



CLARION

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK

Volume 36 — Issue 2 ~ February 2019

New Community Seniors Enjoy Renovated Apartments



Livingstone Allen shows off the new kitchen in his apartment at Commons Senior, one of four senior buildings to undergo renovations.

Residents living in four New Community senior buildings can now enjoy their newly renovated apartments. Rehab work is complete on units in Commons Senior, Douglas Homes, Gardens Senior and Roseville Senior, with only minor touch-ups being finished.

“It is a genuinely satisfying moment in the life of four of our senior buildings in Newark. The properties have reached what the architects call ‘substantial completion’. It means the great majority of the renovations are complete,” said NCC CEO Richard Rohrman. “They are ready to serve their purpose as affordable housing for our seniors for another 20 years.”

Residents of the renovated buildings are happy with the results.

“They did a fantastic job,” said Livingstone Allen, a resident of Commons Senior.

The 69-year-old proudly showed off his newly renovated apartment. He received new appliances, a whole new bathroom, new closet doors and painted walls.

“They changed everything,” he said. “It’s nice.”

Wayne Bullock, who is 61 and lives at Douglas Homes, said while the project was an inconvenience, it was well worth it.

“They did a beautiful job and I want to give my appreciation for what New Community has done,” he said.

Bullock’s entire apartment was worked on and he said the changes have been a big improvement.

“New cabinets, floors, appliances, a whole new bathroom, all new baseboards, whole new ceiling. And the windows!” Bullock said. “I love it. And I am so grateful.”

In addition to being more aesthetically pleasing, Bullock said the new windows were a big improvement because they keep out more noise and draft and they’re easier to lift, which is a big help for seniors. He also said his entire apartment is brighter since the work was done.

The rehabilitation project encompasses both senior buildings and family units at the four Newark properties. Work on the family units, which began in 2018, is continuing. All work on the properties will be complete by the end of 2019.

The entire project is meant to update and preserve NCC’s affordable

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Employees Recognized For Dedication To New Community



Environmental Services staff members Bryant Hall and Linda Studivant accept plaques recognizing their 35 years of service to New Community during the 2019 Employee Recognition Ceremony from NCC CEO Richard Rohrman, center.

New Community Corporation held its 2019 Employee Recognition Ceremony Jan. 24 at St. Joseph Plaza where 59 employees were recognized for their years of service to the organization. Plaques were handed out to employees for reaching milestones of five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years with New Community.

“Everyone here is responsible for carrying out New Community’s mission,” said NCC CEO Richard Rohrman. “And you do such a wonderful job. I just really want to thank you and congratulate you for all of the hard work.”

Director of Human Resources Ben Galvez said the employees recognized have over 730 years of service to New Community collectively.

“Your collective years at New Community demonstrate your commitment to the people we serve that depend on us,” Galvez said. “It also shows your commitment to helping to fulfill our mission on a daily basis.”

Two employees from Environmental Services, Bryant Hall and Linda Studivant, were recognized for having the longest tenure of 35 years.



Samson Gebreyesus of Management, NCC CEO Richard Rohrman, William Folsom of Security, Fany Lopez of Extended Care and NCC Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson, left to right. Gebreyesus, Folsom and Lopez received plaques commemorating 30 years of employment at New Community.

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The New Community Clarion

The New Community Clarion is published as a community service. The editor reserves the right to withhold articles and photographs once they are submitted. Opinions expressed in columns are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the view of the newspaper.

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OUR MISSION

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

New Community is recognized as:

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

Save The Date

Celebration Of Life Elizabeth Brookins

Thursday, Feb. 7
from 4 to 8 p.m.

Extended Care
266 South Orange Ave.
Newark, NJ 07103

Around The Network

Residents Learn About Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. At Luncheon

Residents of Commons Senior, 140 South Orange Ave., Newark, participated in a luncheon honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 16. They learned facts about the civil rights leader and celebrated his life and work. Food for the luncheon was purchased through a donation from Walmart.



Commons Senior resident Lillie Rivers, right, shares facts about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before the luncheon.



Commons Senior Resident Services Coordinator Jill Derios, left, welcomes residents to the event.



Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Residents of Orange Senior, 132 William St., Orange, celebrated the life of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 18 in the Community Room. Essex County College Adjunct Professor Louise Layton spoke to residents about the life and accomplishments of King. The group sang songs and enjoyed a late lunch at the event.



Essex County College Adjunct Professor Louise Layton, left, talks about the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Orange Senior Property Manager Alisha Chatman-Jenkins, Resident Services Director Donnette Burrowes-Williams and Resident Services Coordinator Sister Pauline Echebiri, seated left to right, look on.



Orange Senior resident Mabel Ankum provides facts about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the building's celebration Jan. 18.



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: Sommer Flood



Sommer Flood has been a Family Worker at Community Hills Early Learning Center since September 2018.

Parents and students at Community Hills Early Learning Center are greeted each morning by Family Worker Sommer Flood as they head to class. She serves as a liaison between families and CHELC.

Flood is the line of communication between parents and teachers. If parents need to speak with the teacher or relay any type of information concerning the child, they reach out to Flood and she passes along the message. If a teacher needs to speak with a parent, Flood contacts the parent and facilitates the conversation. She also is in contact with Newark Public Schools personnel, including speech therapists and social workers; conducts home visits with families; provides parent support groups; and helps prepare families

for kindergarten.

In addition, Flood also connects parents to community resources. She recalled that a student's glasses broke in class and she found the nonprofit ChildSight in Newark and connected the parent to that organization. The child was able to receive two free pairs of glasses. If families have issues with transportation, Flood will try to obtain bus tickets for them. The goal is to keep the children coming to school.

Flood sees her role as a support person and is always willing to help families. She handles four pre-K classes for a total of 60 students, ages 3 and 4.

"My favorite part of the job is being able to show students, parents and staff that I care, that I'm here to support them in any way that I can," she said. "I want to see everyone succeed. If one person succeeds, in my opinion, we all succeed."

Her work has been noticed.

"Ms. Sommer has created great relationships with our families and has created great ideas that involve our children and families," said CHELC Director Gloria Johnson.

Flood started working at New Community in July 2017 and held several temporary positions before taking on the permanent role of Family Worker at CHELC. She served as a teacher's assistant at Harmony House Early Learning Center, the receptionist for Harmony House and a

temporary case manager at Harmony House.

"Basically I became part of the New Community family and I'm here now," she said. "I've always been interested in community development, community engagement, public service type of work. And that's what NCC does."

Flood graduated from Science Park High School in Newark and continued her education at Rutgers-Newark. She graduated from there with a degree in Public Administration. She was able to get the teacher's assistant job at HHELC because while in college, she worked for Kids Corp during the summer as a teacher's assistant.

She has held other jobs as well, all related to serving others. She has worked in retail and was a toll collector.

"I like customer service. I like showing people that I'm here to help them. So all of these jobs, if you need my help, I'm here to help you," Flood said. "I'm a public servant. I just like helping people."

Flood currently lives in Rahway with her uncle, her mother, her mother's husband, her sister, her brother and her brother's daughter. She is the oldest of five siblings.

In her spare time, Flood likes to go to the movies, go out to eat, go to museums, see jazz performances and read books. She also likes traveling and exploring places.

Make Plans To Attend National Wear Red Day Event Feb. 22



Those who participate in the National Wear Red Day Event will learn how to lower their risk of heart disease. At last year's event, AHA/ASA Ambassador Amarilys Olivo from the Garden of Worker Bees, Newark performed a cooking demonstration with tips for how to prepare meals in a heart healthy way.

The New Community Department of Resident Services will be hosting its annual National Wear Red Day Event Friday, Feb. 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark. The men and women of New Community are invited to attend.

The annual event is done in conjunction with the American Heart Association | American Stroke Association and is meant to raise awareness about heart disease, particularly in women. Attendees will learn more about heart disease risk factors and how to lower them.

For more information or to reserve your seat, call Resident Services at 973-623-0914 or 973-624-0052. Refreshments will be served. Please wear red when you attend!

NEW COMMUNITY CORPORATION



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www.newcommunity.org

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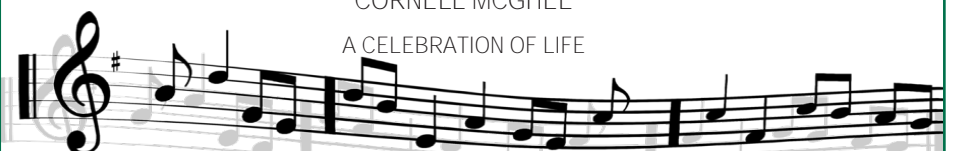
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Our Mission: To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

Employees Recognized For Dedication To New Community

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NCC CEO Richard Rohrman, left, and Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson, center, stand with Chief of Staff Kathy Spivey, Environmental Services employee Wilson Medina and Security staff member Gerard Mansare, holding plaques left to right. The trio received recognition for 25 years of service.

“Linda has been the smiling face and the happy voice that you hear whenever you call Environmental Services,” Rohrman said. “I’ve never heard a cross word, I’ve never heard a complaint. I’ve never heard anything other than, ‘What can I do to help?’ out of Linda in all these years.”

Rohrman said Hall can be seen throughout the NCC network.

“Every time you turn around, he’s always fixing a problem. He’s always there when you need him,” Rohrman said. “Whenever there’s a need, Bryant’s on the job. Bryant, thank you so much for all your contributions.”

NCC Chief of Staff Kathy Spivey received a plaque for 25 years of service. Rohrman called her the rock of New Community.

“She has been part of everything New Community has done. She brought the insights, the compassion, the ideas that have really helped form New Community,” he said. “She was with Monsignor every day and was part of making New Community what it is now.”

Director of Mission Frances Teabout shared a poem about how people come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime. She related it to New Community saying employees come to NCC for a reason (they need a job and the organization needs a role filled), some stay for a season (a while but then they decide to move on) and others stay for a lifetime.

“Today we just want to pause and thank you all for being a part of New Community, for being the spirit of New Community,” Teabout said. “Whether you’ve been here for a reason, which is now becoming a season, or for a lifetime.”

Employees recognized at the ceremony each received a plaque commemorating their years of service and were treated to lunch in their honor.



Director of Community Engagement Richard Cammarieri, Resident Services Coordinator Lourdes Fuentes, Extended Care employee Gwendolyn Robinson and Extended Care employee Delores Thomas, left to right, show the plaques they received for 20 years of service to NCC.



Employees who have worked at New Community for 10 years.



Extended Care employees Kala Boxcell, Peter Nyamo and Yetunde Amokun, left to right, display their plaques for 15 years of service to New Community.



NCC employees show off their plaques recognizing five years of service.

EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED

Five Years: Alicia Adams (SAIF), Akinade Adeyemi (Security), Leslie Andujar (Human Resources), Bridget Bouie (Security), Ramon Cabrera (Environmental Services), Alphonzo Clanton (Environmental Services), Dwayne Clyburn (Environmental Services), Frances Davis (HHELC), Mark Hall (Security), Jacqueline Henry (Extended Care), Evelyn John (CHELC), Sam Joseph (Environmental Services), Ronald Manning (Environmental Services), Gertrude McLean (CHELC), Rhonda Nobles (Extended Care), Helen Okafor (Extended Care), Elsie Palacios (CHELC), Ronald Prysock (Workforce Development), Joseph Takouezim (Management), Dametria Wertz (FSB), Wade Wilcher (Security) and John Zaccheus (YATC).

Ten Years: Solomon O. Airiofolo (Extended Care), Jerome S. Barrow (Security), Tanguila Brown (HHELC), Nijeriah T. Coley-Severin (Extended Care), Rose Estaing (Extended Care), Cephus Harris (Environmental Services), Tamara Harris (Extended Care), Mary Ikpa (Extended Care), Ruth J. Kimutai (Extended Care), Ronda Lawrence (Environmental Services), John S. Mensah (Security), Rahel A. Nyambi (Extended Care), Lawretta Odih (Extended Care), Ngozi

Onuoha (Extended Care), Rosa Ramirez (Adult Learning), Sattie Samkaran (Security) and Lateisha Telfair (CHELC).

Fifteen Years: Yetunde Amokun (Extended Care), Cristhian F. Barcelos (Adult Learning), Roxana Benjamin (Extended Care), Kala Boxcell (Extended Care), Peter Nyamo (Extended Care) and Prentiss Thompson (Security).

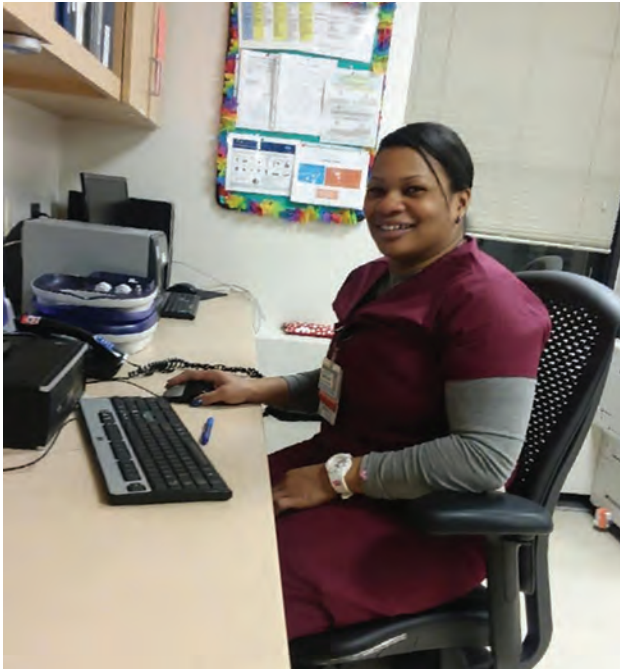
Twenty Years: Richard S. Cammarieri (Administration), Lourdes Fuentes (Resident Services), Elizabeth Mbakaya (Finance), Gwendolyn Robinson (Extended Care) and Delores Thomas (Extended Care).

Twenty-Five Years: Fitzroy Barnett (Harmony House), Gerard Mansare (Security), Wilson Medina (Environmental Services) and Kathy L. Spivey (Administration).

Thirty Years: William Folsom (Security), Samson Gebreyesus (Management) and Fany Lopez (Extended Care).

Thirty-Five Years: Bryant Hall (Environmental Services) and Linda C. Studivant (Environmental Services).

New Community Career And Technical Institute Connects Graduates To Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



Sharita Moody, a graduate of the New Community Career and Technical Institute Patient Care Technician program, now works full-time at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Photo courtesy of Sharita Moody.

Students who enroll at New Community Career and Technical Institute can expect not only an education that helps them gain nationally recognized certifications, but also connections to employers in their field of choice that can lead to jobs with family supporting wages.

One strong employer partner is Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, which hires Patient Care Technician graduates. Vice President and Chief

Human Resources Officer for Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children's Hospital of New Jersey Zachary Lipner said both the hospital and New Community are committed to helping Newark.

"We're more than just a business that operates in Newark. We take care of Newark residents who are our patients and we have a very strong commitment to the community," Lipner said. "And part of that commitment is trying to hire and develop the talent within the city of Newark."

Lipner is part of the New Community Career and Technical Institute Employer Advisory Committee and helped construct the current Patient Care Technician program.

"As we were developing curriculum and the program for patient care technicians and nursing assistants, Newark Beth Israel and Zach in particular reviewed our curriculum, met our instructors and provided great feedback on skills and competencies needed in the field," said New Community Career and Technical Institute Director Rodney Brutton.

That feedback has helped shape the program and gives students more experience in areas that Newark Beth Israel, and other employers, view as important.

"The real value of our partnership with Newark Beth Israel is that they create meaningful career opportunities for our PCT graduates,"

Brutton said. "It's life changing."

One graduate who has benefited from the partnership is Sharita Moody. She finished Patient Care Technician program classes in December 2017. After going on interviews, she landed a job at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in March 2018. She started out part-time and now has a full-time job in the hospital's oncology and renal department.

"I like my job very much," Moody said. "My favorite part is taking care of patient needs."

Her supervisor says she is a good employee, is capable of operating the equipment needed to do her job and works well with patients and coworkers.

"Sharita shows strong interest in her work and works well with her colleagues, building strong relationships," said Nurse Manager Zoneisha Johnson-Boswell.

The relationship between New Community and Newark Beth Israel remains strong because the school continues to produce high quality candidates. Lipner and Brutton have a longstanding professional relationship that started when Brutton was head of the Newark Workforce Development Board and Lipner was a member.

"I've known Rodney for many years. I know he runs a great program. I know he wouldn't refer anybody who wasn't going to make a great

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New Community Seniors Enjoy Renovated Apartments

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Commons Senior resident Livingstone Allen in his newly renovated bathroom.

housing.

"It was extremely important for our community to have these buildings renovated as the gentrification process becomes more and more of a force in our city," Rohrman said. "The renovations will continue in the family units in 2019 adding to our commitment to keep affordable housing safe and in good condition."

New Community worked with Greystone Affordable Development — a development and transaction management group focused on recapitalization, rehabilitation and preservation of affordable housing — to secure funding for the project. Claremont Construction Group is upgrading the interior and exterior of the properties.

The rehabilitation work on the buildings includes roofs, boilers, lighting, elevators, underground piping and landscaping to better serve residents.

Each unit within the properties will

be painted and will be getting new closets and a brand new bathroom. Based on need, some units will have additional work done, which could include flooring, entry doors, light fixtures or appliances.

Residents who have questions or concerns regarding the project should contact their building manager.



Douglas Homes resident Wayne Bullock looks out the new window in his living room.

Social Security News

Social Security And Black History Month

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

In February, our nation honors African-Americans by celebrating Black History Month. Recognizing our shared history is one way we can affirm our belief in freedom and democracy for all. For more than 80 years, Social Security has helped secure today and tomorrow with financial benefits, information and tools for people of countless backgrounds and ethnicities that make up our richly diverse country.

One of our popular tools is the online Retirement Estimator. With it, you can plug in some basic information to get an instant, personalized estimate of your future benefits. Different life events or choices can alter the course of your future, so try out different scenarios such as higher and lower future earnings amounts and various retirement dates to get a good prediction of how it can change your future benefit amounts. You can access it at www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/retirement/estimator.html.

If you find that helpful, we have a number of calculators to help you prepare for retirement at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/calculators.

We also pay disability benefits to people with medical conditions that could prevent them from working for 12 or more months or result in death. If the disabled person has dependent family members, they may also be eligible to receive payments.

We pay disability through two programs: the Social Security Disability Insurance program, for people who have worked and paid Social Security taxes long enough to be eligible, and the Supplemental Security Income program, which is a means-tested program for people who are 65 or older, as well as people of any age, including children, who are blind or have disabilities.

Widows, widowers and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. Social Security helps by providing income for the families of workers who die. In fact, 98 of every 100 children could get benefits if a working parent dies. And Social Security pays more benefits to children than any other federal program.

You can learn more about retirement, survivors and disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits. Social Security is with you through life's journey, helping secure today and tomorrow for you and your family. Visit us today at www.socialsecurity.gov/people/africanamericans.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Linda Pearson



Linda Pearson enjoys helping others. She didn't hesitate to become a floor captain at Roseville Senior after moving into the building.

Although Linda Pearson is a relative newcomer to Roseville Senior, she has made her presence known at the building, helping her neighbors whenever she can.

Pearson moved into her apartment at Roseville Senior, 1 South Eighth St., Newark, in August 2018 and got involved right away.

"When Ms. Pearson came in the building she was immediately on board with helping out. She wants to participate and help out in any way she can," said Roseville Senior Resident Services Coordinator Gladys Artis. "And when I mentioned the floor captain, she jumped right on board."

Pearson serves as a floor captain on the second floor. In that role, she checks on her neighbors and the condition of the floor and alerts New Community employees when necessary. She also asks her neighbors if they need anything when she heads to the store.

Originally from Darlington, S.C., Pearson moved to Jersey City with her parents when she was 3 years old. She got married and raised her four children with her husband in Jersey City. After that, they moved to Newark.

Pearson worked as a nursing assistant before

medical issues prevented her from continuing. She worked in a nursing home and physical therapist's office during her career.

"Since I was a little kid, I always liked helping people. When I got older, I always liked helping. I started being a home health aide," she said. "I went from a home health aide to a nursing assistant. And that's where I stayed."

After her husband passed away, Pearson moved in with her daughter in Newark and began submitting applications for apartments. A friend told her about Roseville Senior and encouraged her to fill out an application. She did and it was the first location to call her back with a vacancy.

She was in South Carolina at a family reunion when she got the call about her apartment. She cut her trip short so she could get back and provide the necessary documents to ensure she got the apartment.

Pearson is happy to call Roseville Senior home.

"I just love being here," she said.

She participates in building activities such as Walmart trips and holiday celebrations.

"The social worker and the manager, they're excellent. You can go to them and talk to them. They'll tell you exactly which way to go and what you need to do," Pearson said. "That's the best part about it."

Pearson has three sons and a daughter and 14 grandchildren. One son lives in Arizona, but the other three live in Newark so she is often with family members.

The 55-year-old stays busy. She attends church and sings in the choir. She likes to read, watch TV, sing, go to the movies, go out to eat and spend time with her family and friends.

"She's a very good resident. She's very selfless," Artis said. "She's always doing something. She's never sitting still. She's definitely a breath of fresh air for Roseville."



Wellness Tip
February 2019

Be Heart Healthy!



Get a Goodnight Sleep

One study found that people who slept 7 hours a night had less calcium in their arteries (sign of heart disease) than those who slept 5 hours or less or those who slept 9 hours or more.



Check Blood Sugar

Millions of people with diabetes or prediabetes are unaware of their condition. Your doctor should test your blood sugar if you are 45 or older, pregnant, overweight or you have other risk factors for diabetes.



Stay Physically Active

Aim for 30 minutes of exercise a day, 5 days a week. Break up long periods of sitting or staying sedentary. If you sit at a desk for work, make sure you get up and move around for a few minutes every hour.



Eat Heart Healthy

Avoid eating out or getting takeout as many of these meals are high in sodium. Opt for eating more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean, low-fat protein.



Don't Stress

High stress levels can be a contributor to heart attacks. Dedicate 10-20 minutes a day to relax and de-stress through meditation, yoga, deep breathing or another relaxing activity you enjoy.



Extended Care Mourns Loss Of Director Of Activities Elizabeth Brookins



Elizabeth Brookins worked as the Director of Activities at Extended Care for more than 26 years. She passed away Jan. 4 at the age of 78.

New Community Extended Care Facility has lost a longtime staff member. Director of Activities Elizabeth Brookins passed away Jan. 4 at the age of 78.

Brookins began working at Extended Care in 1992 and was well-known in the facility. Her work involved coordinating all activity programs for residents. She created the monthly calendar and coordinated with area houses of worship to make sure the spiritual needs of residents were

also met. She took her role seriously, but she didn't limit herself to just doing what was in her job description.

"She was a big advocate for residents, staff, family members, visitors and volunteers," said Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka. "Anyone who came through that door into Extended Care, she reached out to."

Her kindness extended to all levels of New Community.

"Elizabeth Brookins, Ms. Liz to me, brought joy and happiness into the Extended Care Facility with her every time she passed through the door," said New Community CEO Richard Rohrman. "Every time I walked in and she was in the little store, I got a great big smile and a hello. I looked forward to it. It was a small thing but it really gave me a lift. I can only imagine what she meant to the patients she worked with. Ms. Liz shared her joy with us for over 26 years. Lucky us!"

Onwunaka said Brookins was a team player who was dedicated to her work at the nursing home. Brookins spent much of her time at Extended Care, even when she wasn't scheduled to work. Onwunaka said she cared deeply about the residents and the vision of New Community as a whole.

"The mission was always in her mind and she

carried it to the last day," Onwunaka said. "She never forgot the residents, our staff and everyone that she touched. Her energy was beyond human imagination."

Brookins was born and raised in Sandersville, Ga. and she was one of nine siblings. Her son William Brookins said she moved to New Jersey, where she met his father and had him, her only child. She lived in East Orange for 52 years, up until her passing.

William described his mother as a very caring, giving and welcoming person.

"She was always inviting. People were always able to come over to my house and hang out. I was the hang out place because of her," William said. "That was her nature. She was just a good, giving, caring person."

He also said she loved working at Extended Care.

"She was there all the time. Six, seven days a week," he said. "I used to get on her about it because she was always there, but she loved it so I backed off. That was her life, that job. For the residents."

Extended Care will host a Celebration of Life in honor of Elizabeth Brookins Thursday, Feb. 7 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the facility, located at 266 South Orange Ave., Newark.

NCCTI Holds Diesel Technician Advisory Committee Meeting

New Community Career and Technical Institute held its Diesel Technician Advisory Committee meeting, where industry leaders and program partners discussed employment opportunities for graduates of NCCTI's diesel program. The meeting, held Jan. 22 at St. Joseph Plaza, was organized by program partner CareerWorks. CareerWorks: Greater Newark Workforce Funders Collaborative is a workforce initiative of the Newark Alliance. It develops employer-led or employer-centric industry partnerships in growth sectors to advance economic development.

NCCTI appreciates the partnership with CareerWorks and Monique Baptiste-Good, Vice President of Programs for the Newark Alliance. CareerWorks provides funding support, ongoing technical assistance and connections to employers.

Employers have agreed to sponsor internships, host site visits and hire NCCTI program graduates.

For more information about NCCTI, previously named New Community Workforce Development Center, and all its programs, call 973-824-6484 or visit www.newcommunity.org.



The Diesel Technician Advisory Committee meeting was well attended with industry professionals sharing experiences about the field.



Participants in the New Community Career and Technical Institute Diesel Technician Advisory Committee meeting got to hear from Diesel Instructor Monica Perry, student Christopher Lee, student Ingrid Simeon and NCCTI Director Rodney Brutton, seated left to right.



Newark Alliance Vice President of Programs Monique Baptiste-Good, standing, welcomed industry professionals to the Diesel Technician Advisory Committee meeting.



A group shot of all those who attended the Diesel Technician Advisory Committee meeting Jan. 22.



University Hospital Honors Community Clergy



The Reverend Louise Scott-Rountree, Director of Mayor Ras Baraka's Office of Clergy Affairs, was the featured speaker at the second annual Interfaith Blessing of Hands event at University Hospital.

University Hospital hosted its second annual Interfaith Blessing of Hands to celebrate the contributions of its Community Clergy, welcoming The Reverend Louise Scott-Rountree, Director of Mayor Ras Baraka's Office of Clergy Affairs, as the guest speaker. Father Jose Bello Wilson of the Archdiocese of Newark and Rev. Dr. Jean Cole-Baltram were honored as "Hospital Heroes" for their contributions to the chaplaincy program.

During the daylong event, Community Chaplains and Chaplain Interns circulated throughout the hospital to provide blessings to UH staff. "We're offering back



Hospital Chaplain Helen Kurczynski (right) with Rutgers NJMS student Jessica Sher who organized an interfaith panel on 'Faith and Spirituality at the Bedside.'

and providing blessings; it's a cycle of gratitude," said UH Chaplain Helen Kurczynski, MDiv, BCC.

The hospital's seven community clergy and four chaplain interns were recognized for their contributions over the past year which totaled 1,755 hours of visits to more than 3,500 patients and 1,100 family members. The Archdiocese of Newark, through the services of Father Wilson, Father Bob McLaughlin and Father Josephat Kalema, contributed 286 hours of visits, anointing 342 patients.

Special note was made of a wedding ceremony that the Chaplaincy Office organized in less than 24 hours for a terminally ill patient and his fiancée in the Intensive Care Unit.

Reverend Rountree, in her remarks, stressed the importance of the faith-based community being part of the healing process.

"Every one of us has a piece of us that works in this hospital, that has a healing piece," she said. "It depends on how you address someone, it depends on your attitude towards individuals and the same goes for our faith-based leaders, because of the calling and the assignment of our lives."

Reverend Rountree said the clergy alliance she

manages in the mayor's office has grown to 800 priests, rabbis and imams.

"What I explain to them is that we all believe in something," she said. "I choose to believe in God. I don't question the rabbi, I don't question the imams, I don't question the Baptist, the Methodist or the Episcopalians. When they come to work with me, I say,

'This is not about you, it's always about the people.' So whatever you do, don't come to me and say, 'Well if they're not a Muslim, I can't pray for them, or they're not a Christian, I can't pray for them.'

"We are working together for the cause of the people, not our religion," she said.

Reverend Rountree stressed the importance of positive thinking and believing in one's self to achieve happiness and success.

"If your mind is not growing in a positive way, then that's a problem for the people that you are serving and ministering to," she said. "It is not an easy task to get up in the morning with your own issues and have to come into an establishment where there's a million other issues that are not yours. You have to put your issues on the side — no matter what happened at home, no matter what happened with your children, no matter what argument you had with your husband or your girlfriend, no matter what arthritis you had, no matter what's going in your little toe or your finger — you have to come in here with a smile.

"Not every occasion is a smiling occasion," she said. "You can be faced with a gunshot victim, or a heart attack victim, or someone's husband running down the hall wanting to cuss you out because they think you have not done everything you could have done to save their loved one's life.

"If you learn to be positive all the time, you will realize the power of human thought on your life," Reverend Rountree said.

During the event, two community chaplains were recognized as "My Hospital Heroes." The program was created by The Foundation for University Hospital to allow patients and hospital staff to recognize UH employees for their contributions.

Dr. Adam Fox, a trauma surgeon, presented a Hero award to Father Wilson in recognition of the



Dr. Adam Fox (right) presented Father Jose Bello Wilson of the Archdiocese of Newark with a 'Hospital Hero' award honoring his decade of service ministering to UH patients.

3,500 hours of service he has provided UH over the past decade. Father Wilson delivers Friday masses, runs the Ash Wednesday service and leads a team of Eucharist ministers.

"The frequent refrain I hear is, when he's asked to do something — 'Yes, I'll be there in 10 minutes'," Dr. Fox said. "He exemplifies a humility, a kindness and compassion that we want to recognize as a Hero



Former UH Emergency Room Nursing Director Michelle Hepburn with Rev. Dr. Jean Cole-Baltram who also was honored as a 'Hospital Hero.'

for this year."

Michelle Hepburn, Emergency Department Nursing Director at the time of the event, said the ED and trauma unit has developed a cadre of Community Clergy and Chaplain Interns to provide spiritual and emotional support. She presented the second Hero award to Rev. Dr. Jean Cole-Baltram, a former UH employee, who visits twice a week with patients in the ED and trauma unit. In response to employee requests, she began offering twice-a-week meditation classes in the chapel.

In addition to Reverend Baltram and the Archdiocese of Newark priests, the Community Clergy includes: Chaplain Dawn Bowles, Imam Abdul Aleem Razzaqq, Minister Sergio Artiles, Pastor Warren White, Reverend Andre Scott and Reverend Louella McIntosh.

The chaplaincy program recently introduced PrayerCare, a service provided by the hospital's spiritual care volunteers to offer patients the comfort of non-denominational prayer during their stay. Prayer requests are prayed over daily, and patients receive a special PrayerCare visit when the spiritual care volunteers are on site (usually once a week).

In December, the Healthcare Foundation Center for Humanism and Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School hosted "Faith and Spirituality at the Bedside: An Interfaith Panel." Moderated by Chaplain Kurczynski, the panel included Imam Razzaqq, Pastor White and Father McLaughlin with Kadam Donna Campinelli (Buddhism), Yehuda Eidensohn (Judaism) and Dina Bandhu das (Hindusim).

More than 60 medical staff plus 10 staff attended the event which was organized by Rutgers NJMS student Jessica Sher in partnership with the Jewish Medical Society, Christian Medical & Dental Association and Muslim Student Association.

Watch for these upcoming events with University Hospital:

February 2:

Pink Goes Red! Day; 3 to 5 p.m.,
Newark City Hall, 920 Broad St.
Remarks by Dr. Pallavi Solanki,
blood pressure screenings

February 19:

Workshop on Women's Heart Health;
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.,
Weequahic Family Success Center,
1065 Bergen St., Newark;
workshop and blood pressure screenings

NCC Executive Chef Joe Rodriguez Retires



Joe Rodriguez retired after nearly 33 years of service to New Community. Photo courtesy of Frances Teabout.

Long-time New Community Executive Chef Joe Rodriguez has retired after nearly 33 years with the organization.

Rodriguez first came to New Community to be the chef to oversee the opening of the Priory Restaurant. At the time, Rodriguez's daughter worked as an attorney for New Community and she told NCC Founder Monsignor William J. Linder that her father was a chef. Monsignor Linder met with Rodriguez and after three interviews, offered him the job.

Prior to joining New Community, Rodriguez worked at for-profit restaurants and said he didn't understand the concept of a nonprofit organization.

"[Monsignor Linder] explained it to me. If we make any money, then we just put it back into the community. And I kind of liked the idea," Rodriguez said. "So that's why I came to work for him. And that's why I stayed."

Rodriguez not only stayed, but remained committed to his work while at New Community.

"It isn't often that you see the dedication that Joe Rodriguez brought to NCC every day for almost 33 years. I never heard a harsh word come out of Joe's mouth," said New Community CEO Richard Rohrman. "He was truly part of the NCC fabric. Every meal that Joe produced was important. He will be missed by all of us but will have more time to spend with his loving family."

Once hired, Rodriguez said he had 30 days to open the Priory Restaurant, which was challenging but he pulled it off. The day before the restaurant was slated to open, Monsignor Linder brought employees to order anything they wanted from the menu.

"That was the last test," Rodriguez said.

NCC Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson said it was clear Rodriguez was special as soon as he came on board.

"When Joe Rodriguez joined the NCC family back in the 1980s, I knew that we had a gem; a loyal and dedicated person that we could trust in working for New Community Corporation as a chef," she said. "My only wish is that we could find more dedicated people to work as Joe exemplified a love and dedication to New Community."

After working at the Priory Restaurant for about five years, Rodriguez was transferred to Extended Care. Once there, he oversaw the meals prepared for the nursing home residents in addition to preparing meals for several schools NCC served at the time and NCC special events.

"His dedication to the residents of Extended Care and New Community in general is unquestionable," said Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka. "Joe never left us because the weather was bad, because he's coming from a far distance, he had a sick wife he was managing or he himself didn't feel well. Joe would get in here. Because he

wanted to make sure that the residents were fed the proper meal."

Rodriguez got into the food industry out of necessity.

"When I came to America way back in the '50s, there were no jobs," he said. He was doing a bit of work at a hotel when a chance encounter led to his career.

"While I was having a beer, the guy that was sitting next to me, who I had never seen before, said to me, 'Are you working?' I said, 'Not really.' So he said, 'You want to work for me? You see that diner over there? That's my diner. If you want to, you come.' And I worked for that man for many years," Rodriguez said.

He didn't attend culinary school but learned his craft by working. He said God blessed him with the ability to be able to recreate a dish he sees made one time, which also helped him excel.

Rodriguez worked long past the age when most people retire. At age 84, he said he still gets up around 4 a.m. because he's used to being an early riser. His shift started at 5 a.m. When there were special events, he would stay through to the end, which could be quite late into the evening. He said he never required too much sleep though.

"Even if I go to bed at 2 o'clock, I can get up," he said.

Rodriguez lives in a ranch house in Garwood. His wife passed away four years ago so he lives alone. He has three daughters and nine grandchildren. Two of his daughters live in Westfield and one lives in Flanders. He has a sister in Puerto Rico.

Rodriguez enjoyed his time working at NCC.

"I think New Community is a challenging place to work but an excellent place to work," he said.

New Community Career And Technical Institute Connects Graduates To Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

Continued from page 5

employee here at the hospital," Lipner said. "The relationship has prospered with the kind of training he's doing at New Community in the health care space."

Brutton attributes graduates' preparedness to classroom instruction.

"The instructors, Dr. Maha Koltowski and Ms. Veronica Falae, do an excellent job ensuring our graduates have the competencies to be productive direct care workers," he said.

Brutton said graduates have provided positive feedback about working at Newark Beth Israel.

"We see firsthand that Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is a high quality health care facility," Brutton said. "Graduates come back and share how happy they are working there. They talk about the excellent care and support they receive from supervisors."

Moody is one of the graduates who has provided positive feedback about Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and about her experience with New Community.

She isn't just a graduate of New Community Career and Technical Institute. She has also been an NCC resident for more than 25 years. She received a flyer in the mail about the training programs and decided to sign up. From there, she also took advantage of the New Community Financial Opportunity Center. She has met with Financial Coach Tamara Brown on numerous occasions to discuss her credit score, budget and goals.

"We talk about savings and planning for my financial goal, which is to purchase a home in the near future," Moody said. Whenever Moody hears of someone interested in training or working in her field, she directs them to

New Community Career and Technical Institute.

"They have so many other opportunities besides school. You can get your resume fixed and see a financial coach. It's more than just go to school and get a job," Moody said. "It was such a good opportunity."

New Community Career and Technical Institute, previously referred to as New Community Workforce Development Center, is an accredited post-secondary career and technical school that offers the following programs: Automotive Technician, Building Trades Specialist, Business and Computer Technologies, Clinical Medical Assistant, Culinary Arts Specialist, Diesel Technician and Patient Care Technician. The school is currently accepting applications for all programs. Visit www.newcommunity.org to fill out an application or call 973-823-6484 for more information.

Family Service Bureau

Newark New Start Success Story

The goal of the Newark New Start program is to provide supportive services to a mother who recently has become a parent and has not been able to fully prepare (i.e. financially, emotionally, etc.). As with any program, many challenges arise. This is because many people have their own personal challenges, but NNS staff members will help any 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 members 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.).

Natalie W. is a 32-year-old mother of three children ages 8, 3 and a newborn baby girl. Ms. W. became a part of the Newark New Start program in August. She was referred via one of the local hospitals to assist with her newborn. As with many of the young ladies that are referred to the program, they are reluctant to obtain

assistance, insisting that they have everything they need. This is often the initial response of many of our clients and is mainly because of their lack of trust in many social service agencies. Their belief is often that you are more out to get me than to help me. Part of the process has a lot to do with engagement and encouraging them to help change the situation.

After meeting with the new mom, NNS staff members schedule a visit to do a home assessment to verify the needs of the newborn baby. In meeting with Ms. W., it was determined that she had all the essential things needed for her baby, but her supply was slightly dwindling because she was a single mother trying to provide for her family with limited resources. NNS was able to provide her with what she needed for the baby along with her other children because of the generous donations we receive throughout the year as an agency.

After meeting with her, we discovered that there were some unresolved issues that Ms. W. never dealt with that caused her to feel a strong level of hopelessness and depression. She was unemployed and living off public assistance. This often was the cause of her level of stress. NNS staff members told her that while we were assisting with providing for the baby, that she needed to attend to her needs. We encouraged

her to seek out counseling, which she started to receive.

Ms. W. has become a person who has a positive outlook on life. Since receiving counseling, NNS staff members have worked on her resume, obtained dress attire and encouraged self-acceptance, just to name a few on this road to success. During the holiday season, she was able to obtain temporary employment through Amazon for the holidays. They offered for her to stay on for a few additional months, which she was considering, until she received a call from the Board of Education to become a Teacher Assistant, which she has always wanted to do because she understands the challenges of dealing with children.

NNS staff members were able to help her get all her paperwork into the Board and she reported that she "had mixed emotions that one chapter was closing while she was excited about another one opening." She shared that she was "sad because her time with the program is almost up." NNS staff members encouraged her and said that she has the tools she needs to succeed.

NNS is proud of her and reminded her of the mission which will always remain the same: "Providing assistance to a brighter tomorrow for mothers and babies."

Announcing New Community Career And Technical Institute

NCCTI's accredited post-secondary school has a new name: New Community Career and Technical Institute. Previously called New Community Workforce Development Center, the school attained national accreditation from the Council on Occupational Education (COE) last year.

The name change was recently approved by the U.S. Department of Education, the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

New Community Career and Technical Institute (NCCTI) offers a variety of programs that lead to industry recognized licenses and certifications. Programs include Automotive Technician, Building Trades Specialist, Business and Computer Technologies, Clinical Medical Assistant, Culinary Arts, Diesel Technician and Patient Care Technician.

The school had a 77 percent graduation rate and a 75 percent job placement rate in 2018. It has numerous employer partners in all program areas and a job developer on staff. Students experience internships, externships, employer visits and job placement assistance.

The NCCTI main office is located at 274 South Orange Ave., Newark. That is also where the majority of classes take place. The Training Center is located at 210 West Bigelow St., Newark. Students in Automotive Technician, Building Trades Specialist and Diesel Technician programs receive instruction at that facility.

Call 973-824-6484 to schedule a tour or get additional information. Visit www.newcommunity.org to fill out an intake form to start the application process.

Enjoying Breakfast Together

Residents of Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, enjoyed breakfast in the Community Room Jan. 11. Bishop Speight provided the food and drinks for building residents.





New Community Adult Learning Center
563 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey 07107

(973) 558-5536

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

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.



Remember The Time

By Lesley Leslie

The start of a new year inevitably causes one to think about the previous year that just passed. You might think about the good things that happened during the year and you will certainly recall the bad things that happened. Particularly if one of those bad things that occurred was the loss of a loved one. However, in this case, when do you go back further than the previous year in your thoughts? Is there a specific time or occasion where you tend to reminisce?

Do you ever sit back and think about your early years? Your childhood, teenage years, early adulthood? Are there particular people that you reminisce about? Who are some of those people that come to mind? For the purpose of this article, let's not dredge up the negative things or negative people that

may be a part of your past. While you may still recall those people, leave them in the back of your mind. Instead, think about the positive things and positive people that have played a part in you being the person that you are today.

Perhaps it was an elementary school teacher who really challenged you to be a better writer? Her honest critiques of your work pushed you to another level. Or maybe it was your elderly, next-door neighbor who always told you that you were special and that you were destined for success. Her consistent praise helped you build the self-esteem and confidence that you have today. It may have been your mother who believed in you, even when you failed an exam that you studied for. She believed you would do better the next time and told you to try, try again. Her unwavering faith in you is the reason that you have that "gotta keep it moving" attitude that everyone knows and admires about you. Was that positive person in your life a job supervisor who decided it was more

NCC Is Hiring

There 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 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. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information, call 973-623-2800.

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

**After School Program
Counselor - (PT Seasonal)**

Case Manager

Certified Nursing Assistant

Dietary Aide - Full Time

Exterminator - Maintenance Worker

Family Worker/Receptionist

Head Maintenance Worker

Job Developer

Licensed Practical Nurse - Full-Time

Maintenance Worker

Maintenance Worker - Part Time

Resident Services Coordinator

Teacher (Abbott)

**Teacher (Daycare - Group, Infant, &
Toddler) - Regular Full-Time**

Youth Educator

important to guide you and mentor you, then it was to micromanage you? She's the reason that you do the same thing with the young people that you encounter on a daily basis. Do you remember? Ms. Parker, you are appreciated!

NCC Thanks Our Holiday Donors

Supporters of New Community and St. Rose of Lima Church generously donated turkeys, gifts and other goods to families in need during both Christmas and Thanksgiving. The efforts were coordinated by Madge Wilson, NCC Board Member and Outreach Coordinator. We are deeply grateful to the following groups and individuals for spreading the spirit of joy during the 2018 holiday season:

- St. Paul's Abbey Newton – Bro. Bernardo Lee and the Monks, Donated Christmas Trees
- Mr. and Mrs. Mark Carelli and Family, Maplewood, N.J.
- Weichert Realty, Maplewood, N.J. – Rebecca Berenson and coworkers
- Our Lady of Sorrow Parish, South Orange, N.J. – Dan Diaz and Parishioners
- Millburn Fire Department – Fire Chief Robert Echavarria and Nicole Verducci, Millburn, N.J. and coworkers
- Frank Consentino, Gillette, N.J.
- St. Helen's Catholic Parish – Marilyn Ryan, Westfield, N.J. and Parishioners
- Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, Summit, N.J. – Brian Toppin and Coworkers
- St. Rose of Lima Academy – Elizabeth Guarnieri, Betsy Guarnieri and Dan Solazzi and Parents
- Our Lady of the Lake, Verona, N.J. – Ursula Conrad and Parishioners
- Notre Dame Catholic Parish, North Caldwell, N.J. – Donna Zarros
- Seton Hall University School of Law and The Thomas More Society, Newark, N.J. – Fr. Nicholas Gengaro
- St. Thomas Parish, Bloomfield, N.J. – Lorraine McMillian
- Glenwood Elementary School, Short Hills, N.J. – Usha Shah and Karen
- St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Summit, N.J. – Margaret Strong and Theresa and Parishioners
- Church of The Assumption Parish, Emerson, N.J. – Parishioners and the Social Concerns Committee
- St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Cedar Grove, N.J. – Brenda Pereira and Denise Parkes and Parishioners
- Meyner & Landis, Counsellors At Law, Newark, N.J. – Cindy Oliveira Coworkers
- Capital One Bank, Union, N.J. – Diane Dacunha and Coworkers
- Mr. and Mrs. Desjardins, Maplewood, N.J.
- Columbia/Maplewood High School, Maplewood, N.J. – Marsha Hicks and students
- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange, N.J. – Pat Paxton and Parishioners

Thanksgiving Turkey Donations

- Damascus Bakery, Newark, N.J. – Wanda Hightower, Coordinator
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Forlini, Newark, N.J.
- St. Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills, N.J. – Ed Langley and Parishioners
- Mr. and Mrs. William Hoffman