



# The New Community CLARION

Serving the People of the New Community Network

Volume 36 - Issue 10 ~ November 2019

## NCC Remembers Retired Executive Chef with Memorial Mass



**Anne Marie Ventura, left, and Joyce Hessemer, two of Joe Rodriguez's daughters, remember their father during the Memorial Mass held in his honor at St. Joseph Plaza Sept. 27.**

New Community held a Memorial Mass remembering Joe Rodriguez, who served as the executive chef at the organization for nearly 33 years. He had retired in January and passed away Aug. 10 at the age of 84. Rodriguez's family members, friends and colleagues gathered at St. Joseph Plaza Sept. 27 to honor and remember him.

"Joe's Memorial Mass and reception was a beautiful, warm gathering of friends and family," said New Community CEO Richard Rohrman. "We enjoyed each other's company and shared stories that were both funny and underscored Joe's seemingly bottomless kindness and compassion. He was a great man who went about his goodness quietly and without any fanfare. We will miss him."

Father Beatus Kitururu led the mass and pointed out that Rodriguez was always smiling, citing photos of him in the room.

"Now that smile tells you the personality of the person. He's a person full of faith," he said. "Joe went through some very difficult times but you can see he is always full of smiles. Because all things are good for those who love God."

New Community Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson called Rodriguez special.

"Joe was a great person. He never said no to anyone," she said, citing the many Thanksgiving meals he made for those in need over the years. "He never complained about anything."

Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka worked with Rodriguez for 28 years. She talked about his dedication to the nursing home and its residents, explaining that he never missed Thanksgiving or Christmas, he didn't call out sick, he would come to the facility in snowstorms and that he was dedicated to his job even when he was caring for his late wife when she was ill.

"So for the family members that are here today, on behalf of [late NCC Founder] Monsignor [William J. Linder] and the entire, hundreds of thousands of residents that Joe fed over so many years, we really thank you," she said.

NCC Director of Mission Frances Teabout told those in attendance

**Continued on page 4**

## Extended Care RN Credits NCC for Helping Her Achieve Success



**Joyce Misiani completed her studies this summer to become a registered nurse. She is grateful to New Community for helping her during a difficult time in her life, hiring her to start her career in health care and making it possible for her to become an RN. She has worked at Extended Care for about a decade and plans to stay at the facility.**

Joyce Misiani has faced numerous challenges since coming to New Jersey from Kenya about 15 years ago. New Community has helped her through difficult times and provided support that has enabled her to have a successful career in health care as a registered nurse.

Misiani first became involved with New Community when she enrolled in the licensed practical nurse (LPN) program it used to offer. She was working a security job while living in Newark and decided she wanted to obtain a certification in the nursing field. New Community's program was the closest to where she was living, so she enrolled.

Shortly after joining the program, Misiani became homeless. She was staying in a friend's basement with her daughters and her grades began to slip. Her instructor, Ellen Boddie, noticed something was wrong and questioned her about it. Although she resisted at first, Misiani eventually told Boddie what was going on. Boddie reached out to NCC Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson about the situation and they helped Misiani get placed at Harmony House, NCC's transitional housing for homeless families.

From Harmony House, Wilson helped Misiani get an NCC apartment on Bruce Street. Even during the moves, Misiani continued attending the LPN program with encouragement from Boddie. She said her grades began to improve after she obtained permanent housing.

One of Misiani's classmates told her she would be a good candidate for Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that helps families

**Continued on page 4**



### The New Community Clarion

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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:*

- One of 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 nonprofit, social entrepreneurship and CDC communities.
- Having beneficial partnerships on the local, national and global level.

### Staying Active with Zumba



Residents of Hudson Senior, 21-27 Orchard St., Jersey City, participated in Zumba in the building's Community Room Oct. 18. Photo courtesy of Resident Services.

## Around the Network

### Learning About Fire Safety

Members of the Newark Fire Department visited the children of Community Hills Early Learning Center (CHELC) Oct. 16 to teach them about fire safety. The students got to see a fire truck up close and saw a firefighter in full gear. Photos courtesy of CHELC.



### Extended Care Holds Emergency Preparedness Drill

Staff members at New Community Extended Care, 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, participated in an emergency preparedness drill Oct. 22. They practiced evacuating nursing home residents and what to do in an active shooter situation. Emergency preparedness drills are held periodically at the facility to ensure staff members know what to do should an emergency occur.





## Employee of the Month: Abdul Carter



**Abdul Carter has worked for New Community for more than five years as a Youth Services Counselor. He is part of the Thirteenth Avenue School after school program NCC operates as well as its summer camp.**

**A**bdul Carter has worked in an educational setting for the past 19 years, all at the same location: Thirteenth Avenue/Dr. MLK Jr. School in Newark. During the school year, he serves as a paraprofessional in the school during the day and after school, he is a key member of the Family Friendly Center, the after school program NCC operates at the school. He also is part of the NCC Summer Camp team.

Carter is a lifelong Newark resident who first started working at Thirteenth Avenue School as a volunteer. Before entering the education sector, he was working at a rehabilitation center that relocated. His mother worked at Thirteenth Avenue School at the time and asked him to volun-

teer. Within a week, he was hired and he hasn't left.

"Once I got into education, it was like, OK, this is where it is. This is your passion. This is your calling. So stick with it," Carter said. "So I've been sticking with it for 19 years."

Carter said Sharlene Jackson, who serves as the program coordinator for NCC's after school program at Thirteenth Avenue School, asked him if he would be interested in working with the children in the program. He wasn't sure if it was something he would want to do long term, but he agreed. After experiencing how welcoming the children were and the atmosphere within the program, he said he was hooked.

In his role as Youth Services Counselor, Carter helps children in the after school program with their homework, initiates lessons to continue the learning process and also makes the children feel comfortable.

"Mr. Carter plays a crucial role in the success of the Family Friendly Center. His willingness to go above and beyond for the children we serve is evidence of his hard work and commitment to the community and NCC Youth Services," said NCC Youth Services Director Edward Morris. "His work ethic and ability to show initiative is invaluable."

This year, the NCC after school program serves children in kindergarten. Even though the children are very young, they are learning both academically and socially.

Carter teaches them that there are consequences for their actions. He recalled a day when one child called another one a name. He said he stopped the activity and explained to all the children that name calling can be hurtful by asking them how they would feel if someone called them a name. The aim is to stop bullying behavior before it gets out of hand.

While the children learn a lot through the program, they have a lot of fun too. Carter said he enjoys participating in games with the children and dancing with them.

"My favorite part of the job is seeing kids and making them happy," Carter said. "And realizing I really made an impact in these kids' lives."

Carter comes from a big family. He has four sisters and a brother. While he doesn't have children of his own, he has nieces and nephews and of course the children he works with on a daily basis. He lives with his significant other and has family members that live in the same building as well. In his spare time he enjoys family get-togethers and playing video games with his nieces and nephews.

Carter is glad he's able to work at NCC's after school program and summer camp.

"I thank Mr. Morris and everyone from NCC who allowed me to be a part of their organization," he said.

### New Community Is Hiring

**T**here are a number of open positions available with New Community Corporation in a variety of departments. To see all job listings, along with descriptions and requirements of each position, visit [www.newcommunity.org](http://www.newcommunity.org) and click "Jobs at New Community." Click "Apply" next to the position of interest to see the full description and then "Apply Now" to complete the application process.

NCC requires job applicants to fill out an online application for consideration. If you don't have internet access, you can use computers New Community has designated for job application purposes. Those are located at NCC headquarters, 233 West Market St., Newark, NJ 07103, and at Extended Care, 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, NJ 07103. For additional information, call 973-623-2800.

As of publication, the following positions were available. The site is continually updated, so check back to see if there is a job of interest.

- Case Manager
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Custodian/Maintenance Worker
- Diesel Technician Instructor
- Exterminator - Maintenance Worker
- Food Service Director
- Housekeeping Aide - Full-Time
- Licensed Practical Nurse - Full-Time
- Maintenance Worker
- Plumbers Assistant/Maintenance Worker
- Resident Services Coordinator
- Retention Specialist
- Teacher (Abbott)
- Teacher Assistant - (Infant/Toddler) - Floater

### NEW COMMUNITY CORPORATION



St. Joseph Plaza  
233 West Market St.  
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**NOVEMBER 22ND**

**ANONYMOUS**

**NOVEMBER 29TH**

**CLOSED - THANKSGIVING WEEKEND**



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



## NCC Remembers Retired Executive Chef with Memorial Mass

Continued from page 1



**NCC Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson talks about what an exceptional person Joe Rodriguez was during the Memorial Mass as Father Beatus Kitururu looks on.**

that she always thinks of Rodriguez when she hears a famous IHOP slogan.

"Any time I heard 'Come Hungry, Leave Happy,' I always thought about Joe. Joe was such a wonderful gift to all of us here at New Community. We always came hungry if we knew that Joe was cooking. And no doubt, you always left full and happy," she said.

Teabout also spoke about his deep faith.

"Joe was a christian, a devout Catholic. And he followed those words of Jesus," she said. "He had compassion."

Two of Rodriguez's daughters spoke at the Memorial Mass in his honor. They said their father loved working for New Community and Monsignor Linder.



**Cristina Rae Ventura, Joe Rodriguez's first grandchild, does a reading during the Memorial Mass.**

"Every time Father Linder accomplished anything, Dad accomplished something because he was so happy. And I see that he loved all of you," said daughter Anne Marie Ventura. "And as much as he didn't like parties and everything else, I think he would've been very pleased that we're all assembled together for mass here in his honor. I can't think of anything better."

Joyce Hessemer, another one of Rodriguez's daughters, agreed that her father loved New Community and was extremely dedicated to his work. She said she wished he had more time to enjoy his retirement, but she knows he's in a good place.

"I can't be sad and think about all the things he could've done in his retirement because he's with God," Hessemer said. "He's having the best retirement he ever could have."



**Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka discusses the dedication Joe Rodriguez had to the residents of the nursing home at the Memorial Mass held in his honor.**



**NCC Director of Mission Frances Teabout speaks about how Joe Rodriguez made everyone happy with the food he prepared during his more than 30 years working at New Community.**

## Extended Care RN Credits NCC for Helping Her Achieve Success

Continued from page 1

build and improve places to call home. She did her research and visited a local office to see if she would qualify. She did and was accepted into the program. For two and a half years, Misiani helped build her house, along with several others, using what Habitat for Humanity calls "sweat equity" for payment. At the end, she became a homeowner of a home in Irvington, where she lives today.

After Misiani completed the LPN program, she was hired at New Community Extended Care. She was a good employee and dedicated to her work and the residents at the facility. Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka, who served as the Director of Nursing at the time, took notice.

"She cares about people and she shows a lot of dedication and that was why, when I saw and noticed that she could do more and she has the tools and the knowledge in her to do more, I spoke with Monsignor about training her to become a registered nurse," Onwunaka said.

Monsignor William J. Linder, founder of New Community, who lived the last years of his life at Extended Care, encouraged Misiani to return to school and become an RN.

"I couldn't be what I am today if it were not for him," Misiani said.

He insisted Misiani apply to colleges, even telling her that she had to take a day off work to complete applications. She planned to continue her education, but it was difficult as a single mother of four girls. Monsignor insisted and Misiani settled on Chamberlain University in New Brunswick. She received a scholarship from New Community to attend.

Obtaining her bachelor's degree certainly wasn't easy. She continued working and felt guilty that she wasn't spending as much time with her four daughters as she thought she should. But she said it was a sacrifice that was necessary to improve her family's life. And she didn't want to let anyone down.

"So many times I wanted to just quit. So many things happening," Misiani said. "But then I kept saying, if I quit Monsignor really went out of his way. This is just too much to lose. It's a lot of money. Just study hard."

The hard work paid off. Misiani is now a registered nurse and is still working at Extended Care as an assistant unit manager.

"I said I have to come back. How else can you really say thank you?" she said. "NCC has really shaped me. Because if I weren't here, I don't know where I would be. I will always be grateful."

Wilson said she was happy to help Misiani find an apartment and remembers providing her children with gifts for Christmas.

"She's a good worker but she is also a mother who loves her four children. Even though she is a single mom, she takes care of her children," Wilson said. "When I heard she had become a registered nurse, I was happy for her."

Misiani is relieved that she has completed her studies and is now able to spend more time with her four daughters, who she said were extremely happy when she graduated. Her oldest daughter, who is 24, lives with her full-time and was a recipient of the Monsignor William J. Linder Scholarship for her high school education. Misiani's three younger daughters, twins who are 13 and a younger girl who is 11, attend boarding school in Pennsylvania and are home for summers and holiday breaks.

"I feel like I'm so blessed. Because when you start, you're so miserable, desperate. There are times you feel like you're just nothing," Misiani said. "I'm honored to be one of Monsignor's recipients of the scholarship. I don't know how to put it into words but I really thank God for everything."



## New Community Welcomes New Chief Operating Officer



**Fred Hunter joined New Community as its Chief Operating Officer Oct. 1.**

**N**ew Community has gained a new member of its executive team. Fred Hunter joined the organization Oct. 1 as the Chief Operating Officer.

"I am excited at the addition of Fred Hunter to the NCC staff," said New Community CEO Richard Rohrman. "As Chief Operating Officer, he will be supervising a number of segments of New Community's operations that are vital to fulfilling our mission. It was not an easy pick. We had a number of great applicants, but Fred is without a doubt the right person for the job. His background in the nonprofit world is wide and he has made many important contributions to the organizations he has been affiliated with. Most important, he feels the mission and is very eager to contribute and is already busy getting to know us."

In the role of COO, Hunter oversees a number of departments, including Environmental Services, Adult Learning Center, Extended Care, Property Management, Security, New Community Career & Technical Institute and the Department of Health and Human Services. He looks at NCC's metrics, data and outcomes in relation to

the organization's strategic plan and operational goals.

"I think the role of the Chief Operating Officer should complement the CEO, to provide day-to-day operational supervision as well as leadership, to look at our milestones and set the pace of what our day-to-day metrics should be," Hunter said. "Making sure we're achieving deliverables while all the time looking at process improvement and how to improve quality."

While the COO often takes a higher view to ensure departments are going in the right direction, Hunter said someone in that role also has to be willing to learn about and understand different jobs within the departments, even if that means working alongside an employee for a day to see what it's like.

"Learning the process and learning the challenges that that person may have that they might live with and we never knew was a problem," he said. "You have to be willing to roll your sleeves up and get into the weeds."

Prior to working at New Community, Hunter served as the COO at The Arc Middlesex County, which provides people with developmental and other disabilities, and their families, with supports and services. He worked there for a little more than three years.

Hunter has had a variety of professional experiences, ranging from patient financial services, health care consulting and business management. He has worked in project management, has served as a Chief Financial Officer and has some experience in Human Resources. He holds a bachelor's degree in Public Administration and a Master of Science in Business Management.

Hunter wasn't actively looking for work when New Community's COO position became available.

"I pretty much dismissed every opportunity that came across my desk and told the headhunters, 'Let me connect you with someone who can

fill the role,'" he said. "But when this COO opportunity came, I thought it was a perfect match."

While Hunter had heard of New Community, he didn't know the extent of its offerings. But after researching the organization and its history, he wanted to get involved.

"It had such an esteemed reputation and if I can add value to such a great organization, if I can come there and be a resource there, that will feel good. And that's what did it," he said.

Hunter's favorite part of his job is the ability to contribute toward the mission and goals and actually seeing the results achieved.

"Having the ability to influence actions that are going to be put in play that cause the desired effect of helping the most vulnerable people. That is the most satisfying part of the job," he said.

He also has enjoyed serving as a nonprofit board member and mentor to staff members in the past.

While Hunter enjoys having a good time, he's very serious when it comes to his work.

"I typically have a smile when you see me, but I'm certainly an operations person in the sense that there are action items, there are deliverables, there are due dates and there's follow-up," he said.

Employees aren't left on their own, however. Hunter encourages them to bring him information about challenges that they can work out together.

"My job is to get people connected," he said. "It's holding us accountable to our deadlines and the people who are having struggles, working with them to really come to some type of an agreeable outcome."

Hunter lives in North Brunswick, which he has called home for about 15 years, with his wife Kelly and 12-year-old son. He also has two adult daughters and an adult stepson. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family and traveling. Aruba is his favorite destination.

## New Community Recognized During NFL Game

**N**ew Community Corporation was highlighted as a Community RedZone partner at the Oct. 6 Philadelphia Eagles versus New York Jets NFL football game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia. The Eagles and Philadelphia Insurance highlight the work of charitable organizations within the community through the Community RedZone program. New Community was highlighted during the game with CEO Richard Rohrman going on to the field to accept the recognition. NCC staff members also handed out promotional items prior to the game to the football fans in attendance.



**New Community CEO Richard Rohrman, second from left, stands with representatives from Philadelphia Insurance, American Cancer Society and Hug Wraps at the Philadelphia Eagles and New York Jets NFL game at Lincoln Financial Field Oct. 6 as a Community RedZone partner. Photo courtesy of Philadelphia Insurance.**



**New Community Career & Technical Institute Director Rodney Brutton, New Community Director of Communications Michelle Lang and NCC CEO Richard Rohrman, left to right, at the New Community table where they gave away promotional items to fans at the Oct. 6 NFL game in Philadelphia.**



**New Community CEO Richard Rohrman, second from left, on the jumbotron during the Philadelphia Eagles and New York Jets NFL game. New Community, American Cancer Society and Hug Wraps were recognized during the game as Community RedZone partners. Photo courtesy of Philadelphia Insurance.**



## Social Security News

### Certain Disability Payments and Workers' Compensation May Affect Your Social Security Benefits

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

**M**any people working nowadays have more than one job. This means they have several sources of income. It's important to keep in mind that having multiple sources of income can sometimes affect your Social Security benefits; but, it depends on the source.

Disability payments from private sources, such as private pensions or insurance benefits, don't affect your Social Security disability benefits. Workers' compensation and other public disability benefits, however, may reduce what you receive from Social Security. Workers' compensation benefits are paid to a worker because of a job-related injury or illness. These benefits may be paid by federal or state workers' compensation agencies, employers or by insurance companies on behalf of employers.

Public disability payments that may affect your Social Security benefits are those paid from a federal, state or local government for disabling medical conditions that are not job-related. Examples of these are civil service disability benefits, state temporary disability benefits and state or local government retirement benefits that are based on disability.

Some public benefits don't affect your Social Security disability benefits. If you receive Social Security disability benefits, and one of the following types of public benefits, your Social Security benefits will not be reduced:

- Veterans Administration benefits;
- State and local government benefits, if Social Security taxes were deducted from your earnings; or
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

You can read more about the possible ways your benefits might be reduced at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10018.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10018.pdf).

Please be sure to report changes. If there is a change in the amount of your other disability payment, or if those benefits stop, please notify us right away. Tell us if the amount of your workers' compensation or public disability payment increases or decreases. Any change in the amount or frequency of these benefits is likely to affect the amount of your Social Security benefits.

An unexpected change in benefits can have unintended consequences. You can be better prepared if you're informed and have financially prepared yourself. Visit our benefits planner webpage at [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners) for information about your options for securing your future.

## Senior Spotlight: Erin Watts



Erin Watts has lived at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, for more than two decades.

**E**rin Watts is a familiar face at Associates. She is a very active individual who has lived in the building for 22 years. She enjoys helping others and volunteers her time for both her neighbors in the building and others in the community.

Watts grew up in Virginia Beach, Va., with her parents and her siblings: one brother and three sisters. She came to New Jersey about 26 years ago to receive live-in treatment for drug addiction at Integrity House. She graduated from the three-year program successfully and the facility hired her full-time.

"It was great because I was working with recovering addicts and it was helping my recovery," Watts said.

Due to her drug addiction, Watts had hepatitis C which required a liver transplant in 2005 and a second liver transplant in 2006. Because of her health issues, Watts was no longer able to work full-time. A year after her second trans-

plant, however, she got permission from Social Security to volunteer at Integrity House for 20 hours per week. The facility offered her a part-time job so she was on the payroll for a year and a half before deciding to retire at age 66.

Now at age 67, Watts is back to volunteering, this time at the liver center at University Hospital, where she counsels individuals before and after they have had a liver transplant, and at Associates where she helps with the building's monthly food box distribution and serves as a floor captain, checking on her neighbors and distributing information.

"She helps out a lot," said Associates Resident Services Coordinator Anne Moran of Watts. "She's a great helper with the food boxes. When we go to Walmart, she helps residents with their bags. She's a good helper and a good person."

Watts moved to Associates after she was placed on disability and she really enjoys living there.

"When I put my key in my apartment door, that's like my haven," she said. "My apartment is cute, just the way I like it. It's a little piece of heaven."

Watts likes the location of her apartment and how easily she can get around with the buses. She travels by bus to the YMCA on Broad Street three times per week for water aerobics and shops at the Whole Foods across the street. She likes that Associates has a security officer at the entrance at all times. She also says the atmosphere in the building is very friendly.

Watts feels blessed to be where she is today. She said she was ready to enter recovery when she came to New Jersey and with the support of the recovery program and her family hasn't looked back since.

"I am a christian and I just knew God had a different purpose for me," she said.



Wellness Tip  
November 2019

### Palliative Care vs. Hospice Care

Similar But Different

#### Palliative Care

- For patients at any stage of a serious illness who are also receiving curative treatment
- Comfort care, symptom and pain management, reduces stress, relief of side effects
- Addresses patient's physical, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs; improved quality of life
- Provided in the hospital, long term care facility, assisted living or at home
- Palliative consultations provided by a palliative physician or nurse practitioner
- Detailed, customized care plan created based on input from patient, family and health care providers
- Patient's wishes and goals of care discussed as well as treatment options
- Covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance companies
- Need doctor referral for palliative care

#### Hospice Care

- For patients facing a terminal illness with a prognosis of six months or less who are not seeking curative treatment
- Comfort care and symptom management including pain relief that makes the end of life easier to bear
- Addresses patient's physical, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs
- Provided to wherever the patient calls home; in rare/select circumstances hospice care can be provided in hospitals or in-patient hospice settings
- Multi-disciplinary team includes a physician, nurse, social worker, home health aides, chaplain, hospice volunteer
- Includes arrangement of needed supplies including hospital bed, commode, medications, medical equipment, etc.
- Covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance companies
- Need doctor referral for hospice care

For more information about VNA Health Group's services & programs, please call 800.862.3330 or visit [www.vnahg.org](http://www.vnahg.org)



## NCCTI Graduate Thriving in New Health Care Career



**Denayah Reese holds her son at the New Community Career & Technical Institute graduation Aug. 28 where she earned a certificate for completing the Patient Care Technician program. PCT instructors Tejumade Falae, left, and Maha Koltowski, right, show off her certificate.**

**D**enayah Reese loves her new career, which she recently began after completing the Patient Care Technician (PCT) program at New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI). At just 19 years old, she works as a nurse's assistant at Clara Maass Medical Center in Belleville, providing direct care to patients during her shift.

Reese has been interested in the medical field since she was a young girl. Her grandmother was diabetic and she would help her. When her grandmother went to a nursing home, she would visit often, helping her and interacting with the other residents. She said she also became interested in the medical field because her father's side of the family has heart issues, including her father who had a bad heart condition at the time of his death.

"I always wanted to work at a hospital because I wanted to help people," Reese said. "When I was a little girl, I used to play with my dolls. I would sit them all around and pretend that I was their doctor."

So when she graduated high school, after attending both West Side High School in Newark and Irvington High School, Reese researched area nursing programs and came across NCCTI. She was still 17 when she graduated, so she waited until her 18th birthday last October and filled out an application. Because NCCTI offers open enrollment, she was able to start class in February and graduated in August.

Reese has overcome some challenges. She has a 3-year-old son to support and has experienced homelessness. But that didn't stop her from following her dream of working in a hospital.

"Denayah Reese is one of our shining stars. We are pleased to consider her as one of our successful graduates and alumni," said NCCTI Director Rodney Brutton. "We welcome recent high school graduates who are looking for a valuable education option other than college and Denayah is a young lady that epitomizes who we're looking to enroll in our school."

Reese credits NCCTI with preparing her for the working world and helping her find employment. Her main course instructor was Maha Koltowski, who she said was extremely helpful and accommodating.

"I never had a teacher as good as Dr. Maha. I had some good teachers, but she was a great teacher," Reese said. "Dr. Maha was willing to stay late so we could make up our hours, catch up on things we may not understand, if we wanted to go to the laboratory. She was willing to do it."

Koltowski said Reese was a model student, taking copious notes and sharing them with her classmates, paying attention to demonstrations and volunteering to try procedures first. She sees a bright future for Reese.

"She was one of the best students," Koltowski

ki said of Reese. "I expect her to be an RN one day. And I'm encouraging her to complete her studies."

In addition to the knowledge Reese gained from the program, NCCTI helped her in other ways as well. She received a voucher for Career Closet to obtain professional attire to wear on her interview from Joann Williams-Swiney, NCCTI Income Support Specialist and Director of the Family Resource Success Center. Brutton connected Reese and her classmates to human resources personnel at a number of area hospitals and then followed up on the status of their applications once they applied. Reese also met with Financial Coach Tamara Brown in the Financial Opportunity Center and plans to return for additional guidance in a few months.

"The whole experience was great. Everybody was nice and welcoming. I felt comfortable with everybody. I could come to anybody in any situation regardless of if it was about school or anything else. They were there to help," Reese said. "I've never been to a school where they care about you this much."

Reese recommends NCCTI to others. She knows three current PCT students that she referred.

"I made sure that I advertised it in a positive way because the school has benefited me in a great way," she said.

NCCTI is an accredited post-secondary career and technical institution that offers the following programs: Automotive Technician, Diesel Technician, Building Trades Specialist, Clinical Medical Assistant, Patient Care Technician, Community Healthcare Worker, Culinary Arts Specialist and Business and Computer Technologies. NCCTI also operates a comprehensive Financial Opportunity Center and Bridges to Career Opportunities Program sponsored by the local and national Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) offices. For more information, call 973-824-6484, log onto [newcommunitytech.edu](http://newcommunitytech.edu) or visit 274 South Orange Ave., Newark.

## Learning to Manage Chronic Diseases

**R**esident Services staff members and students in the New Community Career & Technical Institute Community Healthcare Worker program participated in a Chronic Disease Self Management certification training. Four sessions were held Oct. 22, 23, 29 and 30 at St. Joseph Plaza, 233 West Market St., Newark. The Sickle Cell Association of New Jersey hosted the sessions, which were provided free of charge thanks to a grant from the New Jersey Office of Minority Health. Participants learned many helpful techniques, including how to make better nutrition and exercise choices, relaxation techniques to help reduce stress and better ways to communicate with doctors and loved ones about health.





## CHELC Children Pick Pumpkins

Students at Community Hills Early Learning Center (CHELC) took a trip to Wightman's Farms in Morristown Oct. 11. The children got to pick pumpkins, take a hayride and learn about the workings of a farm. *Photos courtesy of CHELC.*



## Learning to Make Fresh Tomato Soup

Douglas Homes residents learned how to make fresh tomato soup Oct. 18 in the building's Community Room. Resident Services Coordinator Clesia Thompson brought in the ingredients and demonstrated the process. Building residents got to taste the soup while it was cooking and offer their suggestions.

Thompson demonstrated two versions of tomato soup for the residents. The first version used fresh tomatoes while the second version called for tomato juice, which is a less expensive option.





## NCC Halloween Party Draws Hundreds

New Community held its annual Halloween Party Oct. 26 at the NCC Neighborhood Center, 56-68 Hayes St., Newark. This was the largest turnout for the event, with more than 350 children. The kids received candy, participated in games and dancing and got to walk through the popular haunted classroom. *Photos courtesy of Edward Morris.*





## Family Service Bureau

### Providing Mental Health Services to NCC Residents

**I**n line with its goal of service integration for 2019, New Community Corporation is continually striving to incorporate health and social services into its housing. While New Community is an affordable housing developer and property manager, it recognizes that its mission dictates that the organization should be more for its residents.

The latest iteration of this effort is the increased coordination between the NCC Resident Services and NCC Health and Human Services Departments. New Community senior and family buildings have onsite Resident Services Coordinators, but too often the rest of the NCC network is left untapped when it comes to supporting and serving residents. The Health and Human Services Department is currently working to bring more supportive and health services directly to

residents, especially our seniors.

The Health and Human Services Department will be working diligently with Resident Services to connect residents whose health issues put them at risk for housing instability or even eviction to NCC health services. Chief among these will likely be supportive health services offered by New Community's affiliate organization, Family Service Bureau (FSB). FSB offers individual counseling, group therapy, family therapy, anger management and outpatient substance abuse treatment among various other services.

Mental health services, especially in the inner city, are often desperately needed but woefully inaccessible. This makes the services offered by FSB invaluable. And yet, these services are underutilized by NCC residents, due to a combination of stigma associated with mental health

treatment, inadequate marketing and lack of education about mental health.

The Health and Human Services Department is exploring a variety of ways to increase resident awareness and education, and to make the services as accessible as possible by getting some supportive health services directly into the buildings. The Health and Human Services Department will also work with Rutgers Community Health Center, which is located in the same building as FSB, to offer primary care and other physical health services if needed. Some of these services will eventually be offered periodically onsite in NCC buildings as well.

For more information, please contact Family Service Bureau at 973-412-2056.

### NCC Resident Services Prepares Breakfast for a Cause

**T**he Resident Services Department held a Breakfast Fundraiser Oct. 21 at Roseville Senior, 1 South Eighth St., Newark, to help offset the cost of the Harvest Ball, to be held Nov. 21 for NCC residents. Resident Services staff members cooked up eggs, bacon, sausage and toast for hungry NCC residents and employees to purchase. The department thanks everyone who participated.



### Getting Ready for Halloween



**D**ouglas Homes Resident Services Coordinator Clesia Thompson held a costume making workshop in the Community Room of the building Oct. 16. Residents were able to look through donated costumes and fabric to create costumes for the building's Oct. 31 Halloween Costume Party.





**New Community Adult Learning Center**  
563 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey 07107  
**(973) 558-5536**

[www.newcommunity.org/services/adult-learning-center/](http://www.newcommunity.org/services/adult-learning-center/)

**Free Workshops & Services / Talleres y Servicios Gratuitos**

<b>Eye Screenings (AVS)</b> <b>Examen de la Vista</b>	Wednesday, November 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
<b>Session Featuring Amazon</b> <b>Sesión con Amazon</b>	Wednesday, November 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  9 AM to 3 PM
<b>Mammograms and Pap Smear</b> <b>Mamografía y Papanicolaou</b>	Wednesday, November 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  9 AM to 1 PM
<b>Creative Writing</b> <b>Composición</b>	December 2, 3, 4, & 5, 2019 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 5:30 PM to 8 PM

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

Nuestra Misión ~ Ayudar a los residentes de los centros de las ciudades a mejorar la calidad de sus vidas y a reflejar la dignidad dada por Dios y sus logros personales.



**Lean Back**  
By Leslie Lesley

It seems like yesterday you were just enjoying a juicy burger from the grill in the backyard. Look how time has passed so quickly. Your children have gone back to school and once again, you are adjusting to your daily fall routine. In just a week or so, it will begin getting darker earlier and your mind and body will have to adjust to less daylight. Time to put away the last of the summer clothing and reach for the fall/winter clothing bins in the closet, attic or basement. Yes, fall is here and before you know it, the Thanksgiving holiday will be too. As you prepare for what may be a long winter and start to make plans for what you'd like to do during the season, consider the amount of rest that you are giving your body. Slow it down...

According to many health care professionals, the average adult needs roughly eight hours of sleep per night. (Can you remember the last time you did that?) Although the amount of

sleep that each person needs to function well the next day varies from individual to individual, we can all agree that rest is very important for the body. How many of us put that thought into regular practice? Far too often, rest is something that we put off for a later time. We reason with ourselves and say we will "take it down" once we finish this or once we finish that! We push ourselves believing that we are stronger than the next person. The truth is, we shouldn't push our bodies the way that we do, if we are not willing to rest our bodies the way that we should.

Sometimes that headache or that pain in the neck that we keep experiencing is not because of the coworker on our job or that insensitive boyfriend. Those mood swings that you have every so often may not be due to PMS. These body pains and others could all be signs or symptoms of an insufficient amount of rest. Our bodies should be loved, respected and cherished because we only get one. Do yourself a favor, put your feet up, take an afternoon nap or go to bed a little earlier tonight. It will do your body good.

**NCC Supports Saint Vincent Academy Friends in Concert**



The New Community Table at Saint Vincent Academy's 34th Annual Friends in Concert Gala: NCC CEO Richard Rohrman, seated left with wife Joanne Rohrman next to him; CFO Elizabeth Mbakaya, seated third from left; Martha Iluonokh-alumhe, whose children attended SVA through the Monsignor William J. Linder Scholarship Fund, seated third from right; Board Member Fernando Colon, standing second from left; and Director of Real Estate Development Tony Tolles, standing second from right, along with representatives from SVA. *Photo courtesy of Saint Vincent Academy.*

Representatives from New Community attended Saint Vincent Academy's 34th Annual Friends in Concert Gala Oct 17. The Catholic high school is located across the street from NCC headquarters and has educated numerous recipients of the Monsignor William J. Linder Scholarship. Saint Vincent Academy was founded more than 150 years ago and hosts the gala each year in the school's gymnasium. This year, the school honored Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Kevin P. Conlin as part of the program.

**Connect with NCC on Social Media**

New Community Corporation has an active presence on social media. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep up with our news and events, see additional photos and connect with us.

- @NewCommunityCorporation
- @NewCommunityCor
- @newcommunitycorp



# HHELC Students Get Hands-on Pumpkin Lesson

Students at Harmony House Early Learning Center (HHELC) learned all about pumpkins Oct. 22. The children got to see, smell and feel the inside and outside of pumpkins in class. Their teachers even carved faces into the pumpkins for some spooky fun.

