



OUT OF THE ASHES CAME HOPE

# CLARION

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK

Volume 34 – Issue 11 ~ December 2017

## Harmony House After-School Program Helps Kids Excel



Harmony House Youth Coordinator Angela Hall helps a student with homework during the after-school program.

education; and recreational activities like arts and crafts and organized games. There are currently 20 children in the program, which has room for 25 participants and is available exclusively to Harmony House families.

“The goal is to help our students develop basic skills and to succeed in school, in addition to providing them with the opportunity to try new things,” said Edward Morris, director of Youth Services at New Community.

The main purpose of the program is academic enrichment so the children spend one hour on their homework. If they finish their homework early, they are provided with appropriate academic work to complete for the remainder of the time.

In addition to Harmony House staff, two members of the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission (ERESC) work with the children. There is currently one teacher and one social worker involved. In total, four staff members run the after-school program.

Judith Robertson, the teacher from ERESC, explained that staff members interact with the students’ teachers and act as a liaison for parents.

“We provide continuity between school and home,” she said.

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Children in kindergarten through seventh grade living at Harmony House, New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families, have a place to go once the school day ends to enhance their learning and have some fun.

The Harmony House Excel program, which runs from 3 to 6 p.m. each school day at Harmony House, provides children with a hot, nutritious meal; homework instruction and assistance, including one-on-one tutoring if needed; character

## CMA Student Juggles Full-Time Job And Classes



Samaya Hutchinson is participating in the Certified Medical Assistant program at New Community Workforce Development Center. She hopes to one day become a registered nurse.

at New Community Workforce Development Center.

Hutchinson works as a certified home health aide at Brighton Gardens, Sunrise Senior Living in West Orange from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She also works Saturday afternoons and sometimes Sunday. She attends class from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the week.

Getting very little sleep hasn’t deterred the 21-year-old.

“It’s hard but I push myself because I want more for myself,” she said. “I want to finance myself so I don’t have to depend on my parents.”

Hutchinson moved to East Orange last year from Jamaica. She lives with her mother, stepfather, three sisters and two brothers.

She has wanted to work in the health care field since she was about 6 years old, when her grandmother passed away. “Because I didn’t have the chance to help her, I wanted to be a nurse,” Hutchinson said.

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Having a full-time job while going to school is never easy, but it becomes even more of a challenge when you’re working nights and attending classes during the day. That’s what Samaya Hutchinson is doing to complete the Certified Medical Assistant program

## Remember To Help Others This Holiday Season

Editorial By  
Monsignor William J. Linder

Shortly before Thanksgiving, President Trump pardoned two turkeys, as is a presidential tradition. That declaration wasn’t controversial like his pardon of former Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio in August.

Arpaio was convicted of criminal contempt for knowingly violating a federal judge’s order, which said individuals could not be detained simply because they were undocumented. He’s notorious for being anti-Hispanic. The president’s pardon of him was another way in which he has divided the country.

The president should be an example to the nation, not fight with its people as he so often does. He needs to be known for his care to the poor, particularly poor immigrants and refugees who have no one to look after them.

We need to remember the children, especially those from violent and war-torn areas who have lived through horror in their life that no one should have to experience.

As we enter the Christmas season, we should remember that Mary and Joseph couldn’t find a place for her to have her baby. They were turned away in their time of need.

We shouldn’t make that same mistake today. We should be building shelters and caring for people who are homeless, regardless of their immigration status.

If you look at the president’s tweets, they’re never expressing care for anyone. His life just revolves around him. That’s not the message of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The holiday season is a time to thank God and to share. We should all remember that, including President Trump.

See more photos on:  
[facebook.com/newcommunitycorporation](https://www.facebook.com/newcommunitycorporation)

## The New Community Clarion

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Michelle Lang

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

## NCC Director Receives Community Service Award



Ironbound Community Corporation Executive Director Joseph Della Fave stands with New Community Corporation Director of Special Projects Richard Cammarieri. Cammarieri is holding the Sister Carol Johnston Community Service Award, which he received at ICC's "...and Justice for All! Cocktail Party." Photo courtesy of Ironbound Community Corporation.

Ironbound Community Corporation presented New Community Director of Special Projects Richard Cammarieri with the Sister Carol Johnston Community Service Award at its "...and Justice for All! Cocktail Party" Oct. 26, held at Sports Club Portuguese in Newark.

## Around The Network

# Colon And Prostate Cancer Education

Associates held a workshop for residents to learn more about colon and prostate cancers. David J. Landry, operations manager and research specialist at the S.A.V.E. Community Cancer Screening Program for New Jersey Medical School, visited Associates' Community Room to give the presentation. He discussed the screening techniques for each type of cancer and the risks associated with them.



David J. Landry of New Jersey Medical School shows Associates residents what polyps look like in a colon.



Operations Manager and Research Specialist David J. Landry displays a model of the prostate during the workshop.



Residents of Associates learn about the risk factors, screening practices and treatment options for colon and prostate cancers.

## Talking Newark Culture

Representatives from Newark Arts continued visits to New Community senior buildings to have conversations about the meaning of culture in Newark.



Residents of Roseville Senior discuss Newark culture Oct. 25.



Manor Senior residents give their take on the meaning of culture in Newark Nov. 16. Photo courtesy of Donnette Burrowes-Williams.

## Extended Care Halloween Party

Residents of New Community Extended Care celebrated Halloween Oct. 31 in a room decorated with Halloween themed balloons, orange tablecloths and other fall decorations. They enjoyed music and sang along to classic songs.



A Newark Arts representative leads the discussion at Roseville Senior.



## Employee Of The Month: Ariana Rivera



SAIF Intensive Case Manager Ariana Rivera finds her work of helping people during difficult times fulfilling.

Ariana Rivera wears many hats as an intensive case manager with the Supportive Assistance to Individuals and Families program (SAIF) at New Community. She helps individuals who are about to exhaust their public assistance benefits with job placement, resume building and housing, as well as offering other resources.

Rivera can relate to the clients she serves. She herself received public assistance, as well as her mother. She tells her clients about her experience to reiterate the fact that there's no judgement of them and to hopefully make them feel comfortable enough to share their circumstances and needs.

"I'm very genuine when it comes to my clients," Rivera said. "They have to be comfortable to let you in."

Her dedication to the job shows.

"She is an extraordinary intensive case manager. She is caring and passionate about helping our associates. She is resourceful and is always willing to help and go the extra mile," said SAIF Director Jackie Andrews. "She is a true asset to this department."

Rivera has been with SAIF for nearly three years. Prior to joining New Community, she worked for a year as a bilingual advocate at a domestic violence shelter. She has an associate's degree from Essex County College and a bachelor's degree in social work from Rutgers-Newark.

She finds her work very fulfilling.

"Just knowing that I made a difference is the best part of my job," she said.

One of Rivera's clients was homeless with two children. She helped her find housing and said the woman expresses her gratitude every chance she gets.

Because New Community has a vast array of services, Rivera rarely has to find clients assistance from outside organizations. She frequently refers clients to the Financial Opportunity Center, Family Service Bureau and Family Resource Success Center.

"NCC has so many resources," Rivera said. "I turn to them first."

While providing services and support is key to her job, Rivera said the ultimate goal is to have clients find a job and no longer need SAIF support.

Clients' files are closed out when they no longer need support or they are able to continue receiving benefits because of an exemption. But that doesn't mean they never speak to staff members again. Rivera said she had one client who became employed and had his file closed out. She received a call from afterward explaining that he had a falling out with his significant other and was living out of his car because he couldn't afford the security deposit for a new home. She helped to get him the money he needed for a new place to live.

Not only does Rivera work for New Community, but she also lives in its housing. When she came across the ad for her current position, she was hoping to be able to work for the organization that provided her a home.

"I'm very appreciative of the SAIF program and New Community," Rivera said. "I'm grateful to Ms. Andrews for giving me this opportunity."

Rivera has two children, a daughter who is 10 and a son who is 7. She enjoys spending her free time with her kids.

## NCC Financial Opportunity Center Honored



Honorees pose with their awards at the Greater Newark LISC 2017 New Jersey Neighborhood Achievement Awards reception at St. Joseph Plaza. New Community Corporation Financial Opportunity Center was recognized (representatives at left). Photo courtesy of Tracey Battles.

New Community Corporation Financial Opportunity Center received a Neighborhood Impact Award from Greater Newark LISC for operating a comprehensive financial opportunity center. The award presentation was part of the Greater Newark LISC 2017 New Jersey Neighborhood Achievement Awards reception and dinner, held Nov. 2 at St. Joseph Plaza. Other honorees included RWJ Barnabas Health, Chancellor Nancy Cantor and financial opportunity centers from Ironbound Community Corporation and Urban League of Essex County. New Community Corporation CEO Richard Rohrman and New Community Workforce Development Center Director Rodney Brutton appreciate the recognition and the FOC funding partners, which include LISC and Capital One Bank.

### NEW COMMUNITY CORPORATION



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NEW COMMUNITY  
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## Harmony House After-School Program Helps Kids Excel

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Harmony House Youth Counselor Marcia Ramos works with children as part of the Excel after-school program.

Morris said Excel program staff members are in contact with teachers and counselors to see where the students are in class so they can help the students get where they need to be and address any issues that may be occurring.

Children do more than academic work during the program. Board games and puzzles are available to them, as well as arts and crafts, science activities and cooking. On Fridays, the children go to the NCC Neighborhood Center around 4:30 p.m. to participate in joint organized activities with children in the program there, including relay races and obstacle courses.

“Academics is the focus, but we want them to experience other things while they’re here as well,” Morris said.

In addition to helping the children, the

Excel program also involves the parents. Parent workshops are held, with topics chosen based on surveys that parents receive. Staff members encourage parents to volunteer during the program and they hold special events periodically to bring the parents and children together.

Celestine Swain, whose two children have participated in the after-school program, said it has a great impact.

“The entire staff here work very hard to try to make the transition from being homeless to being a home,” she said. “Whatever resources they can offer, they do.”

Morris said the after-school program provides a positive atmosphere for participants.

“The kids enjoy it because they get to work with staff and take part in a number of fun activities,” he said.

NCC received a grant from the Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC) over the summer to fund the after-school program through December. The grant is from the county to address unmet needs of children in Essex County. It pays for staff, supplies and food.

“Getting this grant enhances our Harmony House transitional home program by providing children stability and support for their educational needs while gaining support for stability in securing permanent housing,” said Chief of Health and Social Services Arti Kakkar.

Morris is hoping to get the program licensed with the New Jersey Department of Licensing,

which would allow for additional funding sources. He’s hoping to have the license in early 2018.



Children participating in the Harmony House after-school program play games in addition to receiving academic enrichment.



Judith Robertson of the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission reads with a Harmony House student. Robertson serves as a teacher for the after-school program.

## Withum Hosts Thanksgiving Dinner For Harmony House Residents

Accounting firm Withum hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for residents of Harmony House, New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families, Nov. 21 at St. Joseph Plaza. Families enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal that Withum representatives prepared and served. Adults and children enjoyed dancing to music provided by a DJ. Darryl “DMC” McDaniels, a founding member of hip-hop group Run DMC, also attended and signed copies of his book “Ten Ways Not to Commit Suicide: A Memoir” for residents.



## NCC Day Care Centers Celebrate Thanksgiving

Community Hills Early Learning Center and Harmony House Early Learning Center each held Thanksgiving celebrations for children and parents. CHELC’s luncheon was held Nov. 21 and HHELIC’s brunch was Nov. 22.



## Social Security News

### Social Security's Gift To Children Is Security

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

During the holiday season, most of us, regardless of religion or beliefs, focus on the children we love. Caring for children is one of the best ways to safeguard the future. And we at Social Security know a thing or two about helping children.

The application for a Social Security number and card is sometimes overlooked in the paperwork that parents fill out in preparation for a child's birth. Typically, the hospital will ask new mothers if they want to apply for a Social Security number for their newborn as part of the birth registration process. This is the easiest and fastest way to apply. The Social Security card typically arrives about a week to 10 days after that little bundle of joy! You can learn about Social Security numbers for children by reading our publication, Social Security Numbers for Children, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

A child needs a Social Security number if he or she is going to have a bank account, if a relative is buying savings bonds for the child, if the child will have medical coverage or if the child will receive government services. You'll also need a Social Security number for a child to claim him or her on your tax returns.

If you wait to apply, you will have to visit a Social Security office and you'll need to:

- Complete an Application for a Social Security Card (Form SS-5);
- Show us original documents proving your child's U.S. citizenship, age and identity; and
- Show us documents proving your identity.

A child age 12 or older requesting an original Social Security number must appear in person for the interview, even though a parent or guardian will sign the application on the child's behalf.

Children with disabilities are among our most vulnerable citizens. Social Security is dedicated to helping those with qualifying disabilities and their families through the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. To qualify for SSI:

- The child must have a physical or mental condition, or a combination of conditions, resulting in "marked and severe functional limitations." This means that the condition(s) must severely limit your child's activities;
- The child's condition(s) must be severe, last for at least 12 months or be expected to result in death; and
- The child must not be working and earning more than the Substantial Gainful Activity limit (\$1,180 a month in 2018).

Family resources are also considered. If the parents of the child or children have more resources than are allowed, then the child or children will not qualify for SSI. You can read more about children's benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf).

Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/kids](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/kids) to learn more about all we do to care for children. Social Security is with you and your children through your life's journey, securing today and tomorrow.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Gerald Moses



Gerald Moses retired from the New Community Environmental Services Department before moving to Orange Senior.

Gerald Moses is a familiar face at New Community. He spent 25 years working as part of the Environmental Services Department before retiring and moving to Orange Senior last August.

Moses was born in Georgia and spent the first 10 years of his life in Lakeland, Ga., before moving to Newark. He lived in Newark for the rest of his childhood and adult life until making the move to Orange Senior, 132 William St., Orange, in 2016.

Before joining NCC Environmental Services, he had jobs in security, factories and sales. While employed at New Community, Moses served as a groundskeeper, building superintendent and truck driver. He also did furniture pickups for New Community Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson, which he continues to do in retirement.

"I'm always on call for her," Moses said.

Wilson isn't the only person within the New Community network that Moses assists.

"Mr. Moses is a good man, very helpful. He is always ready to help and does so when asked. When we had the Orange Senior and Floor Captains

Appreciation Day, he was the chief cook. He did all the grilling," said Orange Senior Care Coordinator Sister Pauline Echebiri. He also helps transport extra food from Orange Senior to other NCC buildings.

"We are lucky to have him here at Orange Senior and pray that God will continue to bless him," Echebiri said.

Orange Senior isn't the first NCC property Moses has called home. He has lived in several New Community buildings over the last 25 years, including Homes Court, Douglas Houses and NCC Estates.

When it came time to retire, Moses, who is now 69 years old, decided to put his name on the waiting list for Orange Senior because he liked the building. When space became available, he jumped at the chance to move in. He said he retired and moved in three days.

"I like the building itself," Moses said. "It's always clean and quiet. What more could a retiree ask for?"

Moses likes to watch television, listen to music and visit people. He also plans to travel in retirement. While most of his family members live in Newark, he has relatives and friends in Atlanta, Ga., and Florida.

While Moses has no children, he has a friend with grandchildren that call him grandpa. He said he's the only grandpa they've ever known. His wife passed away a few years ago.

Moses said his rent is affordable and he likes living at Orange Senior. He's also glad he gets to see his former coworkers throughout the network.

"For 25 years I've been a part of New Community," Moses said. "It was my livelihood and my living quarters."

vna Health Group  
Visiting Nurse Association Health & Hospice

Wellness Tip  
December 2017



#### Prepare your Home

- \* Check your heating system to ensure it's running properly
- \* Make sure you have enough heating fuel if applicable
- \* Check and replace batters in smoke detectors and CO alarms
- \* Insulate water line to avoid pipes freezing and/or bursting



#### Prepare your Car

- \* Check your tire treads, install snow or all-terrain tires
- \* Check and refill antifreeze and windshield washer fluid
- \* Keep an emergency kit in case you get stranded. Include: first-aid kit, car phone charger, jumper cables, and flash light



#### Plan for Weather

- \* Regularly check weather forecasts
- \* Stock up on non-perishable food and water
- \* Keep cell phones charged
- \* Keep shovels and salt/sand handy for clearing snow or icy walkways
- \* Invest in a generator for when the power goes out

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

## Harmony House Residents Receive Thanksgiving Baskets



Representatives from Independence360, a program serving adults with autism and related developmental disabilities, and accounting firm Withum show off the items they brought to Harmony House to help families prepare Thanksgiving dinner.

Residents of Harmony House, New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families, received baskets filled with supplies to make a plentiful Thanksgiving meal. The donated items came from Independence360, a program serving adults with autism and related developmental disabilities, and



accounting firm Withum. Representatives from both organizations visited the facility with the baskets Nov. 21.

Withum donated the turkeys and one of the parents of an Independence360 participant provided the baskets. The rest of the items came from clients.

"We each went to the grocery store with our parents to buy the items," explained Kyle Paczolt, an Independence360 participant.

Independence360 Livingston Supervisor Cassandra Flanagan brings members of the program each year with donations. She is familiar with Harmony House because her mother used to be a teacher at the Harmony House Early Learning Center.

Flanagan said this year, donations included fresh produce and detergents to make the baskets more robust.

Residents were happy to get the items, thanking everyone who came.

"We just so appreciate you going beyond the call of duty, as far as we're concerned, to come out to make sure that our families have a nice Thanksgiving," Harmony House Senior Case Manager Lisa Chavis told the visitors.



## NIDO Honors NCC Health And Social Services Director

New Community Health and Social Services Director and Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka received an award from the New Jersey Chapter of Nigerians In Diaspora Organization (NIDO) recognizing her contribution to the development of humanity and the Nigerian community in the United States. Onwunaka was honored at Newark City Hall Oct. 25 during a celebration of the 57th anniversary of Nigeria's independence.



Nigerian Consul General of New York Nicholas Ella presents New Community Health and Social Services Director and Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka with an award of excellence.



New Community Health and Social Services Director and Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka thanks the New Jersey Chapter of Nigerians In Diaspora Organization (NIDO) for recognizing her accomplishments and encourages others to help the people of Nigeria whenever they can.

## Adult Learning Center Students And Volunteers Honored

Students and volunteers from the New Community Adult Learning Center were recognized at the annual awards ceremony held by Literacy Volunteers of America, Essex and Passaic Counties Oct. 17. Volunteers from the center were recognized for being LVA tutors. Students received awards for Basic Literacy and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages).



LVA tutor Julie Stern, Adult Learning Center student and ESOL award recipient Mercedes Urbi, Adult Learning Center student and ESOL award recipient Bryan Leizon and Adult Learning Center Director Cristhian Barcelos (left to right). Photo courtesy of LVA.



LVA tutor Rosa Ramirez, LVA tutor Jasmeet Kaur, LVA tutor Delya Holt, Adult Learning Center Director Cristhian Barcelos and LVA tutor Roslyn Skyles (left to right). Photo courtesy of LVA.



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# New Community Celebrates Thanksgiving



## Family Service Bureau Newark New Start

The name of the program speaks volumes: Newark New Start (NNS). If asked the question, “who would not want a new start or support along the way during the beginning of something new?” This is what the staff of Newark New Start provides to each new mom that is embarking on the experience of motherhood. Our motto is: Providing a brighter tomorrow for mothers and their babies. We instill in each new mom the mantra “I can” to help replace the word “I can’t.”

“I can raise this child, I can go back to school, I can ask for help and receive it, I can fall down, BUT I can get back up, I can graduate from high school, I can go to college, I can struggle and overcome...”

The goal of the program is to provide supportive services to a mother who recently has become a parent and has not been able to fully prepare (financially, emotionally, etc.). As with any program, many challenges arise. This is because many people

have their own challenges, but NNS staff will help the person regardless of their needs. They also try to lighten the load by hosting activities so that the mothers can let their hair down and remove themselves from the stresses of life just for a moment. NNS staff host different events to help this happen, such as playing games, laughing, dancing and having dinners certain times of the year (i.e. Mother’s Day, Christmas, etc.).

On a typical day, NNS staff are doing the following: Delivering a car seat and a baby bag to a mother so that she can take her child home from the maternity ward. This includes nights, weekends and holidays. New Jersey state law requires that a mother have a car seat before she is allowed to leave the hospital. We seek to meet the need, while enjoying the smiles that you encounter when you enter the room at the hospital of a mother “who awaits” your arrival and huge sigh of relief that the need has been

met after the mother gets a car seat and she is able to go home from the hospital with her baby.

Upon discharge from the hospital, NNS staff will make home visits to ensure that the parents have been properly prepared for the child’s arrival. This includes and is not limited to assisting with linking and referring the new mother and child to whatever else is needed for the first six months to assist in their responsibilities in becoming a parent (i.e. support services for school, counseling, entitlements, etc.).

During 2016, we were able to serve approximately 100 mothers during the year with baby items, referrals, clothing, hugs, workshops, etc. The length of the program is approximately six months.

*Newark New Start is the Family Service Bureau’s boarder baby prevention program that provides assistance to at-risk mothers and babies in need. The Family Service Bureau is an affiliate of New Community.*

### Celebrating Fall



Students and teachers at Community Hills Early Learning Center participated in the Harvest Parade Oct. 31. Kids wore their pajamas and marched through the hallways by class.

### Trick-Or-Treat!



Children who attend Harmony House Early Learning Center went trick-or-treating Oct. 31 in the Health Care Complex next door to their facility. Teachers led the students through the building and helped them collect candy from the different departments.



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

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

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**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**

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**Otros servicios**

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

**Happy Birthday!**



NCC Arts celebrated the 77th birthday of Yvette Glover, mother of tap dancer Savion Glover, with members of the jazz and dance community in attendance. The celebration took place Nov. 10 at St. Joseph Plaza. Photo courtesy of Denise McCoy.

**CMA Student Juggles**

**Full-Time Job And Classes**

Continued from page 1

Her sister, who wanted to be a doctor, got very sick when she was 15 and passed away. That pushed Hutchinson even more toward health care.

Hutchinson’s ultimate goal is to become a registered nurse. She plans to complete the Workforce CMA program and work as a certified medical assistant full-time while also maintaining her role as a certified home health aide on the weekends. She wants to earn a bachelor’s degree as well, which she hopes to start working toward in 2019.

New Community Workforce Development Center staff members are convinced she’ll achieve her goals.

“Samaya is destined for success. She’s smart, hard-working and committed to making the necessary sacrifices to meet her professional and personal goals,” said Workforce Development Center Director Rodney Brutton. “This is evident by Samaya’s perfect attendance participating in the CMA program although she works a full-time job at Brighton Gardens, Sunrise Senior Living.”

“Ms. Hutchinson is a motivated and diligent student whom I had the pleasure of having in my class,” said CMA instructor Seham Abouelhassan. “Ms. Hutchinson is always willing to learn and has proven to be responsible and punctual in spite of her overnight job which I know to be tiresome and draining.”

Hutchinson enjoys taking classes at Workforce. She said it’s a friendly atmosphere with good teachers. She also has a very close relationship with the other students.

“My classmates are like family to me,” she said.

Hutchinson is very driven to attain the education needed to pursue her dream career and maintain independence. Another goal she has is to get a driver’s license and her own car next year.

“I’ve always wanted to help others and make people proud, especially my mom,” Hutchinson said.

She is well on her way to doing both.

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.



**Peace on Earth...Please**

By Lesley Leslie

**A**s we approach the end of the year and celebrate this holiday season, it is difficult not to experience a sense

of sadness. The number of mass shootings in the United States this year has reached levels of unprecedented proportions. How do you gather together with your families in celebration and not think about the number of families and communities that have been impacted by senseless killings? We live in what some would say is the most powerful country in the world. Yet, we have repeatedly seen how a lack of consensus in Washington, D.C. can result in the remainder of the country experiencing loss of life due to gun violence.

Our beautiful USA, the United States of America, has become the “DSA” — the Divided States of America. Bipartisan leadership in the government, though difficult, was still possible because those in positions of power understood the gravity of their decisions and the lives that were impacted by those decisions. They were able to cross party lines for the sake of the citizens that they represented in their home states. However, today there are many in leadership that would rather “sit” in support of their political party, then “stand” for what is right. There are lives at stake.

How can we strive for peace on earth when we refuse to practice good will towards men? We have to do better...

Peaceful Holidays and A Peaceful New Year.

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## Annual Halloween Party A Big Success

More than 200 children attended New Community Corporation's Annual Halloween Party Oct. 28 at the NCC Neighborhood Center, 56-68 Hayes St., Newark. The evening event included a costume contest, prizes and a haunted classroom. *Photos courtesy of Edward Morris.*

