their classrooms when they entered.

NCC Congratulates Olympic Silver Medalist Shakur Stevenson!



Olympic boxer Shakur Stevenson clinched the silver medal at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro, the greatest Olympic achievement for an American boxer in more than a decade. Stevenson, a 19-year-old Newark resident, is the grandson of Robin Moses, a licensed practical nurse at New Community Extended Care Facility. Stevenson paid a visit to Extended Care and spoke to residents before he headed to the Olympics. New Community congratulates Stevenson on winning the silver medal in the bantamweight division and applauds all of his hard work! **Photo courtesy of Wikipedia.**

The Definition Of Dedication: Robert 'Tank' Allen

Continued from page 1

and influential. When asked what was the best thing about Allen, Cobbs said that he would always give him advice. He would tell Cobbs that despite the use of technology and security cameras, he always needed to remain visible. "The uniform is what represents you," Cobbs recalled Allen's constant reminder to him.

Prior to coming to New Community, Allen worked at the Newark Housing Authority until retiring in 2001.

He worked various positions such as maintenance, truck driving and heavy construction, having landed the job through a referral from Joe Chaneyfield, an original board member of New Community.

Chaneyfield bestowed Allen with his enduring nickname at a point in Allen's life when he weighed 300 pounds—he played offensive guard and defensive tackle—and was significantly heavier than he is now. When Allen stopped working at the housing authority, he turned his focus entirely on New Community. He devoted a lot of his time, sometimes unpaid hours even, which exemplified his loyalty and dedication. "I broke this place in," Allen said with a smile.

Born on March 14, 1936, Allen grew up in North Carolina as the eldest of five children. His family moved to New Jersey after his father served in the Marine Corps, he said. He attended East Side High through the tenth grade and married his first wife, Sadie, at age 18. They had five children together but later separated. Allen was later remarried to Robin Blanding.

Cobbs said that Allen continues to be a positive figure in his life and thinks of him more like family than an ex-coworker. He was a "cool dude" as well as role model, according to Cobbs.



New Community Corporation

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SEPTEMBER 16TH

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CLASSIC R&B

SEPTEMBER 23RD

BRADFORD HAYES

SEPTEMBER 30TH

CAROL DEMINSKI PRESENTS JAZZ GENERATIONS



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

Young People From Around World Tour NCC International Students Witness Social Enterprise In Action

Young people from across the globe convened at New Community recently to get an inside look at a successful social venture.

More than 150 young people from nearly 20 countries participated in Fairleigh Dickinson University's Social Ventures for Sustainable Development Seminar, which drew youth from countries as far away as China, India, Pakistan and Australia to Newark, New Jersey.

"Most of the young participants in Fairleigh Dickinson University's Social Ventures for Sustainable Development program have never been exposed to civil society organizations like New Community," said Dr. Jason Scorza, Vice

Provost for Academic and International Affairs. "NCC both exemplifies the spirit of social entrepreneurship and has an enviable record of achievement serving the people of Newark," he said.

The international visitors ranged in age from 18 to mid-twenties and came to learn about New Community through a presentation organized by local teens participating in a summer program with NCC Youth Services. Afterwards, the visitors got a whirlwind tour of New Community's job training and employment programs (academic enrichment, allied health, automotive and building trades), daycare (Community Hills Early Learning Center), healthcare (Extended

Care Facility) and Financial Opportunity Center.

New Community CEO Richard Rohrman welcomed the students to St. Joseph Plaza, where the group participated in a cultural exchange with Newark youth and enjoyed lunch prepared by the staff of New Community Extended Care Facility.

Whether constructing new buildings or offering services such as healthcare, New Community exists to help inner city residents, according to Rohrman.

"New Community is about self-sufficiency," he said.



About 150 students visited four NCC sites, led by NCC tour guides Tracey Battles, Richard Cammarieri and Joann Williams-Swiney.



Skits performed by Newark youth illustrated the services that NCC provides.



New Community CEO Richard Rohrman said that, "New Community is about self-sufficiency."



The international students visited one of NCC's newest programs, the Financial Opportunity Center, where residents receive free coaching, financial literacy and more.



Children from CHELC sang song for the guests.



A light moment as the international guests visited Community Hills Early Learning Center.

Can You See Me? Nursing Home Takes Eye Issues Seriously

By Robert Smolin

More than 25 million elderly people are predicted to have vision problems by 2050, according to the American Health Care Association. With eye disease and related issues on the rise, those challenges must take center stage in long-term care settings.

According to Dr. Rohit Varma, professor of ophthalmology at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, the economic burden alone from these problems is estimated at well over \$130 billion. The loss of independence and the quality of life is significant, he says. Dr. Varma also recommends more aggressive vision screening, not only for elders but also for younger patients over age 40.

This is important, he says, for early diagnosis and treatment of conditions such as glaucoma, cataracts and age-related macular degeneration.

Good vision, including up-to date eyeglass prescriptions, also can help prevent falls and other accidents. By 2025, researchers for AHCA estimate that 8 million American will have the wrong eyeglasses, and 3 million will have glaucoma or macular degeneration.

At New Community Extended Care Facility, we have partnered with Dr. Robert Sholomon, a board certified ophthalmologist who specializes in treating the elderly and their vision problems.

Ensuring that patients can see well and have appropriate prescriptions for their eyeglasses

can be challenging, especially if they have some form of cognitive impairment.

"Good vision is essential to prevent falls and other problems and to ensure quality of life," Dr. Sholomon said. He and his team of eye doctors visit the residents at New Community Extended Care frequently and provide quality care. Dr. Sholomon helps us ensure regular vision exams for our residents, including tests for cataracts and glaucoma.

Robert Smolin is the facility administrator of New Community Extended Care Facility, a five-star rated skilled nursing home located at 266 South Orange Ave. in Newark. For more information, call 973-624-2020.

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

Apply Now: New Community Recruits For Job Training Programs



New Community Workforce Development Center recently held a recruitment session that drew more than 180 interested job seekers. Applicants can complete an online form at www.newcommunity.org and select from the following vocational programs offered at Workforce:

- Patient Care Technician
- Certified Medical Assistant
- Culinary Arts
- Construction Building Trades
- Ford Automotive Technician

All graduates will earn industry recognized credentials. Classes are starting soon so apply today at newcommunity.org. Financial aid is available. For more information, call Workforce at 973-824-6484 or email LaToya Bass at lbass@newcommunity.org.

Perfecting Grill Marks At Orange Senior Cookout

Residents of New Community Orange Senior celebrated long summer days with an afternoon cookout. With help from Care Coordinator Sister Pauline Echebiri and Property Manager Faye Harvey, residents grilled on the patio and enjoyed a buffet of side dishes and refreshments in the community room. **Photos courtesy of Donnette Burrowes-Williams.**



Bidding Farewell To Longtime Handyman



Gerald Moses, seated in rocking chair in first row, was a longtime handyman for the Department of Environmental Services at New Community and retired at the end of July. Moses, who worked for Environmental Services for 25 years, received a farewell—complete with cake and ice cream—surrounded by colleagues at the department headquarters. New Community wishes you the best in your retirement!

Landing Jobs At Port Newark



Port Newark-based employer Foreign Automotive Preparation Service, better known as FAPS, recently hired graduates such as Ashton Merritt, center, of New Community Workforce Development Center's Automotive Technician Training Program. **Photo courtesy of Rodney Brutton.**

Peach Picking With Hudson Senior



A group of residents from New Community Hudson Senior, based in Jersey City, visited Alstede Farms in Chester to pick their own peaches. **Photo courtesy of Health and Social Services.**

Social Security News

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

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

Social Security joins you and your family in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 to October 15.

We know the contributions of Hispanics can be traced to before the origins of the United States with the discovery, exploration, and naming of many places in our nation, such as state names like California, Colorado, and Texas and city names like San Antonio, Santa Barbara, and Boca Raton. Hispanics have influenced every facet of life, from language to our cultural development. Hispanics play a crucial role in American life.

The most important things to you are your family and maintaining the feeling of individuality through your language. That's why Social Security provides a website — www.segurosocial.gov — with a variety of publications and services in Spanish that are important to you and your family

If you need to apply for your first Social Security number or a get a replacement Social Security card, we invite you to read our publications Social Security Numbers for Children and Your Social Security Number and Card.

We offer a toll free number, 1-800-772-1213, which provides automated instructions for Spanish speakers. We also try to have employees available on the phone and in many of our offices who speak Spanish. However, if you need an interpreter, you can go to www.segurosocial.gov/espanol/interpreter.htm to find out more about our free interpreter services.

Just as grandparents help guide their grandchildren through life's journey, we at Social Security are with you throughout yours. The services we provide guide you through your journey from birth, with your first social security card, to your dream of a secure retirement.

You don't have to wait to find out what your retirement benefits may be. We provide the Retirement Estimator, one of our most popular online calculators, in Spanish. It offers instant, approximate estimates of your future retirement benefits. Try it for yourself at www.segurosocial.gov/calculador. Remember what your father wisely said to you: "It is up to this generation to secure our community's today and tomorrow."

Whether it's through our website, visiting one of our offices, or calling our toll free number, we at Social Security maintain our commitment of providing first-class service to the nation's growing Latino community.

To learn more, visit www.segurosocial.gov.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: CHARLES BERRY



Charles Berry spends fair-weather days working as a caddy on the golf course.

Most mornings you can bet that Charles Berry, a resident of New Community Gardens Senior, will be at the Maplewood Golf Club. It's not a love for the game that draws him to the green. It's his commitment to his job working as a golf caddy.

A sure and steady presence, 65-year-old Berry provides course knowledge and information to golfers, locates errant shots, calculates yardage and interacts with patrons of the golf club in a helpful and cheerful manner.

Berry displays that same disposition both on and off the golf course, according to Sister Lucy Modester, assistant care coordinator at Gardens Senior, located at 265 Morris Ave. in Newark.

"He is gentle. He is very hard working. He has a sense of humor," she said of Berry, who

has lived at the NCC building since 2007.

According to Berry, who many friends know as "Chuck," refraining from picking up the game of golf probably helps him to maintain his calm demeanor.

"I'd get upset and angry and quit," he said of the notoriously time-consuming sport. Rather, he said, he enjoys being outside, talking to people and, of course, making money.

At Gardens Senior, Berry enjoys playing cards with fellow residents and meets regularly with a group at the first floor community room to play spades, black jack or other card games. Berry actively participates in monthly meetings and if the chaplain is not available, he often opens meetings with a prayer.

He's been caddying for 14 years but before that, Berry worked as an inspector for U.S. Customs and Border Protection until retiring at age 52. He also previously worked for a tool and dye making company.

A New Jersey native, Berry grew up in Newark and graduated from East Side High in 1970. As a youth, Berry played football as a tight end. He has three grown children and three grandchildren.

**SEE YOU AT THE
PARADE & FESTIVAL ON
SATURDAY, SEPT. 17!**



Wellness Tip
September 2016

Preparing and Recovering from a Joint Replacement

More than 7 million Americans are living with a hip or knee replacement. Here are tips to prepare for joint-replacement surgery and to assist in recovering at home.

Preparing



De-clutter rooms, hallways and bathrooms to ensure maximum space that allows for movement in the home with an assistive device.

Remove all throw rugs or secure them with double-sided tape.



Have supportive sneakers that fit appropriately and are easy to put on and take off.

Have plenty of cold packs and/or ice to help control pain and swelling.



Recovering

Consider recovering at home. Patients recover just as fast (if not quicker) at home, compared to a rehabilitation facility.



Establish a daily home exercise program to increase strength, balance and range of motion.

A visiting PT/OT can assist with how to safely navigate the toilet, shower and car.



A visiting PT/OT can provide training on how to safely use stairs, rolling walker or a cane.

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

To Infinity And Beyond: Next Stop, Virginia State University

By Aliyah Rawles



Infinity Hedrington, on left, shows her award as an honoree of the 2016 Youth Who Uplift. File photo on right of Hedrington while she and her family lived at Harmony House in June 2014.



track team for a third year during the 2015-2016 school year. The team made it to Nationals but their victory was cut short due to graduation being the next day for most of the team, which consisted of mainly seniors.

Harmony House offers 102 units of transitional housing for the homelessness. Whether individuals have lost their jobs, or have been victims of any type of abuse, Harmony House aims to help families reach self-sufficiency. The average stay ranges from six to nine months.

Still hitting life's curves but managing to stay on track, former Harmony House resident and college-bound track runner Infinity Hedrington continues to stride towards her dreams.

During the month of June, Hedrington had a lot on her plate. She applied to colleges, prepared for prom and graduation, and her family moved

out of Harmony House, New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families.

Hedrington has certainly made big strides. Now an incoming college freshman at Virginia State University, Hedrington plans to study sports medicine and become a kinesiologist. With track still being a part of her future dreams, Hedrington served as captain of Newark's West Side High

Hedrington has overcome many challenges. While living at Harmony House, she said she would duck from buses, in attempts to hide from possible classmates seeing her come from inside the facility. But regardless of adjusting to a new living situation after becoming homeless, Hedrington has maintained nothing lower than A's and B's her entire high school career. She also graduated high school on the super honor roll with a 3.9 GPA.

Recently, Hedrington visited VSU, met the

Continued on page 12

Shopping Spree For NCC Families At 'Back 2 School Store'

New notebooks, new rulers and new calculators—that's what filled the brand new backpacks of dozens of children from New Community whose families were selected to participate in the Back 2 School Store on August 2. Madge Wilson, New Community board

member and outreach coordinator, organized families from NCC to attend the free shopping spree held in West Orange for needy families so that students would start off the new school year on the right foot. In addition to stocking up on classroom supplies, students were fitted for

winter coats, shoes, pants, shirts and other personal items at the one-day, pop-up store hosted by the National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section. New Community wishes to thank the NCJW/Essex for hosting the 7th Annual Back 2 School Store.



Families from New Community participated once again in the annual Back 2 School Store, where they get a free shopping spree.



Kaliah Gaddy, front, picks out two pairs of shoes to try on.



Mozella Collins, second row far left, with her grandchildren and extended family, after receiving backpacks, school supplies, clothing and personal items.



ShopRite of Newark owner Neil Greenstein, left, volunteered as a personal shopper and assisted Harmony House resident Shalom Rouse, right.



Both parents and children were all smiles at the Back 2 School Store, a one-day pop-up store organized by the National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section.



Sanaa Hayes, left, takes a brief pause from shopping to capture the moment with her personal shopper.



Take Control of Your Health

Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

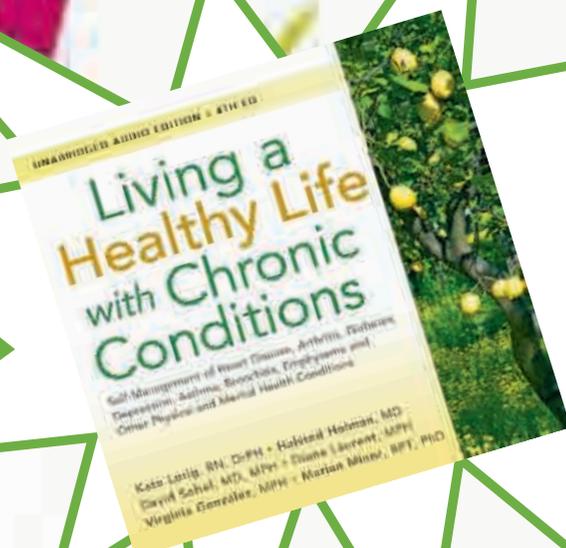
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Saint Peter's Prep Students Plunge Into Volunteer Week At NCC



Students from Saint Peter's Prep spent a week volunteering at New Community as part of a summer urban immersion. The teens had lunch with Monsignor William J. Linder, founder of NCC, who also graduated from the all-boys prep school in Jersey City.



The students learned how to use a circular saw at the New Community Workforce Development Center's Building Trades Program.



The mural outside of Harmony House got spruced up during an afternoon painting session.



Built to last: The students tested out their measuring and assembling skills at the Building Trades Program.



CEO Richard Rohrman, standing far right, provided the group with an overview of New Community's operations, which highlighted the way that New Community provides jobs to local residents and reinvests money into the community.



The teens also got acquainted with the New Community Adult Learning Center and helped tutor adult students there in the morning. Photos by Aliyah Rawles and courtesy of Saint Peter's Prep staff.

Building Trades Grad Tashera Taliaferro

By Aliyah Rawles



Tashera Taliaferro, a Newark resident, works at AeroFarms, a vertical farm startup that opened in a renovated former steel mill in 2015.

Tashera Taliaferro attributes her innovativeness to her parental upbringing. That's why it's not hard to believe that she is a perfect addition to the team at AeroFarms, vertical farm startup in Newark. Joining the company as Machine Tech 1, in April 2016, Taliaferro boasts that she is capable of solely accomplishing tasks at work that would usually require the help of four individuals. If there is one word Taliaferro describes herself as it is efficient.

Taliaferro, 35, acquired the skills that make her successful at AeroFarms through New Community Workforce Development Center's Building Trades Program in September. She graduated in December. Arriving at the Building Trades program with ambition and drive, Taliaferro remained focused and set on her dreams despite challenges. There were times where I wanted to stop, but I couldn't because I knew what I wanted," she said.

AeroFarms is an indoor farming company that uses technology to grow food in an effort to limit the exploitation of the planet's natural resources, according to the company website. With four locations in New

Jersey alone, AeroFarms says it plans to expand indoor farms across the United States and has already received 10 awards. The indoor farms grow over 250 varieties of leafy greens, including kale, arugula, and herbs.

The average day for Taliaferro at AeroFarms consists of inspecting all the machinery and ensuring that as many as 2,000 bolts are in their correct position. The only complaint she receives at work is that she twists the tools too fast. Taliaferro explained that growing up, her father would reprimand her for not twisting tools fast enough.

"I have fun at work," said Taliaferro. "I love my job." She said that she likes working with technology because, "You can't see electricity...electricity is in us. It just fascinates me. And I love figuring out the wiring...I love it."

Building Trades Instructor William Robinson taught Taliaferro that precision is important. While working, she said that she constantly reminds herself of Robinson's words: "Measure twice, cut once." Due to that, she has now become a perfectionist.

Before attending the Building Trades Program, Taliaferro attended Lincoln Technical Institute. While attending school, she also did housekeeping with University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. In the future, Taliaferro said that she wants to start a project of her own working with the homeless population to rebuild old facilities by flipping them into homes for the homeless. In doing that, she aims to not only creating a place of solace for the homeless but also teach them valuable trade skills. She plans to call this future project Total Rebuild United, or T.R.U for short.

"They really want to give back to society, but society is stopping them," she said.

Camp Finale: Backyard Party



Lights, camera, action! New Community Youth Services completed this year's summer camp with an exciting finale performance that was themed "Backyard Party."

To see more photos, visit New Community's Facebook page.

FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU OF NEWARK

Family Service Bureau Collaboration Supports Students At NCC Job Training Programs

The Family Service Bureau of Newark has partnered with New Community's Workforce Development Center to provide Student Assistance Services. FSB will be the primary counseling and intervention service provider for the Workforce Development Center's job training and employment programs (Academic Enrichment, ShopRite Partners-In-Training, Medical Assistant, Certified Homemaker Home Health Aide, Electrocardiogram Technician, Culinary Arts, Building Trades and Automotive Technician programs). The SAS is designed to assist New Community Workforce Development Center's students, families and staff to help manage the impact of a wide variety of personal and family cares and concerns that can impact a student's behavior and achievement. Many issues can negatively affect a student well-being, including those related to motivation, stress, family conflict, emotional or mental health concerns, parenting skills, substance abuse, bullying and other peer conflict.

Students will soon be able to schedule appointments with an FSB behavioral health professional to discuss issues such as self-esteem, academic motivation, family problems, depression, anxiety, self-injury, relationship issues, stress, drug/alcohol issues or any other topic. Students can be self-referred or be referred by a teachers, or administrators

SAS will be provided through the Family Service Bureau and is also available to help immediate family members develop the skills they need

to better deal with concerns in the student's life through the application of alternative problem solving techniques. SAS will be available Monday through Friday and is strictly confidential. Some of the confidential interventions and services which will be available through the SAS Program include support groups; individual, family or couples counseling; parenting group; drug/alcohol use disorder services; and coping skills/anger management. Other available interventions include:

- Faculty Support and Training and Development
- Student Educational Classes (Living in Balance)
- Care and Concern Meetings with students, parents and teachers

FSB is working with New Community's Workforce Development Center and hopes to have these services in place by Fall 2016. "The young people were engaged, asked questions, shared their personal struggles, and took a lot from the discussion," Rodney Brutton, director of Workforce Development, said after observing a recent Thursday morning class. FSB is excited to continue moving forward with this collaboration and to provide services under the SAS.

For more information, call the Family Service Bureau at 973-412-2056.

Registered Dietitian A 'Great Addition' To Extended Care Team



Franco Ferrante is a registered dietitian and came on board at New Community Extended Care Facility in October of 2015.

Food can be an effective weapon in Franco Ferrante's line of work.

As a registered dietitian at New Community Extended Care Facility, Ferrante uses the powers of protein, carbs and fats to help seniors and disabled adults at the 24-hour skilled nursing facility reach optimal health.

"They are the population that needs us the

most," said Ferrante, who officially began working at Extended Care in October of 2015.

A major challenge that Ferrante faces working with older individuals is simply keeping up their appetites. With less muscle mass and generally lower levels of activity, he explained, "They don't burn as many calories as younger adults." However, getting residents to consume enough nutrients is vital, especially as the body ages and declines. For instance, protein intake helps with the healing of wounds, according to Ferrante. Also, the body's immune system largely resides within one's digestive system.

Ferrante works closely with the nursing and dietary staff at Extended Care to assess each resident's nutrition intake. Every month, he reviews the care plan for each resident who is up for screening by analyzing their weight, special needs and overall progress in consultation with

the resident's family members.

His mother, Ferrante noted, is in her mid-70s and make his job highly relatable. "It's easy for me to understand what their issues are," Ferrante said of the residents at Extended Care.

Robert Smolin, administrator of Extended Care, noted that Ferrante began the job with "a trial by fire," having experienced the scrutiny of the state Department of Health during a rigorous on-site survey after only six weeks on the job.

"I am happy to say that he came out fighting and got through the experience easily," Smolin said. "He has been a great addition to our team. The residents like him a lot because of his knowledge about diets and his easily approachable style. The staff of ECF like him as he is a team player and is a great support to the nursing staff," Smolin added.

Before turning to the field of nutrition, Ferrante served as a peace officer for the CUNY for more than a decade. He had always had an interest in nutrition and decided to seek more intellectually stimulating work by switching careers. Ferrante shadowed a registered dietitian, did an internship and pursued his studies at the College of St. Elizabeth, where he completed 1,200 hours of clinical dietetics, community nutrition and food and nutrition education and counseling.

A Staten Island native, Ferrante moved to New Jersey in 2008.

NCC Hosts KicksUSA Community Give Back Event



Bring out the paint brushes and buckets: New Community Workforce Development Center hosted a service project for a group of interns and staff from popular shoe retailer KicksUSA. The group, who traveled from Philadelphia, learned about the history of New Community during a presentation by Director of Special Projects Richard Cammarieri. Afterwards, the KicksUSA group joined with students and staff from Workforce to paint the fencing outside several units of New Community family housing on 14th Avenue, between Littleton and Camden avenues in Newark. *Photos courtesy of Rodney Brutton.*

The Least Of These

By Lesley Leslie



The start of the new school year is just around the corner. It is time to purchase new school uniforms (the next size up, no doubt), brightly-colored book bags and lots and lots of school supplies for the school-age children in your home. While many parents will likely face long lines in their local department stores, some bargain shoppers will score deals and many more will agree that back-to-school is an exciting time of year. There is renewed resolve as you return to your regular routines and weekly schedules.

Although many children won't admit it, they too are looking forward to returning to school in the fall. It's the chance to reconnect with their school friends and catch up on everything that they did during the summer break. There is always the hope of having the "cool teacher" for their next grade, as well.

For some children though, the concerns or anxiety surrounding their return to school is less about a desire to extend the long, lazy days of summer. For those children, there is tension and even fear of returning to the secret torment of a life that consists of being bullied.

It is good idea to talk to your children about the way they treat others and how other children treat them. They should know that teasing or embarrassing another child, though not physically hitting them, is also a form of bullying. They should also understand that just because they may be "playing" when they call other children names, the person on the other end of the name calling may not receive it as funny. In fact, they may feel hurt, intimidated and even bullied.

While it may be a known fact that "children can be cruel," the adults in their lives bear the responsibility of stepping in and to not only teach them to avoid being cruel, but also model behavior that expresses compassion and respect for other people. Have a wonderful new school year!

Kicks USA Partnership With NCC Changes Lives, One Step At A Time

By Aliyah Rawles



During the six-week summer internship, KicksUSA interns participated in life skills workshops.

Newark, the largest city in New Jersey, may seem like a haven for crime. However, what many Newark natives may not know is that New Community Corporation offers various opportunities to Newark's citizens. One program in particular that New Community's Workforce Development Center offers is the Academic Enrichment and High School Diploma Program for Older Youth. This program gives students the chance to earn their high school diploma.

For Sierra White, 18, being a recent graduate of the program has turned out to be very beneficial. White began the program in February. She finished in May and received her diploma after passing the exam. As a result of participating in the program, White was referred to the KicksUSA summer internship. The partnership between urban footwear store KicksUSA and New Community is offered to job seekers between the ages of 16 to 21 and lasts a total of six weeks.

During the six week stretch, in addition to working store shifts in their assigned KicksUSA stores, the interns participate in career workshops that serve the students well beyond the program as they move on to other endeavors.

Through the internship, White has been able to build a special bond with a particular co-worker based off one commonality—the co-worker used to be an intern too! At the end of the summer program, interns who reach their weekly sales goals and are seen as positive additions to the franchise are offered employment. Seeing that a job opportunity is possible, White hopes that KicksUSA will keep her on the job as a sales associate after the program ends.

"Sometimes you have to just go for it," said White.

Aaron Scott, a KicksUSA store manager, led one of the weekly workshops designed to equip the interns with life skills, interview tips, financial literacy and coaching, and more.

"Excuses are tools of the incompetent," Scott said to the group, challenging them to take ownership of their summer experience.

White said she is happy with her internship and believes that New Community—through earning her high school diploma and gaining a summer of retail experience—can continue to aid her in the accomplishment of her career goals.

Aliyah Rawles is a summer intern at the Clarion through a partnership with Rutgers R U Ready For Work.

The New Community Clarion
233 West Market Street
Newark, NJ 07103
www.newcommunity.org

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To Infinity And Beyond: Next Stop, Virginia State University

By Aliyah Rawles

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track coach, and her future Virginia teammates. She will be a great addition to the team after having gone to Penn Relays twice, and heading a nationally qualifying team. While there, she was given the opportunity to be critiqued by the track team on her speed. The team gave her some pointers and told her how she'll have to practice three times a day, including between classes. She plans to begin waking up early in the morning to train her body for the heavy workout schedule she'll have in the coming school year saying, "I know what I need to do now."

Breaking the 55m and 100m dash records for her high school, Hedrington hopes to continue crushing records, but now on the college level. She lives for the "rush that you get" from coming off the curve. She moved to campus on August 5.

Hedrington has received honors such as the 2016 Youth Who Uplift Award and a letter from Senator Ronald L. Rice, all of which she described as "overwhelming"—the honors, being the captain of the track team and handling her personal issues. Her parents, Michelle and Rudolph Jr., said that the reason why their daughter has been able to achieve so much despite the odds is due to the fact that, "God got her." They continually expressed their support for their daughter. Her family moved out of Harmony House to give Hedrington the opportunity to have friends over and to look for a place of their own close to Virginia.

Even with all this success, she still needs help paying for her tuition at Virginia State University. Along with aid and grants, the majority of her tuition is covered, but she needs to come up with the other portion soon. Hedrington's family has created a Go Fund Me account to look for additional help in financing her education. They are still applying for scholarships to help lessen the burden.

NCC Summer Camp: Go For The Gold!



More than 100 students participated in New Community Youth Services 2016 Summer Camp, which crossed the finish line on a golden note. In the spirit of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, staff organized a series of Summer Camp Olympics activities for the students, who ranged in age from 5 to 13. The seven week camp, located at the NCC Neighborhood Center at 56-68 Hayes St. in Newark, included weekly field trips and activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, and academic enrichment. Contact Youth Services at 973-242-7934.

