



The New Community CLARION

Serving the People of the New Community Network

Volume 37 - Issue 4 ~ June 2020

Coping with COVID-19: How NCC is Helping During the Pandemic



NCC's Resident Services Department has continued providing food to those in need throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. From left to right: Manor Senior Resident Services Coordinators Erika Furcal and Guadalupe Cepeda and Home Friend Program Coordinator/Food Pantry Representative Flavia Pinheiro. Photo courtesy of Resident Services.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many aspects of life for people and businesses around the world. New Community has had to make adjustments to its operations, but it has continued to provide vital services during the pandemic, keeping in

mind and taking steps to ensure the safety of employees, residents and clients.

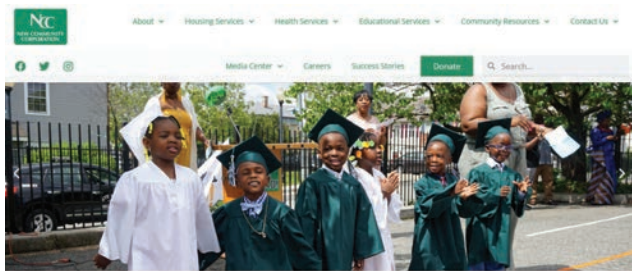
"NCC has risen to the challenges brought on by COVID-19. Even during a global pandemic, our dedicated staff members have embodied our mission, finding ways to safely provide essential services to our residents and clients in the community at a time of great need," said NCC CEO Richard Rohrman. "I want to especially thank our teams at Extended Care, Security and Housing who have been continuously working to help our seniors and disabled residents through this crisis. As we move forward in a new normal, we will continue to make adjustments to our operations as necessary, always keeping in mind the health and safety of our employees and those we serve."

Members of NCC's Board of Directors have remained involved during the pandemic.

"As a Board, and working very closely with the Management Team at New Community, we have witnessed the enormous toll COVID-19 is taking on our residents, employees and the community at large," said NCC Board Chairman Dr. A. Zachary Yamba. "With dedication and compassion, the leadership team at NCC rose to the occasion to minimize and contain the spread of

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New Community Launches New Website



WHO WE ARE
Helping residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives

New Community launched an updated website at newcommunity.org in May. The site has a more modern look and a new navigation structure.

New Community launched an updated website in May. The new, more modern design and updated navigation structure are aimed to enhance the online user experience. The website can still be found

at newcommunity.org and is easily accessible on desktop computers and mobile devices like tablets and cell phones.

The website provides a history of New Community and detailed descriptions of the organization's programs and services. It also displays NCC's latest news and links to its social media accounts.

"The newly redesigned website is more user-friendly and provides up-to-date information about NCC's programs, services and events," said New Community CEO Richard Rohrman. "I encourage you to visit the website to check out what's new, sign up for our emails and reach out with any questions or feedback."

Those interested in contacting NCC can do that on the "Contact Us" page. Individuals can also access a Department Directory and sign up for NCC emails.

Individuals looking to support NCC financially can click "Donate" to give through PayPal for Giving. They have the option of providing a one-time donation or a recurring monthly gift

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NCC Continues to Serve

**By Richard Rohrman
NCC Chief Executive Officer**

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we at New Community recognized the seriousness of the situation and took steps to keep our employees, residents and community members safe. We also know that the services we provide are vital to the communities we serve. Therefore, we have continued operating our programs and services wherever possible.

Throughout this time NCC has continued operating its Emergency Food Pantry and Community Food Distribution, providing necessary essentials to residents in need; the Family Resource Success Center has kept connecting individuals to resources; and NCC has continued to provide its health care services.

Due to social distancing regulations, we've had to adapt some of our operations. Staff members have been using phone communication with residents more often, Family Service Bureau began offering telehealth services for clients and education programs moved from classrooms to online.

The manner of interaction has changed in some instances, but our mission remains the same: to help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

While we remain committed to providing critical services to the community, we also are committed to employee safety. NCC has taken steps to reduce the risk to employees and we encourage all employees to practice social distancing by maintaining a six-foot radius around others, wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching their faces.

As we continue to operate in the new normal created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are constantly evaluating our processes and procedures, making adjustments as necessary. We have put additional safety precautions and policy guidelines into place to protect staff, residents and clients.

I want to recognize all of our employees for their continued efforts to provide necessary services to the vulnerable populations that we serve. We will continue to get through this together.

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 views of New Community Corporation.

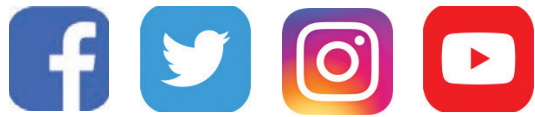
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Check us out online:
newcommunity.org



OUR MISSION

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

New Community is recognized as:

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

Residents Learn About Scams, Identity Theft



Mariela Santana, a bilingual community educator with New Jersey Citizen Action, came to Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, March 10 to give a presentation to residents in the Community Room. She discussed known scams that often dupe senior citizens out of their money and how to avoid them. She also talked about what individuals should do in the event they have their identity stolen.

Around the Network

Learning About Nutrition and Health

UnitedHealthcare Health Educator La-Kisa Hines visited Manor Senior, 545 Orange St., Newark, March 10 to speak with residents about nutrition. During the workshop, Hines discussed the different food groups and how to put together healthy meals. She also talked about the importance of exercise and took questions from those in attendance.



Taking Steps to Improve Health

Residents of Douglas Homes, 15 Hill St., Newark, met in the Community Room March 12 to participate in an exercise class with Resident Services Coordinator Clesia Thompson. Later that day, the building held a healthy cooking class where residents learned how to make healthy smoothies in the Community Room. *Photos courtesy of Fallon Barnes.*



Getting to Know Home Health Aides

Residents of Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, participated in a raffle March 12 in the Community Room, courtesy of CareFinders Total Care, which provides Certified Home Health Aides to clients. Participants got to know the CareFinders home health aides and won some nice prizes. *Photos courtesy of Desiree Crespo.*



7th Annual Women's History Month Celebration at St. Joseph Plaza

St. Joseph Plaza, 233 West Market St., Newark, hosted the Seventh Annual Women's History Month Celebration titled "Living Life on Purpose" March 6. The event, which drew about 150 guests, was dedicated to the memory of Yvette Glover, a Newark native who sang gospel and jazz locally and internationally. She passed away Feb. 11, 2020.

Joy Topping-Mann produced the event, which included a musical performance by the Sheba Jordan Band and a song by Norman Mann. There was also a tribute to Brenda Mosley. The Mental Health Players of New Jersey performed as well, led by Director Lynette Sheard.

Photos courtesy of Gregory Burrus Around Town.



New Community 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 newcommunity.org and click "Careers." 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 have difficulty with the online application process, you can chat with a representative for technical support or check out the Frequently Asked Questions page. For additional information, job seekers can call New Community's main phone number at 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.

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Diesel Technician Instructor
- Dietary Aide - Part-Time
- Director of Social Work
- Licensed Practical Nurse - Full-Time
- MDS Coordinator/Registered Nurse Assessment Coordinator
- Nursing Home Admissions Marketer
- Property Manager
- Receptionist
- Registered Nurse – Unit Manager
- Resident Services Coordinator
- Superintendent
- Teacher Assistant - (Infant/Toddler) - Floater
- Teacher Assistant ABBOTT
- Therapist

NEW COMMUNITY CORPORATION



St. Joseph Plaza
233 West Market St.
Newark, NJ 07103
(973) 623-2800
www.newcommunity.org

Where the Music Comes Alive

Prayers that all of you are remaining in, self-quarantined with your families and checking on extended family, friends and neighbors.

Never could anyone ever imagine the severity of this global pandemic that would cause such uncertainty and illness, that it would shut down our country and cause utter panic.

It seems so unbelievable not to have live entertainment and gather to enjoy live music and fellowship.

We will be back, please believe and pray. I would like to thank all of the musicians, patrons and supporters of the Music Series at St. Joseph Plaza.

I don't know when, but I am confident we will be back.

Continue to keep yourselves in prayers and we will pray for you.

Denise McCoy
Music Coordinator
New Community Corporation



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

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this deadly virus and to ensure that lives were saved and livelihood was protected.”

Before action was taken by government officials in New Jersey, NCC leadership created a task force made up of department directors and senior leaders to discuss and create plans for each department's response to the virus. When it became clear that COVID-19 was going to impact the state and NCC's footprint, those plans were put into practice.

“Our early action made an impact,” said NCC Chief Operating Officer Fred Hunter.

Hand sanitizer stations were installed in all NCC buildings and increased cleaning protocols were put in place in early March. NCC's Environmental Services Department has maintained cleaning and sanitizing protocols throughout the pandemic, at times with fewer staff members.

Across the board, NCC has leveraged remote activity. Meetings moved to remote means to limit in-person contact. Many employees who were able to perform their duties off-site did so at least part of the time.

Each of NCC's departments has made changes in response to the pandemic. The following provides highlights from these different areas.

New Community Extended Care Facility

To help reduce the risk of infection to residents and staff members of the skilled nursing facility, Extended Care has taken several steps. Visitation was suspended and the building was closed to the public in March. Screening of staff members was put in place, including temperature checks before the start of every shift. Staff members were provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) to use when caring for residents. Plexiglass was installed at the reception desk to serve as a barrier. A specialized environmental professional group that used EPA approved disinfectants sterilized the entire building, from the basement to the fourth floor. Each floor was cleared for several hours during the disinfecting. In addition to the deep cleaning, staff members continually clean the facility with government-approved cleaning products.

All residents and staff members were tested for COVID-19. Residents who tested positive were isolated and staff members found to have the virus were removed from duty and not permitted to return until they received a doctor's clearance. Retesting was completed in late May and isolation protocols remain in place for those with positive test results.

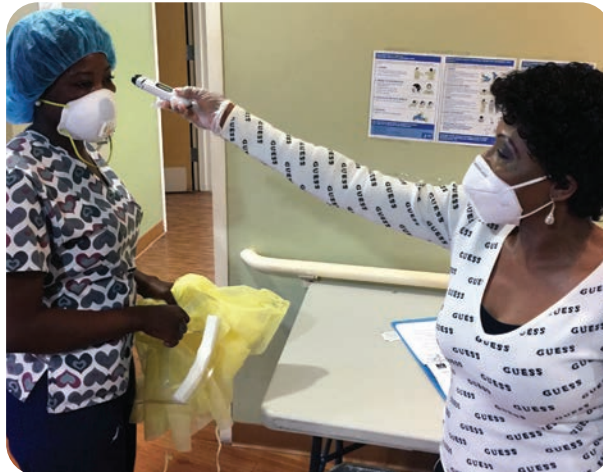
As an additional precaution, the facility designated a washing machine to launder linens and personal clothing for residents who were identified as COVID-19 positive.

Hunter said Extended Care staff members deserve recognition for their commitment to the residents.

“We have a dedicated group of folks working at Extended Care in all areas, from laundry to nurses to security,” he said. “They're doing a fine job. I'm proud of them.”

Extended Care received a donation of face shields and ear savers from SOMA NJ 3D Print-

New Community Extended Care Facility



Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka, right, checks the temperature of an employee before she starts her shift. Screenings were enacted at the skilled nursing facility to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Photo courtesy of Fred Hunter.



Staff members at Extended Care have continued to provide necessary services to residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo courtesy of Adalberto Diaz.



Extended Care personnel wear personal protective equipment (PPE) during their shifts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Photo courtesy of Adalberto Diaz.



New Community COO Fred Hunter, left, accepts a donation of face shields and ear savers from Curtis Counts of SOMA NJ 3D Printers Alliance for staff members at Extended Care. Photo courtesy of Debbie Rohrman.



New Community appreciates all employees at Extended Care who have continued providing critical services for residents. Photo courtesy of Adalberto Diaz.

ers Alliance in May, which staff members put to good use when attending to residents' needs.

Security

Members of the NCC Security Department have continued to provide services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the safety of staff and residents. They wear personal protective equipment (PPE) and take other preventative measures to keep them as safe as possible. In addition to their traditional duties, Security per-

sonnel make sure everyone at their post wears the proper PPE and adheres to social distancing guidelines. For increased safety, Security staff members have minimal direct interaction with the general resident population.

Plexiglass has been installed at Security stations throughout the network to protect staff members from other individuals' coughs and sneezes.

Members of Security have also assisted with

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NCCTI on the Front Line in Times of Need

By Rodney Brutton

Director of New Community Career & Technical Institute



NCCTI health care graduates are on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic. From left to right: Shauna Lamar, Emajene Hawkins, Kaitlin Brant, Jafuna Givens, Tatyana Patilla and Caffi Lovence.

New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) graduates stood up and stepped in during the city's, region's and country's most desperate time of need. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to leave its devastating impact on the world and our region, NCCTI's graduates are on the front line of caring for those inflicted with this virus. They are serving as clinical medical assistants, patient care technicians and community health workers at University Hospital, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Clara Maass Medical Center and St.

Joseph's Regional Medical Center. Our graduates demonstrated their value and immediately put their training and skills to good use.

Our graduates' commitment to standing up and stepping in during these most troubling times is exemplified by the story of Ms. Janufa Givens. Janufa is currently working in Newark Beth Israel Medical Center's Intensive Care Unit, providing direct care to COVID-19 patients. Jafuna is tasked with taking vital signs, taking blood sugar readings, assisting with connecting and disconnecting patients to ventilators, repositioning patients and performing personal hygiene care. Although initially a bit daunting, Janufa has become more confident with completing her daily tasks. She was provided all the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) and received additional training on how to "suit up" and protect herself. Janufa's performance comes as no surprise, considering she was an excellent student in our Patient Care Technician program. Her attendance was stellar, she demonstrated superb clinical skills and she always came to school with a smile.

NCCTI served as an immediate source when employers needed skilled, trained and certified direct care health workers. At a moment's notice, NCCTI staff identified and referred 15 graduates to our employer partners and they all were

hired. NCCTI ensures there is a steady pipeline of skilled workers to answer employer needs, not just in times of urgency, but as a consistent practice. Similar to our graduates, NCCTI stood up and stepped in to support our employer partners.

NCCTI graduates are well trained, smart, caring and willing to join the front line in times of need. While most of us looked to seek cover and shelter in place, NCCTI students and many other direct health care workers stood up and stepped in to offer their skills, training and caring spirit. Jafuna is one of 15 recent graduates demonstrating their courage and passion. We are proud to call them all NCCTI alumni.

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

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the execution of COVID-19 testing at NCC senior buildings.

Environmental Services

NCC's Environmental Services Department has managed emergency work orders for NCC residences and cleaned common areas and the grounds throughout the pandemic. Personnel installed hand sanitizer stations in all NCC buildings and plexiglass coverings at security posts. The department was also tasked with handling procurement of PPE for all departments except Extended Care.

Resident Services

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Resident Services has continued to provide support for NCC residents. Resident Services Coordinators conduct phone wellness checks on residents twice per day. The calls range from five to 40 minutes and provide residents with a listening ear. Coordinators have managed more than 1,500 cases per month during the pandemic. In addition to the wellness checks, they provide rental payment and rental assistance reminders; assist tenants filing for unemployment; provide families with baby food, diapers and clothing as needed; help residents complete their census forms by phone or internet; assist residents who don't normally file tax returns apply for stimulus checks; make routine hospital calls after admis-

sion to keep track of residents' health and well-being; call in necessary prescriptions; teleconference with residents to assist with doctor calls after residents experience symptoms possibly related to COVID-19; and share resources related to COVID-19 with residents, including referrals to mental health services when needed.

The Emergency Food Pantry has remained in operation throughout the pandemic, providing food to the community on its regular schedule, opening the first business day after the 15th of each month. Food is also provided to the community on the first Tuesday of each month. During the pandemic, the Emergency Food Pantry has served more than 500 clients per month including seniors, adults and children. From March to April, the food pantry fed 1,069 clients. The number of individuals in need of assistance is expected to increase with a high unemployment rate.

Resident Services Coordinators have facilitated the distribution of meals to residents in NCC's senior buildings, which have been provided by the City of Newark. They also ensure residents receive food commodities donated by food banks and others.

"The meals are sorted and delivered daily by the Resident Services Coordinators. They do a fantastic and tireless job in assuring that all who want a meal will receive a meal," said Hector Torres, Director of Property Management. "Our



Plexiglass has been installed at Security stations, including the one at Harmony House. Photo courtesy of John Wade.

Resident Services Coordinators have been true heroes from day one of this pandemic. I applaud them and their relentless efforts to make sure our residents are at least provided a meal or food during this crisis."

For photos of Resident Services in action, see page 7.

Property Management

NCC residents were informed about COVID-19 through flyers, building intercoms, website updates and follow-up telephone calls. Residents were given ways to reach out to their Property Managers and Management offices to provide for minimal physical contact and when Newark instituted the shelter-in-place order, all

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Social Security News

Social Security's Online Services Are Ready for Business

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

During this time when our offices are open to provide service by phone, you may wonder, "How else can I get help from Social Security?" You can find the answer at www.ssa.gov/onlineservices, which links you to some of our most popular online services. You can apply for retirement and disability benefits, appeal a decision and do much more.

Our newest *my Social Security* feature, Advance Designation, enables you to identify up to three people, in priority order, who you would like to serve as your potential representative payee in the event you ever need help managing your benefits. We have updated our Frequently Asked Questions at faq.ssa.gov/en-us/Topic/article/KA-10039 to answer questions you may have about Advance Designation.

You can also apply for Medicare online in less than 10 minutes with no forms to sign and often no required documentation. We'll process your application and contact you if we need more information.

Visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare to apply for Medicare and find other important information. If you're eligible for Medicare at age 65, your initial enrollment period begins three months before your 65th birthday and ends three months after that birthday.

We've organized our Online Services webpage into four popular categories for easy navigation:

- **Review Your Information.** You can access your secure, personal information and earnings history to make sure everything is correct. You can even print statements with ease.
- **Apply for Benefits.** You can apply for retirement, disability and Medicare benefits without having to visit a field office.
- **Manage Your Account.** You can change your direct deposit information and your address online.
- **Find Help and Answers.** We've answered your most frequently asked questions and provided links to publications and other informational websites.

Let your family and friends know they can do much of their business with us online at www.ssa.gov.

Cooking Healthy with Egg Whites

Residents of Gardens Senior, 265 Morris Ave., Newark, learned some healthy recipes with egg whites during a Cooking Healthy workshop in the Community Room March 10 with Resident Services Coordinator Denise Felix. Participants enjoyed egg cups with turkey bacon, cheese and vegetables, along with egg white smoothies.



vna Health Group
Visiting Nurse Association Health & Hospice

Wellness Tip
June 2020

Practice Stress Management

Relaxation through deep breathing techniques, relaxation imagery, tension-relaxation contrasts, cue-controlled relaxation, and biofeedback

Cognitive Techniques:
Review your attitudes and values, restructure your thinking, set goals, use positive imagery, rehearse mentally

Behavioral Changes to better manage interpersonal situations and distress--Check your assumptions, share your expectations with others.

Take a break. For example, if news events are causing your stress, take a break from listening or watching the news.



For more information about VNA Health Group's services & programs, please call 800.862.3330 or visit www.vnahg.org

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physical contact was eliminated. To ensure residents have the most up to date information, the Property Management Department provides flyers and posters and makes follow-up phone calls with updates about changing protocols and food distributions.

Property Managers continue to be at buildings daily and address the recertification process for residents as best as possible with physical limitations. The residents have been cooperative and understanding during the pandemic.

COVID-19 testing for residents and staff members at NCC senior buildings began in May. services were coordinated with Sunrise Diagnostics and the City of Newark. All residents and staff members in the buildings receiving testing were given the opportunity to be tested in the Community Room. A doctor was on site for testing. Social distancing guidelines were adhered to for the testing and residents waited outside for their turn to be swabbed. Anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 had their primary care physician notified.

"There are many people to thank and give appreciation to as we move forward to assure that NCC is doing all it can to make sure our residents are looked out for," Torres said. "The true meaning of community is reflected during times such as we are experiencing and our employees are true warriors and heroes each and every day."

Family Resource Success Center

The Family Resource Success Center has remained available throughout the pandemic to ensure that vulnerable, low-income families and individuals can remain in their homes and have access to resources and benefits during and beyond the crisis. The center offers guidance and support to ensure residents are connected to critical local and national resources, and social outlets to maintain their economic and mental health to lessen the impact of the pandemic.

"As the hub for NCC services, we are connecting residents to a range of strategies and activities. We will continue to support communities in an effort to address needs during this public health crisis, and respond to future needs," said Family Resource Center Director Joann Williams-Swiney. "We hope to leave our communities better prepared and secured for future emergencies and crises."

The Family Resource Success Center connects individuals to the myriad of services provided by NCC, as well as outside entities. During the pandemic, the center has referred clients and provided the following services: online training programs available through New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI); senior services; health care services for seniors, the disabled and uninsured; housing resources through NCC and specialized housing for those with HIV, the homeless and veterans; counseling services; benefits screenings; energy assistance; prescription assistance; free tax prep, which continues since the tax deadline was pushed back to July 15; detox placements; food referrals; rental assistance programs; financial literacy programs; furniture referrals; and legal services.

Resident Services in Action

Photos courtesy of Resident Services. More information about the department's response is on page 5.



The Resident Services Department distributes food at 220 Bruce St., Newark, to those in need.



Associates Resident Services Coordinator Desiree Crespo hands a hot meal to a resident.



NCC families didn't miss Easter because of the pandemic. Resident Services Coordinator Anibal Alvelo made up fun baskets to distribute for the holiday.



Douglas Homes residents pick up food in the building's Community Room, which was set up by Resident Services.



Central Ward Councilwoman Lamonica McIver, Pastor Bartley, the New Jersey National Action Network and World Central Kitchen provided free lunch to the residents of Douglas Homes April 9.



Meal distribution at Roseville Senior.

Harmony House

Harmony House, NCC's transitional housing facility for homeless families, has been open for regular services throughout the pandemic and is accepting new referrals. The staff has provided 854 case management hours in eight weeks. Food is also distributed to families through collaboration with the City of Newark and other supporters. Family counseling is available through Family Service Bureau for all families.

Family Service Bureau (FSB)

Family Service Bureau (FSB), a licensed outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment center, has continued to operate during the pandemic with remote services. FSB provided 1,200 sessions in eight weeks with a

combination of telehealth and telemedicine.

In addition to servicing community clients, the facility has worked with NCC employees as part of the Employee Assistance Program to provide free support during these difficult times. Mental health and substance abuse services are also available to senior residents and Harmony House families.

In addition, FSB is providing free COVID-19 crisis counseling services to families, individuals and youth living in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Passaic counties. Services are available through the Disaster and Terrorism Branch of the State of New Jersey and are offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 973-272-7488 or email FSBNJHH@newcommunity.org to utilize

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Douglas Homes Celebrates a New Pool Table

Residents of Douglas Homes, 15 Hill St., Newark, now have a pool table in the Community Room. The building hosted a ribbon cutting for the new pool table March 4 with building staff and representatives from Newark City Hall. In addition to the unveiling of the pool table, building staff members went over proper pool table maintenance and the proper way to play so the table doesn't get damaged. They also went over the procedures for using the pool table. Following the ribbon cutting, several residents tried out the pool table with a few games.



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the services. See page 9 for the full flyer.

New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI)

NCCTI was forced to suspend all on-campus classes because of the pandemic. To adjust to the new normal, the school made preparations and began offering three online programs. Clinical Medical Assistant and Patient Care Technician programs began online May 11 and the online Automotive Technician program starts June 8.

"We were able to adjust and offer online learning to ensure we are continuing the pipeline of skilled and trained workers in health care and automotive," said NCCTI Director Rodney Brutton. "We were able to change our delivery in a matter of weeks and meet our enrollment goals. And the quality has not been jeopardized or diluted."

Brutton is thankful for NCC's IT and Finance departments for their assistance making sure online students had the tools and resources necessary to participate in the programs. He also said the Communications Department was instrumental in promoting the online programs, which helped recruit the desired number of students.

The Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) continued its operations during the pandemic, offering financial coaching, job readiness and retention support remotely. The FOC also continues to conduct financial literacy workshops remotely and shares information about topics and online events.

Work for the Newark 2020 initiative also continues during the pandemic. As a community hub, NCCTI personnel participate in weekly conference calls with representatives from other organizations involved in Newark 2020, including Ironbound Community Corporation, Urban League of Essex County, La Casa de Don Pedro and the Newark Alliance, which heads the initiative.

"We are still engaging Newark 2020 clients to assess their education level and work experience and connect them to current job openings within the Newark 2020 employer network," Brutton said.

Personnel also took an active role in recruiting job seekers for a new virtual career coaching series called Level Up Now!, which is an initiative through the City of Newark and Ironbound Community Corporation for Newark 2020. Sessions began April 29 and continue weekly through June 17. The series includes virtual and essential job opportunities, employer partner facilitators, training on the virtual workplace, remote task delivery, the building power of digital profiles, resume enhancement, virtual interviewing techniques and connections to career coaches.

Adult Learning Center

In-person classes had to be suspended in March because of the pandemic, but the Adult Learning Center moved its classes online April 20 for its last session of the fiscal year. All services are being offered through Google Classroom and Google Meets at their regularly scheduled times.

Students were able to pick up their books from the center, which now has office hours of Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

While Adult Learning Center Director Cris- tian Barcelos said the transition was a challenge since it had to be done quickly and using technology staff members weren't necessarily familiar with, he said it has been successful and has enabled students to continue their education.

"Our instructors and students have demonstrated an immense capacity to adapt and overcome the challenges that we are facing, especially in the middle of a pandemic and financial crisis," Barcelos said. "We do not know what awaits for us in the future, but we are working very hard to be prepared for anything that comes our way."

Early Learning Centers

Both Community Hills Early Learning Center (CHELC) and Harmony House Early Learning Center (HHELC) closed their doors in March because of the pandemic. But just because students and teachers couldn't come together in the classroom doesn't mean the learning stopped. Staff members at both centers have continued communicating with families and teaching children through virtual means like Zoom and ClassDojo. Parents share photos and video clips of their children engaged in learning activities. NCC personnel have also reached out to families to provide support through email, WhatsApp and text messages.

HHELC students participated in the Week

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COVID-19 Crisis Counseling Services

NJ Hope and Healing Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) at the Family Service Bureau of Newark is available to assist communities affected by COVID-19. We are a neighbor helping neighbor team with staff on-call to provide the following free services:

- Online Support for Stress Management Techniques
- Develop New Coping Skills
 - Compassion Fatigue
- Communication Techniques
 - Resource Linkage



Hours of Operations: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone Number: 973-272-7488

Email Address: FSBNJHH@newcommunity.org

*Services offered in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Passaic counties.
Various languages are available.*

**Free services are available
remotely for families,
individuals and youth.**



This program is brought to you by/through NJ Hope and Healing Crisis Counseling Program (CCP). Family Service Bureau of Newark in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Disaster and Terrorism Branch, is offering a Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) through a FEMA/SAMHSA grant.

Family Service Bureau

FSB Offers Free COVID-19 Crisis Counseling Services

As part of the NJ Hope and Healing Project, Family Service Bureau is working with the State of New Jersey and the NJ State Department of Disaster and Terrorism Branch to assist residents through the pandemic by providing Crisis Counseling and resource linkage services. Family Service Bureau is committed to providing supportive services for residents in Essex, Passaic, Bergen and Hudson counties. The program is administered remotely offering free services for groups like health care workers, families, children and marginalized persons, as well as adults experiencing grief and loss.

Project staff is doing outreach in all four counties, reaching out through information dissemination, flyers and pamphlets, to senior buildings, at houses of worship and communi-

ty groups, public forums and meetings, schools, and other venues to inform residents of diverse services for accessing resources and support.

FSB is here to provide counseling and education, as well as facilitate remote support groups. Disaster stress that primarily goes unrecognized or unmanaged can impact one's physical and mental health. Dealing with the emotional consequences soon after the disaster can help reduce the potential for long-term problems. It is important to recognize stress and properly handle it.

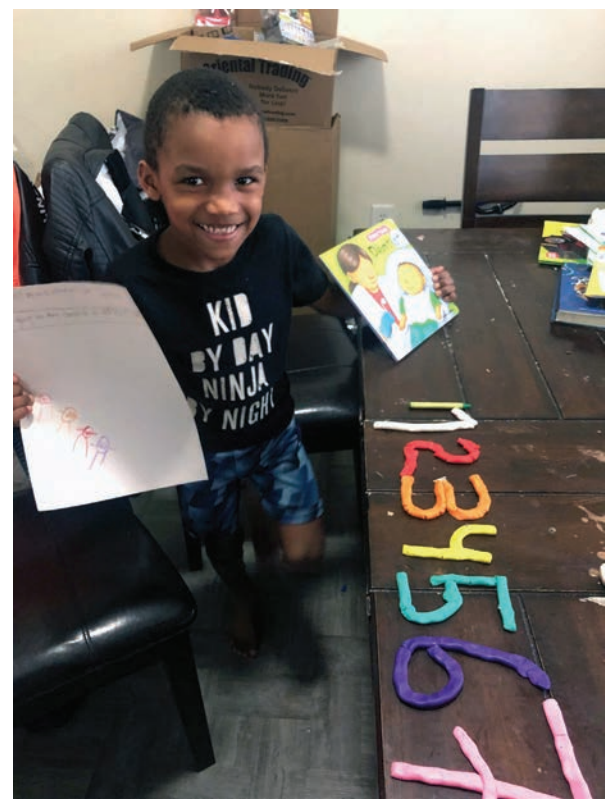
People respond to stress and loss differently, and not everyone will have an emotional reaction. Some of the more typical responses include recurring dreams or nightmares about the loss, trouble concentrating, paranoia, feeling numb or disconnected, irritability, being tearful or crying for no apparent reason. Others can experience

physical symptoms such as headaches, stomach problems or muscle tension.

If you, your agency, program or someone you know is experiencing acute stress, loss or instability, Family Service Bureau staff is here to help and support you. FSB is ready to arrange outreach and education programs at your agency, place of worship or family groups free of charge. All crisis counseling services are available in diverse languages, including English, Spanish, Korean, Portuguese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Creole, Italian and Hindi. We offer support groups on topics such as supporting youth and young people through the pandemic, grief and loss, managing stress and building resilience, as well as other topics. We can be reached at 973-286-2836 or 973-286-2838. *See page 9 for the flyer advertising COVID-19 services.*

Early Learning Centers Stay Connected During Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic may have closed buildings, but that didn't stop staff members from Community Hills Early Learning Center (CHELC) and Harmony House Early Learning Center (HHELC) from staying connected to families and students. Children continued learning through virtual means and the centers distributed ShopRite gift cards provided by Newark Public Schools to families. *For more information about the early learning centers during the pandemic, see page 8. Photos courtesy of CHELC and HHELC.*





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

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

NCC Launches New Website

Continued from page 1

with a PayPal account, a credit card or a debit card. Donations go toward supporting New Community's numerous programs and services.

The website also has a section for job seekers. Open positions are listed under "Careers" and individuals can easily apply for jobs directly from that page.

New Community's mission is to help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

Coping with COVID-19

Continued from page 8

of the Young Child remotely this year. Throughout the week, they made their own music objects; explored food and cooking; built structures using blocks, wood or legos; and created artwork.

CHELC staff members participate in weekly conference calls to stay updated and discuss how they are dealing with their new normal. Spanish speaking teachers provide remote learning in Spanish for families who primarily speak that language.

Newark Public Schools provided ShopRite gift cards for families at both CHELC and HHELC to help them during this difficult time. Center directors arranged for a family representative to pick up the gift cards.

For photos of early learning center families, see page 10.

Youth Services

Youth Services has provided remote learning to children in the Family Friendly program and the after-school program at the NCC Neighborhood Center. In addition, mentoring services through the Teen Empowerment Network (T.E.N.) program is continuing remotely and assisting high school seniors in preparing for college.

Supportive Assistance to Individuals and Families (SAIF)

Supportive Assistance to Individuals and Families (SAIF) has been operating remotely off-site. Staff members have provided 639 outreach efforts with a total of 240 case management hours.

New Community Federal Credit Union

The New Community Federal Credit Union has remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hours changed slightly and are currently Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Help NCC Now!

New Community accepts online donations through its website: newcommunity.org. Click "Donate" and make your one-time or monthly gift through PayPal for Giving. Your support will ensure NCC programs and services continue.

Stay in the House

By Lesley Leslie



By now, you, like millions of people around the world, have endured home quarantine, city curfews, face masks, gloves and grocery store shortages caused by the

COVID-19 pandemic. The number of families impacted by the virus will sadly go down in history as one of the most horrific health epidemics our world has ever encountered. The number of lives lost to the virus continues to grow. Even in areas of the country where the death toll has slowed down, death still lingers. It has undoubtedly changed the way we will live our lives going forward.

Who would ever imagine staying in the house for months at a time, day in and day out? Who could have imagined the new definition of a "long-distance relationship" being one that exists between people who may live across town or

actually live next door to one another? COVID-19 changed the terms of many relationships, new and old. Instead of spending time with someone to show them how much you care, you stayed away to prevent the possible spread of disease. The rules of relationships were turned around, forcing people to look for creative ways to stay in touch. We turned to virtual technology more than ever to engage and connect with each other. While some of us returned to forgotten methods of communication like telephone calls and handwritten letters.

While staying home, we did our spring cleaning early, we donated a lot more than usual, we read books, watched how-to-improve videos, we started a journal, we slept more than just a few hours a night. We spent time with our spouses and children and ate dinner together and enjoyed a few extra desserts.

As we head into what looks like a slow return to a new normal, may we take with us some of the lessons learned through collective loss and sacrifice. Life goes on. Let's be kind to one another.

The New Community Clarion
233 West Market Street
Newark, NJ 07103
www.newcommunity.org

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CLARION

Volume 37 - Issue 4 ~ June 2020

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we have decided to cancel the Monsignor William J. Linder 24th Annual Golfing for a Cause. We expect to hold another golf event sometime in 2021.

Thank you for your continued support of New Community Corporation and we wish you, your family and friends good health. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. A. Zachary Yamba,
Chairman, NCC Board
of Directors

Richard Rohrman,
Chief Executive Officer,
NCC

Co-Chairmen


**Canceled due to the
COVID-19 Pandemic**

NCC
NEW COMMUNITY
CORPORATION

Monsignor William J. Linder
24th Annual Golfing for a Cause

Hackensack Golf Club • Oradell, New Jersey
For Sponsor Opportunities Contact:
DLJ Communications Group: 973-339-7794 • www.newcommunity.org

Proceeds to benefit: Harmony House, The Monsignor J. Linder Scholarship Fund, and NCC's Youth and Education Programs

 **dljcommunicationsgroup**
Golf Event Management powered by: