



# The New Community CLARION

Serving the People of the New Community Network

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## NCCTI Hosts Gov. McGreevey and NJ Reentry Corporation



**New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) hosted a press conference highlighting the partnership between the school, New Jersey Reentry Corporation, Sansone Automall and the New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers (NJ CAR).**

New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) hosted former Gov. James McGreevey and New Jersey Reentry Corporation for a press conference highlighting the partnership between the organizations, along with Sansone Automall and the New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers (NJ CAR). Representatives from the

groups gathered at the NCCTI Training Center, 210 West Bigelow St., Newark, Oct. 29 to talk about successes and how providing reentry clients an education in the automotive field can lead to lucrative careers and prevent recidivism.

McGreevey explained that New Jersey Reentry Corporation clients are eligible for Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education (PACE) grants, which provide funding so they can receive the training needed prior to obtaining an apprenticeship. Apprenticeships often require a degree or other academic background, which can be a barrier for reentry clients.

"This pre-apprenticeship program is changing lives," McGreevey said.

New Community CEO Richard Rohrman said partnering with New Jersey Reentry Corporation to provide training is a good fit for the organization.

"We're thrilled to be part of this partnership. I think the core of our mission statement is dignity, it's personal achievement and it's really self reliance. And that's what this program is all about," he said. "We really appreciate being a part of it. It goes right to our mission."

NCCTI Director Rodney Brutton said, "NCCTI is committed to providing opportunities for all our students and looks forward to working with our partners at NJRC."

Current Automotive Technician student Darrell Armstrong said he went with the crowd in his younger years but now realizes the effects his actions can have on others and makes better choices.

"I thank New Community for the opportunity," he said. "The program is what you make of it. Some people are going to take advantage of it. Some people are not. I'm taking advantage of it."

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## NCC Resident Goes from Volunteer to Full-Time Employee



**Tynise Gordon began volunteering with New Community last year. She was then hired part-time and now serves as a Home Friend full-time.**

Tynise Gordon has always enjoyed helping others. That desire to help has led to a full-time job with New Community.

Gordon worked as a nursing assistant for 18 years at University Hospital, when it was called UMDNJ, before leaving that role for health reasons. She was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), a

condition where the immune system attacks the nerves. Gordon said her hands and feet get numb and tight, particularly in the cold weather. Because she was unable to do a lot of heavy lifting, which was required as a nursing assistant, she left that position.

Because she likes to stay busy, Gordon decided to volunteer at the Better Life Engagement Center on Fourteenth Avenue in Newark, helping in the kitchen and at the front desk. She has lived in NCC housing for a few years and the facility is near to her home.

She moved on from Better Life and began volunteering with NCC's Resident Services Department last year, helping out as an office receptionist and with the Emergency Food Pantry at 220 Bruce St., Newark. She made a good impression and when a part-time position as a Home Friend opened up, Gordon applied and got the job. She excelled in the role and became a full-time Home Friend soon after.

"Tynise has shown potential growth as an individual and as a team player; always wanting to do better," said Home Friend Program Coordinator Flavia Pinheiro. "Her main goal is to make her clients happy, even if it's going the extra mile."

As a Home Friend, Gordon provides light housekeeping services to senior citizens in the Central Ward of Newark who have only Medicare and are in need of extra help with daily living. In addition to cleaning and doing laundry, Gordon will run errands like picking up a few items from the supermarket. She has even taken some clients to the Post Office to mail letters and get money orders.

In addition to doing tasks for her nine clients, Gordon also gets to know them through conversations. The talks are beneficial for the clients

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### 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.

### Learning About Breast Cancer



Residents at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, learned about breast cancer during a presentation in the Community Room of the building Nov. 6. A representative from University Hospital talked about the disease and answered residents' questions. *Photo courtesy of Anne Moran.*

## Around the Network

### NCCTI Students Hear from University Hospital Representatives

Students in the Community Healthcare Worker program at New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) got a visit Nov. 5 from representatives of University Hospital who shared the role of community health workers (CHWs), what makes an effective CHW and University Hospital's commitment to providing quality services to its patients.

Executive Director of Community and Population Health Services Alyssa Lord, Community Health Worker Rev. Victor L. Algarin and Community Health Worker Alikah Green visited the students. *Photo courtesy of NCCTI.*



### CHELC Students Walk for a Cure

Children and staff members at Community Hills Early Learning Center, 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, dressed in pink and walked the hallways of the school Oct. 30 recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month. *Photos courtesy of CHELC.*



### Recognizing the Month of the Holy Rosary

Residents of New Community Extended Care Facility, 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, recognized the Month of the Holy Rosary in October. Sister Elizabeth Lima facilitated prayer time for those wishing to participate. *Photos courtesy of Sister Elizabeth Lima.*





## Employee of the Month: Kim Hawkins



**Kim Hawkins has worked as a teacher's assistant for New Community for nearly 10 years. She started at Community Hills Early Learning Center and transitioned to Harmony House Early Learning Center in 2017.**

**K**im Hawkins has spent nearly a decade working with New Community in both of its early learning centers. She started her NCC career at Community Hills Early Learning Center (CHELC) and then transferred to Harmony House Early Learning Center (HHELC) in 2017. Before that, she spent 18 years teaching third grade at a private school.

Hawkins currently serves as the teacher's assistant in the pre-K classroom at HHELC. In that role, she assists the lead teacher by setting up activities, helping with the curriculum, playing with the children, taking notes and keeping control of the classroom. For 2017-2018, she served as the lead teacher for the classroom after a last-minute resignation.

"Ms. Kim took up the role of the lead teacher last school year with its rigors and challenges when the teacher abruptly resigned. She accepted the responsibility with much dignity and professionalism. She put up with the demands of meeting district deadlines even when they seemed impossible while ensuring the children

acquired the necessary skills needed to be ready for kindergarten," said HHELC Director Sister Maurice Liguori Okoroji. "Above all, Ms. Kim is relatable; and the parents, her colleagues and students love and appreciate her."

Hawkins has always loved children and wanted to be a teacher since she was a child herself. While she was pursuing her bachelor's degree, she visited a private school to complete a psychology paper. The school was in need of a substitute and hired her for that role. The following year, the principal asked her to stay on as a teacher. She agreed and worked there instructing third-graders for 18 years until the school closed.

While Hawkins tried to continue pursuing her bachelor's degree at night, because she had four children to care for and a full-time job, it became difficult. After the private school closed, Hawkins returned to her education and ended up at CHELC for another psychology paper. At the time, the early learning center had an opening and she was asked to fill the role, which she did. She has been employed at New Community ever since.

She worked in Toddler 2, Toddler 1 and the Infant Room at CHELC before transferring to the pre-K room at HHELC. She wanted to make the move to be with older children.

Hawkins enjoys playing, dancing and singing with the children.

She even purchased a small soccer set for the children to use outside. But they know she's serious when it's time to learn.

"When it's time to sit down for your little 30-minute lesson, I expect you to sit down and do what you're supposed to do," she said.

Hawkins said when she was young-

er, she didn't like to read. Because of the experiences she had, she makes a great effort to engage the children to foster a love of reading.

"When I'm reading to the children, I make it interesting," she said. "I guess it's just my tone when I'm reading to them, they're really paying attention. Because that's what I needed when the teacher was reading to me."

Hawkins has four grown children — two sons and two daughters — and six grandchildren. She currently lives with her two daughters and two of her grandchildren in East Orange.

Dance has always been and continues to be a big part of Hawkins' life. She had dreamed of becoming a ballerina when she was younger. While that didn't work out, she still dances, and not just with the children of HHELC. She is involved in liturgical dancing at her church.

She also serves as a judges coordinator for the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO), a program by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). High school students participate in competitions related to science, humanities, performing arts, visual arts and business. Hawkins recruits judges for the New Jersey competitions, which take place in April. She hopes to attend the national portion of the competition this year.

## New Community Is Hiring

**T**here are a number of open positions available with New Community Corporation. 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."

As of publication, the following positions were available. The site is continually updated, so check back often.

- Case Manager
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Clinical Therapist
- Diesel Technician Instructor
- Exterminator - Maintenance Worker
- Food Service Director
- Job Developer
- Licensed Practical Nurse - Full-Time
- Maintenance Worker
- Plumbers Assistant/Maintenance Worker
- Retention Specialist
- Teacher (Abbott)
- Teacher Assistant - (Infant/Toddler) - Floater
- Therapist

### NEW COMMUNITY CORPORATION



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Newark, NJ 07103  
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[www.newcommunity.org](http://www.newcommunity.org)



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DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

UNFINISHED BIZZNESS

DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

CLOSED

DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

CARRIE JACKSON'S

PRE-NEW YEAR'S EVE JAZZ JAM & DANCE PARTY



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



## Withum Hosts Thanksgiving Dinner for Harmony House Families

Accounting firm Withum hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for the residents of Harmony House, New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families, Nov. 26 at St. Joseph Plaza. Volunteers from Withum cooked the meal and served it to the families. Adults and children in attendance enjoyed traditional Thanksgiving dinner and dessert.



Withum volunteers pose with Harmony House Director Yonette Fredericks, standing center.



## NCC Early Learning Centers Celebrate Thanksgiving

Community Hills Early Learning Center (CHELC) and Harmony House Early Learning Center (HHELC) held Thanksgiving celebrations Nov. 26. Children and parents enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal and time spent together before the holiday.



Children in the HHELC pre-K class enjoy a Thanksgiving lunch.



A student at CHELC offers up some of her Thanksgiving meal. *Photo courtesy of CHELC.*



Parents enjoyed their own Thanksgiving lunch at CHELC. *Photo courtesy of CHELC.*



HHELC Staff members serve parents a Thanksgiving meal.



CHELC students were all smiles during their Thanksgiving celebration. *Photo courtesy of CHELC.*



HHELC children celebrate Thanksgiving with a festive meal.



## NCCTI Launches Community Healthcare Worker Program



**Instructor Wanda Johnson, standing, leads class for the New Community Career & Technical Institute Community Healthcare Worker program.**

New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) began offering its newest program to students Oct. 21 — Community Healthcare Worker. The program trains individuals to become community health workers (CHWs), who help connect patients to resources within their communities to improve their health. It's a fast growing sector. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average growth rate for CHWs is 11 percent from 2018 to 2028, which is much faster than average. The BLS says the median annual wage for CHWs in New Jersey is \$51,560.

"Our Community Healthcare Worker program is a continuation of our portfolio of courses offered under the allied health care sector," said NCCTI Director Rodney Brutton. "We're excited about being on the front line of one of the fastest growing jobs in the health care field."

To help students with their job search after graduation, NCCTI is partnering with several area hospitals to provide internships and employment opportunities.

Teaching the course is Wanda Johnson, who

has extensive experience training others and has served as a CHW in Newark. She said NCCTI's program is preparing students for their careers as CHWs. This includes learning the core roles and responsibilities they will have and how to interact with patients, taking into account different cultures and building trust.

"CHWs are usually members of the community who serve as the frontline advocates for patients who reside within the same community. CHWs are the bridge between the community residents and the health care medical professionals and will be a part of a multidisciplinary team, usually with doctors, nurses and social workers," Johnson explained. "CHWs also aid in decreasing the utilization rate of the emergency rooms and inpatient hospital stays."

To keep patients out of the hospital, CHWs follow up with them to ensure they are complying with doctors' instructions, attending follow-up appointments and seeing any necessary specialists. CHWs also help link patients to help for substance use and mental health disorders.

"CHWs will help patients gain a sense of independence and accountability regarding their health as they learn to care about self," Johnson said.

Instead of lecture, Johnson conducts her class as an interactive session where she engages in dialogue with her students and gets their input on the issues they are learning about.

In addition to weekly tests, Johnson plans to have her students teach her toward the end of the course to ensure they have absorbed the material.

"If my students have the ability to teach me what has been taught in the classroom then I'll be confident that they will successfully execute the values and lessons that were taught in the classroom out in the community," she said.

Johnson has always used that method when training, which she has been doing since

the 1990s. She has held various positions in the health care insurance industry and was always asked to train new employees. She developed a passion for training and employee development and when she saw the opening at NCCTI to become a full-time instructor, she jumped at the chance.

Johnson first became involved in the CHW sector in April 2018. She was a supervisor in charge of two CHWs. After losing one of those employees after 90 days, Johnson had to absorb her caseload in addition to her supervisory role so she has firsthand experience performing CHW duties.

She said CHWs often become close with their patients and sometimes patients disclose information to their CHW that they don't to doctors, nurses or even social workers. Building that rapport allows the CHW to gather all relevant information and better advocate for the patient.

Johnson was born and raised in lower Manhattan. She moved to Rahway in 2015 and has been working in Newark even before the move to New Jersey.

She looks forward to continuing to develop the Community Healthcare Worker program at NCCTI and helping to train future CHWs for the important role they fulfill.

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.

## Teaching Students About New Community Corporation

New Community Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson visited Oak Knoll School of The Holy Child in Summit Nov. 11 to talk to students and staff members about New Community Corporation, its history and the services it provides. The Catholic school educates girls in seventh through 12th grades and is a supporter of Wilson's annual Christmas drive. Students donate items for the drive, which get distributed to children throughout the NCC network.

In addition to addressing the student body, Wilson took a tour of the school and sat down with 16 seniors to answer any questions they had. One asked what her motivation is to continually help people in need. Wilson answered, "I can't stay in bed or eat a meal knowing someone is in need of shelter or doesn't have food on their table and I could have helped. I am blessed and as long as God keeps me alive, I will continue to run around for our children to have toys on Christmas, food, furniture, anything I can do to help."

Brian Topping, member of the Theology Department and Campus Ministry Team at Oak



Knoll School of The Holy Child, coordinated the visit. He has known Wilson for many years and wanted the students to learn more about New Community, its mission and its work. *Photos courtesy of Giselle Oviedo.*





## Social Security News

# Top Ten Sites of Social Security for 2019

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

**W**e provide our online services to improve our service to you. Here are our top 10 websites of 2019:

1. Open your own personal my Social Security account, which will enable you to verify your earnings, get future benefit estimates, obtain benefit verification letters, update your Social Security information if you receive benefits and more at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). We've recently added some new features to make doing business with us easier than ever.
2. Need answers to your Social Security related questions? Our Frequently Asked Questions page is the authoritative source at [www.socialsecurity.gov/faq](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/faq).
3. Our hub for Social Security news and updates is our blog: Social Security Matters at [blog.socialsecurity.gov](http://blog.socialsecurity.gov). You can use social media to easily share these informative articles with friends and family.
4. Knowing how much money you may get in the future can help you plan your finances. Get instant, personalized estimates of your future Social Security benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator).
5. In many states and the District of Columbia, you can request a replacement Social Security Card online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/replacement-card](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/replacement-card).
6. You can complete and submit our online application for retirement benefits in as little as 15 minutes at [www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/retirement](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/retirement).
7. You can conveniently apply for disability benefits online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/disability).
8. Access our publication library — we have online booklets and pamphlets (including audio versions) on key subjects at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).
9. Our new Instagram account is a modern way to get Social Security news at [www.instagram.com/SocialSecurity](http://www.instagram.com/SocialSecurity).
10. We engage thousands of customers on our Facebook page where you can join the conversation (and follow us) at [www.facebook.com/socialsecurity](http://www.facebook.com/socialsecurity).

We are working to give you easy access to the information you need from us. Stay in touch and please feel free to share these pages with your friends and family.

## Senior Spotlight: Roshada Dixon



**Roshada Dixon moved to Douglas Homes more than five years ago.**

**R**oshada Dixon has been a resident of Douglas Homes since August 2013. She moved to the building from a friend's home where she had been staying after becoming unemployed.

Dixon split her time between New Jersey and Delaware when she was younger. She attended school in Bayonne and spent summers in Delaware. Then she moved to Union and made that her permanent home. When she had her son, she moved back to Delaware and stayed there for many years.

When she lost her job in Delaware, Dixon needed a place to stay until she got back on her feet. Her only friend willing to take her in lived in the Weequahic section of Newark so she moved back to New Jersey. She began filling out apartment applications and was accepted at Douglas Homes and another apartment. She chose Douglas Homes because the rent was cheaper and she felt more comfortable with the location should she be returning home at night.

While Dixon doesn't participate in too many building activities, she enjoys going to the farmers markets when residents receive tickets

for produce.

Dixon, who turned 69 Dec. 8, has worked many jobs over the course of her career. She has worked at Prudential, Seton Leather Company, a law firm and a cheese factory. She administered surveys on a bus, worked in a candy store, was a barmaid and was a census taker in 1990.

"I had a lot of data entry jobs, typing jobs and filing jobs," Dixon said.

Her last temp job was at Chase Bank in Delaware. She said they wanted to hire her permanently, but at the time she was caring for her ill father and her young son and was unable to accept that opportunity.

Dixon's son, who is now 34 years old, drives a truck, which is something he always wanted to do. He is currently working toward owning his own truck. While she wishes she got to see him more often, she is happy that he is doing what he enjoys.

"I think he's really lucky because he's gotten to see so much of the country," she said.

Dixon tells her son he should get a house with enough property so she can have a cottage to be close but not in his way.

Douglas Homes Resident Services Coordinator Clesia Thompson said Dixon is a great person to talk to.

"When meeting Ms. Dixon I learned early on that she was both entertaining and an enigma. Gifted with a wealth of intelligence and character, her stories of her past engage and move you," Thompson said. "It is always a gift and a pleasure to have a conversation with her."

Dixon loves to read, particularly murder mysteries, suspense and action and adventure books. She started off reading Agatha Christie books. She also enjoys Donald Westlake, Brad Thor and Nelson DeMille.

"I always thought the ideal job for me would be working for a book publisher," she said.



Wellness Tip  
December 2019

## Wash Your Hands!

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.

Removing germs through proper hand washing helps prevent gastrointestinal and respiratory infections and may even help prevent skin and eye infections.

The CDC recommends following these five steps every time you wash your hands -

1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

\*\* Hand Sanitizer Gel can be used when soap and water are not available. Be sure to rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

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 Hosts Gov. McGreevey and NJ Reentry Corporation

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**New Community CEO Richard Rohrman talks about how the partnership between NCC and New Jersey Reentry Corporation is a good match during the press conference at NCCTI. Former Gov. James McGreevey looks on.**



**NCCTI Automotive Technician student Darrell Armstrong talks about how the program has helped him. PACE Grant Program Manager Anthony Campisi and former Gov. James McGreevey look on.**



**Esperanza Maldonado, a graduate of NCCTI's Automotive Technician program, discusses how the education she received kept her from returning to prison and allowed her to get a job she enjoys that pays well.**

Armstrong has started his own mobile brake company called Tuff Brakes and is looking forward to participating in an apprenticeship.

PACE Grant Program Manager Anthony Campisi said the grants are making a difference in the lives of New Jersey Reentry Corporation clients.

"You see the smile on their faces and the progress that we have made to help our clients," he said. "I've never given up on anyone. And I will not give up on this client base."

The education NCCTI students receive in the Automotive Technician program can lead to a number of positions in the industry. Esperanza Maldonado graduated from the Automotive Technician program and now works as a salesperson where she makes \$120,000 per year.

She was in and out of prison and institutions from age 18 to 25. She entered the NCCTI Automotive Technician program after she was given the choice at a halfway house to either go to school or get a job. She chose school because she thought she would reoffend if she got a job.

"Education will open doors that no other thing can open for you. And this education right here, it opened the door that now, when I go to work I'm happy," Maldonado said. "This school was the opportunity that will last a lifetime. I got skills in this school that nobody can take away from me. I can go anywhere in the country."

Assemblywoman Shanique Speight said she has two brothers who have been incarcerated.

"What I see on your faces, I see hope. I see when you fell down, you got right back up and you kept on going. So thank you for your hard work," she said.

Newark Deputy Mayor of Employment Rahaman Muhammad refers individuals to NCCTI for training. He said the students need to be serious about their education and share the positive experience with others.

"You have to commit to going out to your neighborhood to convince other people to come into this program. If it works for you, it'll work for other people out there," he said. "But it doesn't work if you don't complete it, if you don't commit to it, if you don't get it done."

Chief Administrative Officer and Veteran Coordinator for Sansone Auto Group Rich Liebler, who helped start the Automotive Technician program with New Community and Ford Motor Company, explained that once NCCTI students complete some initial training, they are eligible to be part of Sansone's apprenticeship program where they are assigned a master technician as their follow-up instructor. That individual guides them through the process of going from a starter technician to a master technician.

"I've got 35 individuals in the program at Sansone right now, 10 of which came from [NCCTI]," Liebler said.

NJ CAR Director of Automotive Workforce Development Breanna Datello Esquilin explained that she helps connect trained individuals to apprenticeships at the 514 new car dealers in the state with the goal of making sure those individuals remain in the field. The apprenticeships, made possible from the New Jersey Department of Labor Growing Apprenticeship in Nontraditional Sectors (GAINS) Grant, have a minimum wage of \$15 per hour.

"We are trying to make it so that those first few years that you're out in the workforce through apprenticeship, you stay in the workforce," she said. "You don't turnover and you don't leave for another industry or in this case go back to a past life that you had that you don't want to be in."

New Jersey Reentry Corporation Employment Specialist Cynthia Rojas thanked NCCTI Automotive Technician Instructor John Zachheus who she said serves as a mentor as well as an instructor to the students.

"They're getting credentials, licenses that are nationally recognized to keep their career in this industry," Rojas said. "And learning the skills that are going to keep them financially stable so they can stay out of the system."

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**Chief Administrative Officer and Veteran Coordinator for Sansone Auto Group Rich Liebler, who helped start the Automotive Technician program with New Community and Ford Motor Company, explains how apprenticeships help students and graduates master their skills. PACE Grant Program Manager Anthony Campisi looks on.**



**Students in the NCCTI Automotive Technician and Diesel Technician programs with former Gov. James McGreevey and other supporters.**

ogies. 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.



## NCC Residents Dress Up and Enjoy Harvest Ball

The Resident Services Department of New Community held the Harvest Ball for NCC residents Nov. 21 at St. Joseph Plaza. The event included guest speakers, a catered lunch, door prizes, awards for best dressed male and female, recognition of the two oldest NCC residents, a game and a dance competition.

Resident Services would like to thank those who contributed to make the event a success: Diana Rivera of UnitedHealthcare, Sara Werner of Amerigroup, Paul Hsu of Guardy's Pharmacy, Luz Ramirez of WellCare, Elvin Santiago of Horizon NJ Health, Taraja Hudson of Taste Tee's Cuisine and Alistair Liddell of DJ Gospel Connection.

The department also thanks the special guests who were in attendance: Hassan Abdus-Sabur; Aide to Councilwoman LaMonica McIver; Gloria Chambers-Benoit, Essex County Division of Senior Services; Flohisha Hill, Community Action; Margaret Cammarieri, American Heart & Stroke Association; Nadira Brown, Division of Family Assistance and Benefits; Jessica Torres; and Ethel Gilbert.



Resident Services thanks the community partners who contributed to the Harvest Ball and made the event a success. *Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*



NCC residents participated in a dance competition, pitting building against building. Associates defeated Orange Senior, Roseville Senior beat Douglas Homes and Hudson Senior claimed victory over Gardens Senior. *Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*



Douglas Homes residents pose with Resident Services Coordinator Clesia Thompson, front right. *Photo courtesy of Charles Thom.*



Associates resident Joseph Gyulay was recognized as one of the oldest NCC residents. He displays his gift with Associates Resident Services Coordinator Anne Moran. *Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*



New Community Chief Operating Officer Fred Hunter stands with Orange Senior resident Pearl Nickerson. She received an award for being one of the oldest residents. *Photo courtesy of Charles Thom.*



Resident Services Director Donnette Burrowes-Williams, left, thanks Margaret Cammarieri of the American Heart & Stroke Association for speaking at the Harvest Ball. *Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*



Regina White of Manor Senior was named the Best Dressed Female at the Harvest Ball. *Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*



Gardens Senior resident Johnnie Killebrew was named Best Dressed Male at the Harvest Ball. He shows off his prize with Resident Services Director Donette Burrowes-Williams. *Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*



Flohisha Hill of Community Action speaks during the Harvest Ball. *Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*



*Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*



Orange Senior Resident Services Coordinator Sister Pauline Echebiri hands resident Rose Whittle a door prize at the Harvest Ball. *Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*



Above: Nadira Brown of the Division of Family Assistance and Benefits. Left: Gloria Chambers-Benoit of the Essex County Division of Senior Services. *Photos courtesy of Resident Services.*



*Photo courtesy of Charles Thom.*



*Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*





# NCC Senior Buildings Host Thanksgiving Celebrations



The Community Room at Gardens Senior was decked out for building's Thanksgiving Luncheon Nov. 25.



Orange Senior Resident Services Coordinator Sister Pauline Echebiri serves residents at the Thanksgiving Party Nov. 15.



Residents of Douglas Homes enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal Nov. 22. *Photo courtesy of Fallon Barnes.*



The Hudson Senior Community Room was full for the Thanksgiving Party Nov. 18. *Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*



Douglas Homes residents gathered in the Community Room for the Thanksgiving celebration Nov. 22. *Photo courtesy of Donnette Burrowes-Williams.*



Roseville Senior resident Linda Pearson, left, and Resident Services Coordinator Gladys Artis prepare the food for the building's Thanksgiving Luncheon Nov. 27. *Photo courtesy of Donnette Burrowes-Williams.*



Food was plentiful at the Manor Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon Nov. 19.



Bishop Speight hosted a Thanksgiving dinner at Associates Nov. 26. For the second year in a row, the event was held in memory of Elnora Haynes, who was a long-time resident of Associates before her passing in 2017. *Photo courtesy of Anne Moran.*



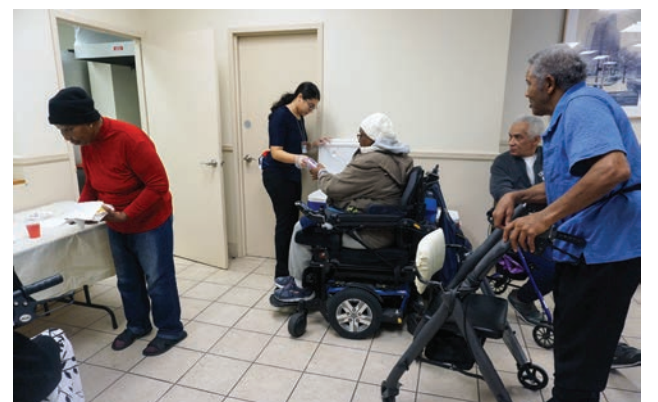
Hudson Senior residents enjoyed themselves at the Thanksgiving Party Nov. 18. *Photo courtesy of Resident Services.*



Attendees at the Gardens Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon Nov. 25 enjoyed themselves.



Orange Senior Manager Alisha Chatman-Jenkins serves the Thanksgiving meal she prepared for residents at the Thanksgiving Party Nov. 15.



Manor Senior residents enjoyed a warm meal and drinks at the Thanksgiving Luncheon Nov. 19.



## CHELCH Hosts Harvest Festival

Community Hills Early Learning Center, 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, held a Harvest Festival Oct. 31 for students. The children got to dress in their pajamas and parade around the building. They also received bags and candy.



## HHELCH Celebrates Halloween

Harmony House Early Learning Center, 278 South Orange Ave., Newark, celebrated Halloween Oct. 31 by having the children dress up in costumes and go trick-or-treating at the NCC Health Care Complex. *Photos courtesy of HHELCH.*



## NCC Residents Celebrate Halloween

Commons Senior, 140 South Orange Ave., Newark, and Douglas Homes, 15 Hill St., Newark, both held Halloween parties for residents Oct. 31.



Douglas Homes residents and Resident Services staff members got in the Halloween spirit Oct. 31.



Residents of Commons Senior enjoyed a meal together at the building's Halloween Party Oct. 31.



A mummy made an appearance at the Douglas Homes Halloween Party. *Photo courtesy of Flavia Pinheiro.*



Commons Senior residents and Resident Services staff members gathered Oct. 31 to celebrate Halloween.





## New Community Adult Learning Center

563 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey 07107

(973) 558-5536

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

### Available Courses

#### English for Speakers of Other Languages

Mondays through Thursdays:  
10 AM to 12 PM or 6 PM to 8 PM

#### Citizenship

Saturdays:  
9 AM to 12 PM

#### Computers – Basic & Intermediate Levels

Saturdays:  
9 AM to 12 PM or 12 PM to 3 PM

#### ABE, Pre-HSE, & HSE (English only)

Mondays through Thursdays:  
9:30 AM to 1:30 PM or 5:30 PM to 8 PM

### Free Services

#### Health Screenings

Physicals, Mammograms, Cholesterol, Nutrition, etc.

#### Open Community

Free workshops conducted by private institutions and/or volunteers for the general public

#### Other Services

- Community organizing
- Community rooms
- Social services referrals

### Cursos Disponibles

#### Inglés para Hablantes de otras Idiomas

Lunes a jueves:  
10 AM a 12 PM o 6 PM a 8 PM

#### Ciudadanía

Sábados:  
9 AM a 12 PM

#### Computadora – Nivel Básico e Intermedio

Sábados:  
9 AM a 12 PM o 12 PM a 3 PM

#### ABE, Pre-HSE, & HSE (Ingles solamente)

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

### Servicios Gratuitos

#### Exámenes Médicos Gratuitos

Físicos, Mamografías, Colesterol, Nutrición, etc.

#### Comunidad Abierta

Talleres gratuitos conducidos por instituciones privadas y/o voluntarios para el publico en general

#### Otros servicios

- Organización de la comunidad
- Sala de reuniones
- Referidos a servicios sociales

\*Weekdays and Saturdays courses are 9, 10, and 21 weeks long depending on the selected course.

## NCC Resident Goes from Volunteer to Full-Time Employee

Continued from page 1

and Gordon.

"These clients, when I'm down, they lift my spirits up," Gordon said. "I always like to hear their stories."

Gordon has her own stories to tell, which are part of a book she's working on titled "From My Mess to My Message." It chronicles the ups and downs in her life, including being the victim of a shooting at age 11 and a mugging at age 16.

When she was 14, Gordon told her mother she was afraid to go outside in her Newark neighborhood. She moved to Piscataway with her aunt and graduated from Piscataway High School. While in Piscataway, she spent weekends and holidays in Newark and returned to the city permanently to help her mother when her father got sick. Now she understands her fear wasn't of Newark but of the actions of a few. She is still cautious, but says she would take those steps in any neighborhood.

Gordon comes from a large family with seven siblings. She has a 10-year-old daughter who does well in school and participates in ballet and hip hop.

Gordon is active in her church and is part of the hospitality ministry. She also is artistic, able to create party favors for events like weddings, graduations and bar mitzvahs. She used to make creations as a business with a partner but the two went their separate ways. Now Gordon will provide favors for those she knows and for others through word of mouth.

While Gordon is grateful for her job at New Community and enjoys being a Home Friend, she hopes to advance. But she wants to grow within NCC instead of leaving for another organization.

"I really like working for New Community because it's a diverse company and because they like helping the community," Gordon said.

## 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.

We look forward to having you join our online network!



@NewCommunityCorporation



@NewCommunityCor



@newcommunitycorp



## Holiday Memories

By Leslie Lesley

**T**is the Season to be Jolly... That's right! The Holiday Season is upon us. It's time to put on those flannel pajamas, thermal underwear and winter boots. Thanksgiving has come

and gone and the Christmas decorations are going up for real. You may have hoped to get the holiday shopping done and out of the way on Black Friday, but to your dismay, you still have a lot of gifts to buy. Even though you caught some great bargains at the mall, at 3 o'clock in the morning, you still need a few other items to cross off your shopping list.

You did manage to purchase the major gift items. You know, the gift for your husband and the gifts for your children — those expensive electronics that you said you weren't going to buy this year? Then you bought the gifts for your parents, your siblings, your nieces and nephews, your girlfriends and then the gifts for your co-workers. You even bought a gift for your boss.

Admittedly, it was kind of cheap but you got her something anyway.

You do an inventory to see if there was anyone that you may have forgotten to get a gift for. You remember your son's fifth grade teacher and so you buy her a gift card. You remember the bank teller at your local bank that always gets you in and out when you are in a rush. So you buy her a gift card as well and you finish your holiday shopping. Not because you managed to get something for everyone on the list, but because you have spent all the money you had. It is at that moment that you start to remember the custodian at your job that always takes the garbage out of your office. Or the crossing guard at the end of your street that stops the traffic to cross your children every morning on their way to school.

With no more money left to buy a gift, you decide to make them something to show your appreciation for the things that they do for you. Maybe it's some holiday cookies that you bake or a sample of one of your best holiday dishes. It's the thought that counts and those thoughts create beautiful holiday memories. Happy Holidays!!!



## Adult Learning Center Students and Staff Recognized

**S**tudents and instructors at the New Community Adult Learning Center were recognized during the Literacy Volunteers of America, Essex & Passaic Counties Awards Ceremony Oct. 22 at the East Orange Public Library. They were recognized for the time they've devoted to improve adult literacy. More than 200 students and their families, tutors and other educators attended the annual event. *Photos courtesy of Cristhian Barcelos.*



NCC Adult Learning Center student Maria Encarnacion, left, with ESOL Level 2 instructor Olga Roberts.



Left Photo: Instructors from the New Community Adult Learning Center show off their certificates. From left to right: Olga Roberts, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Level 2; Marisol Ramirez, ESOL Level 1; Eidy Urena, ESOL Level 1; Delya Holt, High School Equivalency (HSE) Reading 2; and Rosyln Skyles, HSE Reading 1.



NCC Adult Learning Center student Kaydeen Johnson, left, with HSE Reading 2 instructor Delya Holt.



NCC Adult Learning Center students Nancy Trinidad, left, and Ana Vasquez, right, with ESOL Level 1 instructor Eidy Urena during the Literacy Volunteers of America, Essex & Passaic Counties Awards Ceremony.