



OUT OF THE ASHES CAME HOPE

# CLARION

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK

Volume 35 — Issue 2 ~ February 2018

## NCC Begins Rehabilitation Project On Four Properties



A worker spackles in an apartment at Commons Senior.

New Community is in the midst of renovating four of its Newark properties: Commons, Douglas, Gardens and Roseville.

Construction work began Jan. 8 and will continue through the end of 2019. The senior buildings are being done first, with the family buildings to follow.

The goal of the project is to update and preserve NCC's affordable housing.

“Our residents will now be able to enjoy a renewed environment and have the assurance that their home will be preserved for many years to come, all while maintaining the services and



Flooring work in a unit of Douglas Homes.

facilities on which they rely heavily for everyday life,” said New Community CEO Richard Rohrman.

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 buildings.

The rehabilitation work on the buildings will include 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 apartments will have additional work done, which could include flooring, entry doors, light fixtures or appliances.

During the in-place rehab, residents do not have to move out of their apartments. They only need to vacate when heavy construction is being done. Breakfast, lunch and activities are being provided for residents who are required to vacate

## Remembering Brendan Byrne

Editorial By  
Monsignor William J. Linder

New Jersey lost a good man Jan. 4. Brendan Byrne was a highly respected governor of the state and did a lot to ensure housing was available for residents.

While he may best be remembered for getting the state income tax passed and being dubbed the man “who couldn’t be bought” by mobsters, Byrne also gave a great deal of support to increase the housing stock in the state.

I first met Byrne when he was governor through the issue of housing. Byrne appointed me as a board member to the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA). Attorney General John Degnan and Treasurer Cliff Goldman, who served under Byrne, were on the NJHMFA board and used to come to all the meetings. We worked like a team. They accepted me immediately even though I had a different viewpoint.

Byrne was the successor to Gov. Richard J. Hughes, who created the NJHMFA. Byrne kept that tradition going. The NJHMFA is a very important part of government. Without it, we wouldn’t have had the same production of housing. New Jersey led the nation in creating housing. And Essex County was one of the highest areas in the state to increase the housing stock.

Many thought Byrne’s political career was over after the passage of the unpopular state income tax, but they were wrong. What got him re-elected was housing for seniors.

During his time as governor, Byrne was hands-on. He would go to events related to housing, including groundbreakings and dedications. He came to events for New Community residents as well, including Thanksgiving celebrations.

Byrne has strong ties to Essex County. He was born and raised in West Orange. He attended Seton Hall University briefly before joining the U.S. Army and serving in World War II. He served as the Essex County Prosecutor before becoming a Superior Court judge in Morris, Sussex and Warren counties. He left his judgeship to campaign and served as the 47th governor of New Jersey from 1974 to 1982.

In addition to the state income tax, Byrne is known for implementing public financing for gubernatorial races, supporting a referendum to bring casino gambling to Atlantic City and the Pinelands Protection Act.

While it may not be considered the highlight of Byrne’s administration, we shouldn’t forget his contribution to housing. After all, having a home is one of the most basic human needs.

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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.

### Publisher

New Community Corporation  
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973-623-2800

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RayZo Marketing, Inc.

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### OUR MISSION

To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual, God-given dignity and personal achievement. New Community is recognized as:

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## Black History Month Quote

*“In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.”*

— Thurgood Marshall,  
first African-American U.S.  
Supreme Court member

## Around The Network Game On

Residents of Manor Senior, 545 Orange St., Newark, enjoy Game Day, which happens the first and third Wednesday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. They participate in a variety of activities, including Pokeno, Scrabble, dominoes, cards and pool. Refreshments are also provided.



## Happy New Year!

Residents of Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, rang in 2018 in the Community Room of the building on New Year's Eve. The party, which served as a fundraiser, included food, drinks and New Year's hats. *Photos courtesy of Anne Moran.*



## Learning To Prevent Falls

Hudson Senior residents received information about how to prevent falls during a recent workshop in the Community Room of the building, located at 21-27 Orchard St., Jersey City.



## Employee Of The Month: Mercy Attah



Security Officer Mercy Attah enjoys helping others and finds her work at New Community to be fulfilling.

Security Officer Mercy Attah is devoted to helping others, both on the job and in her spare time. Her current role working the front desk at New Community Extended Care from 4 p.m. to midnight is gratifying for her because she can combine her skills to help a potentially vulnerable population.

Attah was born into a religious family in Nigeria that includes royalty (she is also known as Princess). Her father was a diplomat and her mother was a director of nursing. She was raised in the United Kingdom and went to school in both the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. She served as the senior manager of traffic operations/protocol with the Nigerian Ports Authority.

Twelve years ago she decided she wanted a change and moved to the United States, where she had some relatives and friends. She spent some time in Houston and Boston before moving to New Jersey 10 years ago.

Before New Community, she worked at The Kintock Group in Newark, which helps formerly incarcerated individuals transition back into society. That's where she gained experience in the area of public safety.

Nine years ago, she joined New Community's Security Department and has been here ever since. She's worked at housing complexes throughout the network and started working at Extended Care one year ago.

Attah enjoys her current role at Extended Care because she's able to interact with the nursing home patients. She is a certified nursing assistant and certified recovery support practitioner and has received certifications related to mental health and public safety and security.

"As a nurse, I relate to them," Attah said of the Extended Care residents. "I understand their feelings. We interact very well."

Her supervisor, Sergeant Rhonda Johnson, appreciates her work.

"I've had the pleasure of working with Officer Attah ever since she has worked for NCC," Johnson said. "She is a dedicated, hard worker who has gone beyond the call of duty during her nine years at NCC. She is a professional all of

the time."

Attah sees her job as more than just securing life and property.

"I'm there as the figure of NCC, the eye of NCC," she said. "We're the eyes and the helping hands."

While Attah could transfer to other departments within New Community, she says she stays in Security because it allows her to help people in multiple ways.

Attah doesn't stop helping people when she's off the clock. In her spare time she visits homes, shelters and hospitals. As an evangelist, she preaches gospel and offers clothes and food to those who need it. She also supports a long list of charitable causes including The Carter Center, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the American Heart Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Arbor Day Foundation.

"I like helping the less privileged. The more I help, the better I feel," she said. "Even though I don't have much, let them have something. I should share it with them."

She sees New Community as an organization that fits with those goals.

"I appreciate NCC for its continuous good work for humanity and the opportunity given to me to serve," she said.

Attah lives in Essex County and has two children.

### Workforce Development Center Hosted Council On Occupational Education Representatives



Gregory Garrett and Paul Fair, representing the Council on Occupational Education; New Community Workforce Development Center Director Rodney Brutton; NCC Board of Directors Member Dr. Zachary Yamba; and NCC CEO Richard Rohrman, left to right, participate in a breakfast meeting that was part of the Council on Occupational Education site visit.

New Community Workforce Development Center hosted two representatives of the Council on Occupational Education (COE) in December as part of the accreditation process. Gregory Garrett and Paul Fair toured the facilities, met with key staff members and students and reviewed the school's self-study report for accreditation. "New Community welcomed the visit by COE representatives," said Workforce Development Center Director Rodney Brutton. "The team prepared a comprehensive self-study report, which details our administrative and programmatic capacity to operate a comprehensive post-secondary career and technical school."

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## NCC Begins Rehabilitation Project On Four Properties

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Workers affix a new door in a Gardens Senior apartment.

their homes for the day. Tenants receive sufficient notice about work being performed.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka sees the renovation project as a positive for the city.

“The revitalization process at NCC serves as a model for how we can ensure the legacy of our city, and others like it,” Baraka said. “Newark is making clear and measurable efforts to increase the amount of available affordable housing, and NCC’s contributions to serving the at-risk community is a critical component to the city’s



A workers uses a blowtorch to complete work in a unit of Gardens Senior.

future success.”

To help pay for the project, Hudson Housing Capital provided low income housing tax credit equity and Freddie Mac and Greystone’s Affordable lending arm provided tax-exempt and taxable debt.

“Teaming with an organization such as New Community Corporation is truly meaningful to Greystone, as we are able to positively impact the lives of thousands by preserving the environment they call home,” said Greystone Affordable Development President Tanya Eastwood.

Residents with questions or concerns about the renovation project should contact their building manager.



A painter at work in an apartment of Douglas Homes.



Flooring work is completed in a Gardens Senior apartment.



The ceiling of a Roseville Senior apartments gets painted.

## Harmony House Receives Walmart Grant



Children who live in Harmony House, New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families, will benefit from a \$1,500 grant from Walmart. *File photo of the Harmony House after-school program.*

**H**armony House, New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families, received a \$1,500 Community Grant from Walmart to expose residents to art, recreation and other cultural experiences.

The facility received the grant Dec. 29 from the Walmart in Kearny and will use it in 2018.

The Walmart Foundation offers Community Grants in eight different areas. Harmony House received funding for Quality of Life, which the

Walmart Foundation defines as “improving access to recreation, arts or cultural experiences for low income individuals and families in the United States.”

Assistant Program Manager Dametria Wertz researched various grant opportunities that could benefit Harmony House and applied for the funding Dec. 14. After completing an eligibility quiz, she filled out the grant application online. About two weeks later, the \$1,500 award arrived.

The money will be used to further enhance the programs offered at Harmony House and allow residents to have experiences they might not have otherwise had.

“Harmony House residents, specifically the children, will be able to be exposed to the arts, something they may not have otherwise had an opportunity to achieve,” Wertz said. “It will open their minds to more than just their surroundings, be an escape from their reality and inspire them to change their reality. Hopefully it will help inspire a child to pick up a pencil or a paintbrush, write, dance, act, sing and create.”

New Community Chief of Health and Social Services Arti Kakkar is grateful to have received the grant, which is the first Walmart has awarded to Harmony House.

“We want to thank Walmart for their donation because every small bit counts to enrich the activities for our young kids,” she said.

Community Grants from the Walmart Foundation range from \$250 to \$2,500. In addition to Quality of Life, the organization offers funding in the following areas: Hunger Relief and Healthy Eating, Health and Human Service, Education, Community and Economic Development, Diversity and Inclusion, Public Safety and Environmental Sustainability. Management at the local Walmart facility make funding recommendations.

## Culinary Arts Students Benefit From Gourmet Dining Partnership



Students in the New Community Workforce Development Culinary Arts Specialist program visited Rutgers University-Newark Dining Services, which is run by Gourmet Dining, to learn more about how their skills are used in the real world. Photo courtesy of Rodney Brutton.

Members of the New Community Workforce Development Center Culinary Arts Specialist program recently got an up-close look at Rutgers University-Newark Dining Services, thanks to a partnership with Gourmet Dining, the vendor that has supplied the university with food services since 2016.

Rutgers-Newark Director of Dining Brian Conway showed the students the facility and spoke with them about the industry as a whole.

“I wanted to give them a sense of how their curriculum translates into the real world and give them a sense of what the employer is looking for,” Conway said.

Conway oversees the food service programs for the undergraduate program at Rutgers-Newark, the business school and the law school, which includes four restaurants, a Starbucks and a residential dining facility that provides 3,000 meals a day.

The students not only got the personalized tour, but Conway encouraged all to apply for three open positions available. He said even though not everyone would get a job, it’s a good way to get familiar with the application process.

He also said New Community Workforce Development Center has prepared students in ways that give them a leg up on other applicants.

“The quality of the character of the individuals is something we’re not seeing in the everyday application,” Conway said, pointing out that Workforce Development Center graduates have learned knife skills and sanitation skills, among others. “It’s a mutually beneficial partnership between New Community Workforce Development Center and Rutgers-Newark/Gourmet Dining.”

While the relationship with Rutgers-Newark is relatively new, New Community Workforce Development Center Director Rodney Brutton said, “Gourmet Dining has been a long time supporter of New Community Workforce Development Center’s Culinary Arts Specialist program. We appreciate their willingness to hire our graduates and serve on our employer advisory committee.”

Gourmet Dining, which was founded in 1987, provides food services to more than a dozen colleges in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, as well as correctional facilities. It also operates at Essex County Hospital Center. Gourmet Dining Founder, Chairman and CEO Alfred Frungillo started in the food service industry with a catering company in 1972, Frungillo Caterers. That business still operates today.

Conway said Rutgers-Newark Dining Services and Gourmet Dining are committed to Newark and its residents.

The connection to the city goes back much farther than when Gourmet Dining started providing food services for Rutgers. The Frungillo family co-owned a general store in the 1920s on Mount Prospect Avenue and then another store from the 1940s to 1970s on Sixth Avenue.

“We are here in Newark and hire in Newark and develop from Newark,” Conway said.

The opportunity for New Community Workforce Development Center students is great. Those in the Culinary Arts Specialist program have already met Conway, seen the facilities and come from a training program that the company recognizes and respects. All those factors can be extremely helpful when trying to stand out in sea of job seekers.

“No one is as desperate as they used to be,” Conway said. “You’re flooded with applicants for jobs.”

## Home Friends Coordinator Has Had Many Roles At NCC



Giselle Oviedo has worked in Security, Human Resources and Social Services for New Community Corporation over the past decade. She is currently the Home Friends Coordinator and runs the emergency food pantry.

**G**iselle Oviedo has spent her entire professional career with New Community Corporation, serving in a variety of roles over the last decade.

In mid June, she became the Home Friends Coordinator, overseeing six employees that are part of the program, which is funded by Essex County.

Home Friends provide Central Ward residents with services not covered by Medicaid, including laundry, meal preparation, food shopping and companionship. Oviedo also runs the emergency food pantry for New Community, which is open from the 16th to the end of each month.

Her journey at New Community started in March 2008 when she was 18 years old. That’s when she became a security officer for the organization. After serving in that capacity, she received a call from Human Resources Manager Anna Sing-King asking if she would be interested in working in an administrative role in HR. Oviedo applied and got that position.

In mid 2009, Oviedo went back to school with the help of New Community and received a certificate in business administration. She learned the ins and outs of Human Resources and served as the benefits coordinator.

In 2013, she saw an opening for a care coordinator position at Manor Senior and decided she wanted to make a change and join the Social Services Department. It took a little

convincing on her part since she didn’t have specific experience in the area of social services, but Oviedo was able to land the job and started as a care coordinator in September 2013.

“I loved it from day one,” Oviedo said.

She enjoys helping people and overcoming challenging situations. When she was a care coordinator, Oviedo said she had one resident who seemed somewhat cold and distant. She decided to contact her family to see what was going on. It turned out the woman had suffered abuse in the past and had a hard time trusting people and letting them get close to her. Oviedo found out when her birthday was, got her a card and had the other residents on her floor sign it for her. The gesture showed the woman that other people do care and it helped her have more meaningful relationships with her neighbors and staff.

In her current role, Oviedo makes sure residents in need of help get visits from a member of the Home Friends team. She said for some, a Home Friend is the only visitor they have. She

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## Social Security News

### What Day Of The Month Do I Get My Social Security Payment?

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

**T**iming is everything, and the arrival time of your monthly payment from Social Security can be key to keeping your financial house in order.

As you budget to pay your bills and save for future needs, keep in mind that your monthly retirement or disability benefit will be paid at the same time each month. To see your next payment date, create or log on to your my Social Security online account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) and go to the “Benefits & Payments” section.

In general, here’s how we assign payment dates:

- If you were born on the 1st through the 10th of the month, you’ll be paid on the second Wednesday of the month;
- If you were born on the 11th through the 20th of the month, you’ll be paid on the third Wednesday of the month; and
- If you were born after the 20th of the month, you’ll be paid on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

There are exceptions. For example, children and spouses who receive benefits based on someone else’s work record will be paid on the same day as the primary beneficiary.

For others, we may issue your payments on the 3rd of each month. Among other reasons, we do this if:

- You filed for benefits before May 1, 1997;
- You also receive a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment;
- Your Medicare premiums are paid for by the state where you live; or
- You live in a foreign country.

Individuals who receive SSI payments due to disability, age or blindness receive those payments on the 1st of each month.

If your payment date falls on a federal holiday or weekend, you can expect to receive that month’s payment on the weekday immediately prior.

You can see a current schedule for Social Security and SSI benefit payments in an easy-to-read calendar at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10031-2018.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10031-2018.pdf).

Social Security is with you through life’s journey, helping you to secure today and tomorrow through important financial benefits, information and planning tools. To learn more, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Teodoro Rivera



Longtime Roseville Senior resident Teodoro Rivera is very involved in building activities and helpful to fellow residents and staff.

**I**f you visit the Social Services office at Roseville Senior, chances are you’ll also see Teodoro Rivera. The longtime resident’s apartment is right across the hall and he’s always willing to lend a hand to fellow residents and staff members.

“I would be lost without Teddy,” said Roseville Senior Care Coordinator Gladys Artis. “He helps with everything.”

Rivera is fluent in Spanish and will serve as an interpreter for residents who need it. He said he helps relay messages to and from staff members and offers to explain what happens during resident meetings to those who don’t understand English well.

He also loves to cook and uses those skills to prepare food for various celebrations at Roseville Senior. When the meal for Thanksgiving fell through, Rivera bought a turkey for residents. He also helps distribute food from the food pantry to residents in need and aids the building superintendent when an alarm sounds.

“If we got five more Teddys we’d be good,” Artis said.

Rivera was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Passaic, N.J., when he was a teenager in 1955. He was drafted during the Vietnam War and served from 1966

to 1967. He collects Vietnam Veterans hats, which he also wears. He currently has about 30.

“I’m proud of it because I served my country,” he said.

Rivera moved to Roseville Senior in 1999. Though his daughter would like him to move in with her, he says he would rather live on his own.

“I won’t move out of here. I tell my daughter, ‘They’ll call you when I kick the bucket,’” he said with a laugh.

Though Rivera said he’s always laughing, he has experienced tough times during his life, including his service in Vietnam.

“I went through hell and back,” he said. “I feel sorry for the ones who didn’t make it.”

While working as an assistant manager for a wallpaper company in Paterson, he hurt his back on the job. The injury was so severe, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs classified him as disabled. He received disability checks from the VA until he turned 65 and continues to get medical care from the organization, which he will have for life. He uses a chair massage and another medical device for his back and undergoes an MRI to determine a course of therapy.

Two of Rivera’s grandsons died from ALD, a deadly genetic brain disorder that affects 1 in 18,000 people and most severely affects boys and men. The disease destroys the protective sheath around the nerve cells that allow people to think and control muscles. Rivera’s grandsons went blind during the course of the disease, which can also cause deafness, seizures, loss of muscle control and progressive dementia.

“We went through hell,” he said.

Despite the hardships he’s experienced, at age 78, Rivera is thankful for what he has and gives back as much as he can.

“I laugh, smile and say hello to people,” Rivera said. “I’m there for them.”



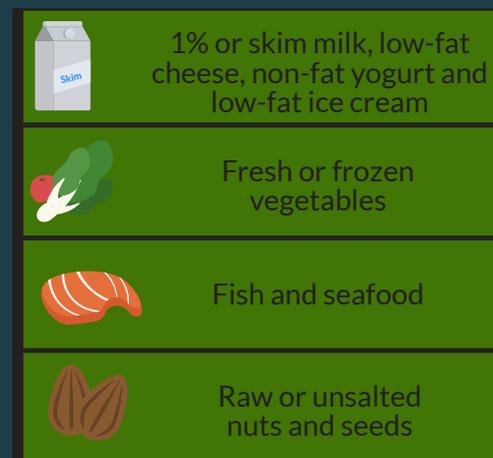
Wellness Tip  
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## Behind The Scenes Of NCC's 50th Anniversary Video



New Community Founder Monsignor William J. Linder discusses the work NCC has done over the past 50 years with Video Life Productions Owner John Pallone.



Video Life Productions Owner John Pallone films floating teacher's aide Shanell Sing interacting with children at Community Hills Early Learning Center.



Owner of Video Life Productions John Pallone captures a family at Harmony House receiving a play yard for their newborn from New Start Program Manager Angela Potts.



Video Life Productions Owner John Pallone documents Manor Senior residents playing a game of Pokeno.



Owner of Video Life Productions John Pallone captures students in the after-school program at the NCC Neighborhood Center playing kickball.

New Community will debut a video commemorating its founder and 50 years of service at its 50th Anniversary Gala March 3 in East Rutherford.

The video will highlight the work of NCC Founder Monsignor William J. Linder and the corporation as a whole. There will be interviews with New Community staff members, including CEO Richard Rohrman, Director of Mission Frances Teabout and Director of Health and Social Services Veronica Onwunaka; Victoria Foundation Associate Director Craig Drinkard; people who knew Monsignor Linder before he founded New Community; and Monsignor Linder himself.

Also highlighted in the video will be a number of New Community programs and services, including the New Community Workforce Development Center, an accredited post-secondary career and technical school; Harmony House, NCC's transitional housing facility for homeless families; day care; after-school program; and senior activities.

John Pallone, owner of Video Life Productions, is producing the piece. He visited New Community in January to film the interviews and scenes throughout the network.

To see the video debut, purchase tickets for the New Community Corporation 50th Anniversary Gala, which will be held Saturday, March 3 at the Hilton Meadowlands, 2 Meadowlands Plaza, East Rutherford. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception followed by a formal dinner.

For more information about purchasing tickets or sponsorships, contact Tracey Battles at 973-497-4414 or [tracey.battles@newcommunity.org](mailto:tracey.battles@newcommunity.org) or Michelle Lang at 973-497-4413 or [mlang@newcommunity.org](mailto:mlang@newcommunity.org).

Additional information is also available at [www.ncc50th.org](http://www.ncc50th.org) or by contacting event coordinator Zoraya Lee-Hamlin at 862-233-8020 or [50thanniversary@newcommunity.org](mailto:50thanniversary@newcommunity.org).



New Community Corporation CEO Richard Rohrman is one of the interview subjects for the video commemorating the corporation's 50th anniversary.



Video Life Productions Owner John Pallone captures New Community Workforce Development Center Building Trades Specialist Instructor William Robinson observing as a student uses a circular saw.



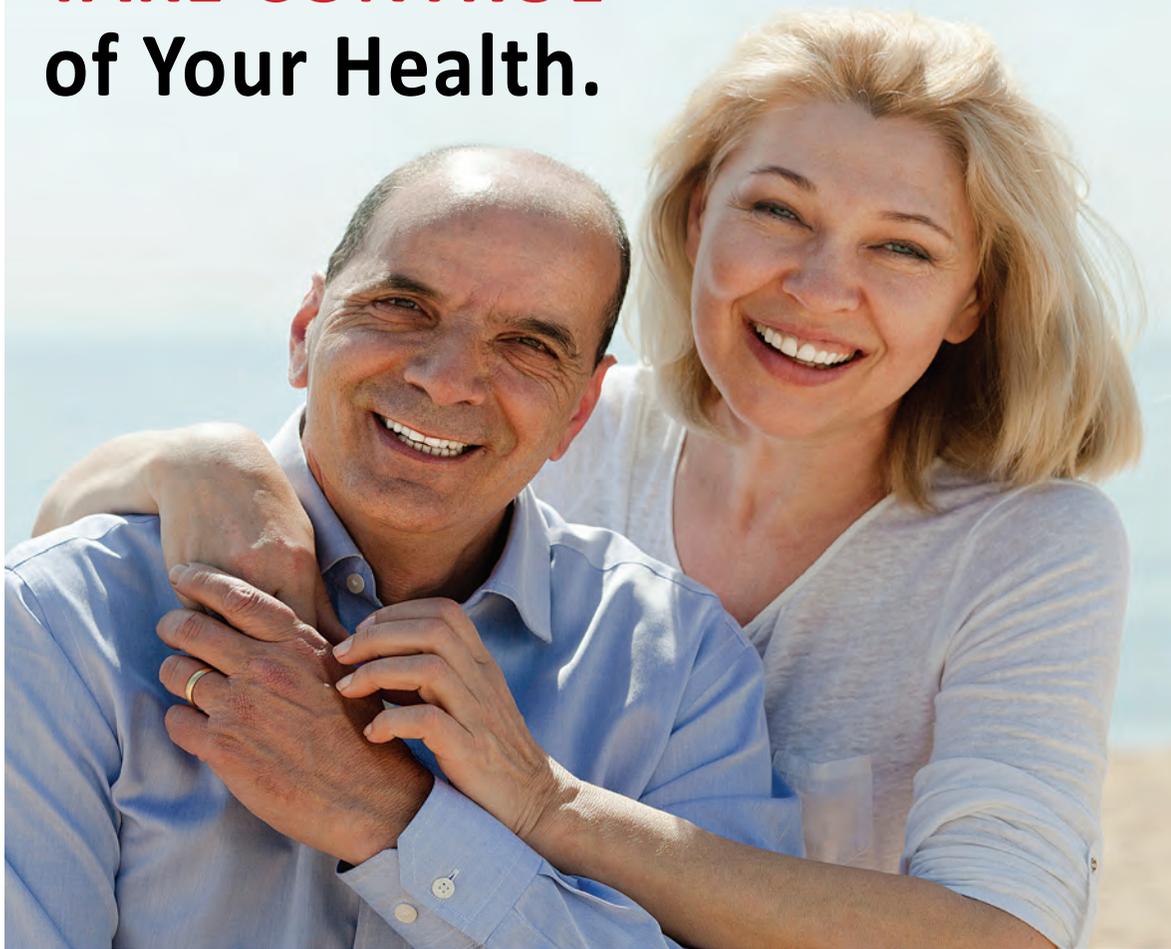
Clinical Medical Assistant students practice drawing blood at New Community Workforce Development Center as instructor Seham Abouelhassan looks on. Video Life Productions Owner John Pallone films the scene for the NCC 50th anniversary video.



Owner of Video Life Productions, John Pallone, gets footage of a New Community Workforce Development Center Culinary Arts Specialist student in the commercial kitchen.



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## Workforce Development Center Hosts Open House

New Community Workforce Development Center held an Open House Jan. 11 for those interested in enrolling in the accredited post-secondary career and technical school. Programs available to the public include Automotive Technician, Building Trades Specialist, Clinical Medical Assistant, Culinary Arts Specialist and Patient Care Technician. Financial aid is available for those who qualify and applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis. For more information and to fill out an application, visit [www.newcommunity.org](http://www.newcommunity.org) or call 973-824-6484.



Those interested in taking classes at New Community Workforce Development Center attended the accredited post-secondary career and technical school Open House Jan. 11.



New Community Workforce Development Center Director Rodney Brutton gave Open House attendees an overview of the school, its programs and its successful outcomes.



Current New Community Workforce Development Center students Samaya Hutchinson, left, and Adriana Alvarez, right, tell prospective students why they joined the Clinical Medical Assistant program.



A prospective student fills out a form for New Community Workforce Development Center Financial Aid Manager Alisia Hughes during the school's Open House.



New Community Workforce Development Center Clinical Medical Assistant Instructor Seham Abouelhassan addresses the group at the Open House.

## NCC Security Personnel Start Training Program



Security Operations Manager John Wade leads a training session for three supervisors Jan. 24. It's part of a new initiative this year that will provide training to all members of the Security Department.

Members of the New Community Security Department will be undergoing new training throughout 2018. The process began with three supervisors participating in a three-day training Jan. 23-25 at St. Joseph Plaza.

“Through training, policies, rules and regulations, this is how we ensure officers are trained to do what needs to be done,” said Security Operations Manager John Wade.

Wade is leading the effort and is conducting the training with help from Human Resources Director Ben Galvez and Family Service Bureau Executive Director Manuela Garcia. Wade is certified to teach almost half of the curriculum at the Police Academy and has used that background to customize training for NCC personnel. He is leading the majority of the

training. Galvez is reviewing HR policies and procedures with employees. Garcia is helping with the mental health aspect of the training, including de-escalation techniques.

The training covers areas including standard operating procedures, leadership and management, ethics, verbal de-escalation, incident command and active shooter. Wade also recently reworked the emergency plans for Community Hills Early Learning Center and Harmony House Early Learning Center and will review those plans as part of the training as well.

Training will be conducted in small groups throughout the year based on employees' schedules and positions. Supervisors will receive training first, followed by dispatchers, patrol officers and officers at the various NCC sites. Some of the training will be specifically geared toward employees' positions. Wade plans to have everyone complete three days worth of training.



Human Resources Director Ben Galvez goes over HR procedures with Security supervisors during a training session Jan. 23 at St. Joseph Plaza.

## Family Service Bureau

### Helping Young People With Family Crisis Intervention Unit

One Family Service Bureau of Newark program is the Family Crisis Intervention Unit program. The Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) handles cases in which the behavior of a juvenile under the age of 18, their parent, guardian or other family member constitutes a behavioral issue, a threat or conflict with that juvenile. Examples of some cases have involved parent/child conflict, conflict within the home setting, mental health or behavioral issues, as well as patterns of unauthorized absences from school. FCIU services consist of eight counseling sessions including the initial assessment, which is free of cost to the youth and their family. The goal during this time is to help the individual and/or family gain insight into their behavior through skill-building and reinforcement of positive behaviors both in and out of counseling.

February is National Teen Dating Violence

Awareness and Prevention Month, and Family Service Bureau is taking this time to inform juveniles about the importance of engaging in healthy relationships. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dating violence can have a negative effect on health throughout life. Victims of teen dating violence are more likely to experience symptoms of depression and anxiety. They might also engage in unhealthy behaviors, such as using tobacco, drugs and alcohol. Teens who are victims in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college.

Because of information such as this, Family Service Bureau is currently engaged with 12 Newark Public Schools (NPS) located in Central, West, North, and East wards to provide in-school counseling or, if they prefer, individual sessions in the office. Services within the schools differ from individual counseling to groups with youth that may be dealing with similar

behavioral or mental health issues.

As the 2017 school year progresses, each learning facility has begun to tailor our counseling services to the needs and demands of their students. We are currently in the process of working with a school that would like to engage their athletic teams in anger management and team skill building groups. We continuously encourage each school to think outside the box with different ways in which the NPS and Family Service Bureau can assist the youth of Newark together.

As of 2016, FCIU has helped more than 200 youth/families in the city of Newark through brief crisis counseling and we only expect that number to grow. If you are seeking mental health services for a youth who may be in need, please do not hesitate to contact Family Service Bureau of Newark for more information. The phone number is 973-412-2056.

#### 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 2017 holiday season:

- St. Paul's Abbey Newton – Fr. Odilo 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
- Millburn Fire Department – Fire Chief Robert Echavarria and Nicole Verducci, Millburn, N.J.
- Frank Consentino, Gillette, N.J.
- St. Helen's Catholic Parish – Marilyn Ryan, Westfield, N.J.
- 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
- Our Lady of the Lake, Verona, N.J. – Ursula Conrad
- 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
- St. Theresa of Avila Parish, Summit, N.J. – Margaret Strong and Theresa
- Church of The Assumption Parish, Emerson, N.J. – Parishioners and the Social Concerns Committee
- St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, Cedar Grove, N.J. – Brenda Pereira and Denise Parkes
- Meyner & Landis, Counsellors At Law, Newark, N.J. – Cindy Oliveira and coworkers
- Capital One Bank, Union, N.J. – Diane Dacunha and Conny Jeanty
- Mr. and Mrs. Desjardins, Maplewood, N.J.
- Columbia/Maplewood High School, Maplewood, N.J. – Marsha Hicks and students
- Essex County Sheriff and Prosecutor's Officer, Newark, N.J. – Pamela McCauley
- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange, N.J. – Pat Paxton
- Ephesus Church, Newark, N.J. – Brenda Johnson
- Chosen Generation Ministries, Newark, N.J. – Lawren Monroe
- Hood Ryderz Ladies Motorcycle Club, Newark, N.J.

#### Thanksgiving Turkey Donations

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

#### Black History Month Quotes

*"We must never forget that Black History is American History. The achievements of African-Americans have contributed to our nation's greatness."*

— New York Congresswoman Yvette Clarke

*"Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better."*

— Martin Luther King Jr.

*"I was raised to believe that excellence is the best deterrent to racism or sexism."*

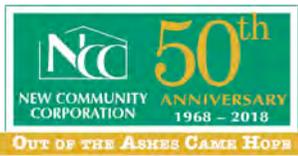
— Oprah Winfrey

*"I had no idea that history was being made. I was just tired of giving up."*

— Rosa Parks

*"Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated."*

— Coretta Scott King



**New Community Adult Learning Center**

563 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey 07107

**(973) 558-5536**

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

**Available Courses**

**English for Speakers of Other Languages**

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

**Citizenship**

Saturdays:  
9 AM to 12 PM

**Computers – Basic & Intermediate Levels**

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

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

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

**Free Services**

**Health Screenings**

Physicals, Mammograms, Cholesterol, Nutrition, etc.

**Open Community**

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

**Other Services**

- Community organizing
- Community rooms
- Social services referrals

**Cursos Disponibles**

**Inglés para Hablantes de otras Idiomas**

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

**Ciudadanía**

Sábados:  
9 AM a 12 PM

**Computadora – Nivel Básico e Intermedio**

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

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

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

**Servicios Gratuitos**

**Exámenes Médicos Gratuitos**

Físicos, Mamografías, Colesterol, Nutrición, etc.

**Comunidad Abierta**

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

**Otros servicios**

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

**Black History Month Quotes**

*“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”*

— Martin Luther King Jr.

*“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”*

— President Barack Obama

**Home Friends Coordinator Has Had Many Roles At NCC**

Continued from page 5

also takes pride in running the emergency food pantry, which serves many people who run out of money for food by the middle of the month.

“Giselle is always willing to learn new things and embodies what it means to be a team player. She takes pride in her work and sets an example for others and the residents we serve at New Community,” said Assistant Director of Health and Social Services Donnette Burrowes-Williams.

Oviedo grew up in North Newark and was raised by her father. Her sister is Luz Toro, care coordinator at Douglas Homes. Oviedo lived in New Community properties from 2009 to 2012 before moving back to North Newark. She has two sons, ages 10 and 8.

Oviedo hopes to earn an associate’s degree in human services and may pursue a bachelor’s degree as well. But she expects all that to happen while she continues working at New Community.

“I expect to be here for many more years,” she said.

**NCC 50th Anniversary Gala  
March 3, 2018  
[www.ncc50th.org](http://www.ncc50th.org)**

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.



**The Sweet Taste Of Freedom**

By Lesley Leslie

When you think about the month of February, some of the more common observances that come to mind are Valentine’s Day, month-

the act of slavery.

Major Richard Robert Wright Sr., a former slave born on May 16, 1855, founded the National Freedom Day Association and he played a crucial role in creating the observance as a way for all Americans to celebrate freedom. Wright was a community leader in Philadelphia and was active in education, the media, business and politics.

On June 30, 1948, President Harry Truman signed a bill to proclaim Feb. 1 as the first official National Freedom Day in the United States. Although the observance has traditionally been marked by laying a wreath at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, the observance has not received the amount of national attention that is befitting of it. With all of the dissention and division that is prevalent in our country today, a celebration such as this is very timely. It’s just the sort of reminder that we all need to bring us back to a place where we can honestly appreciate and recognize goodwill and the individual freedoms that we take for granted.

long Black History celebrations, Groundhog Day, President Lincoln and Washington’s birthdays or even Ash Wednesday. However, there are a number of other observances during the month of February, such as Fat Tuesday, Boy Scout Day, Be Humble Day or Susan B. Anthony Day. Although these lesser known observances do not result in a day off from work or school, they are just as noteworthy. One such observance is called National Freedom Day.

National Freedom Day commemorates Feb. 1, 1865 — when Abraham Lincoln, who was the nation’s 16th president, signed a joint resolution that proposed the 13th amendment to the United States Constitution. This amendment officially abolished

The New Community Clarion  
233 West Market Street  
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www.NCC50th.org

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## Three Kings' Day Celebration

The Adult Learning Center, 563 Orange St., Newark, held its annual Three Kings' Day celebration Jan. 6 with 86 participants and 15 volunteers. The holiday recognizes the three wise men who went to Bethlehem and presented baby Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Co-sponsors of the event included New Community Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson, representing NCC and Saint Rose of Lima; Alfred

Rodriguez of Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Elvin Santiago of Horizon NJ Health; and Toys "R" Us and Babies "R" Us in Elizabeth and Rockaway. The Adult Learning Center offers classes in English for speakers of other languages, citizenship, computers and high school equivalency. Health screenings are also available. For more information, call 973-558-5536 or visit [www.newcommunity.org](http://www.newcommunity.org). *Photos courtesy of Cristhian Barcelos.*

