

NEW COMMUNITY CLARION



 SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK SINCE 1968 

NEW COMMUNITY HOSTS GOLFING FOR A CAUSE TO BENEFIT YOUTH



New Community Chief Executive Officer Simone Gagneron, third from right, and Chief Financial Officer Elizabeth Mbakaya, third from left, pose with Board Chairman Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, second from right, and his group of golfers at the 26th Golfing for a Cause. *Photo by Ron Wyatt.*

New Community hosted its [26th Golfing for a Cause](#) fundraiser on Oct. 5 to benefit its [Youth Services Department](#) and the Monsignor Linder Scholarship Fund. Supporters gathered at Cedar Hill Golf and Country Club in Livingston for 18 holes of golf and networking, along with an evening reception that included cocktail hour, dinner and raffle prizes.

New Community Board Chairman Dr. A. Zachary Yamba thanked everyone involved.

“To those who have sponsored this event, to the players, to the various donors and all the supporters we’ve had, we can’t thank you enough for what you’ve done for us,” he said.

New Community Board Member and Golf Committee Co-Chair Edgar Nemorin also expressed appreciation to sponsors, donors and staff members.

“As the old saying goes, it takes a village. And our continued success is based on our village,” he said.

New Community Chief Executive Officer Simone Gagneron talked about how New Community has been changing lives for more than 55 years and is able to continue reaching 10,000 individuals each year thanks to ongoing support. She thanked all event sponsors, particularly Platinum Sponsors [HUB International](#), [Philadelphia Insurance](#) and [Withum](#).

“Early on in this planning process, you supported NCC. You said whatever NCC needs, we’re here for you. And we thank you and appreciate you for that,” she said.

HUB International Senior Vice President Bill Passarotti said it’s an honor to support the organization.

“I’m really passionate about what New Community does so it makes it so much easier as a partner when we believe in your mission to rally behind you,” he said.

Richard Rohrman, who retired from the position of CEO at New Community in 2021, served as the evening program’s emcee. He talked about the impact the Monsignor Linder Scholarship



New Community Board Member and Golf Committee Co-Chair Edgar Nemorin takes a swing during Golfing for a Cause. *Photo by Ron Wyatt.*

THE CEO’S CORNER | BY SIMONE GAGNERON

Happy Fall everyone,
I hope this article reaches you all well and in good spirits!

After a three-year gap, we thought it was important to bring our community together for a fun day of golfing and networking with [Golfing for a Cause](#). And boy the community did not disappoint us! The weather was great and the show of support for NCC was even greater. This year’s theme was Creating Future Leaders which was highlighted by a few high school students who participate in our Teen Enrichment Network (T.E.N.) program hosted by [Youth Services](#). NCC would like to shout out and say thank you to Amaiyah Halley, Omari Loyal and Denisha Kote (you can see their photos on page 4).

We would also like to thank our Platinum Sponsors [HUB International](#), [Philadelphia Insurance](#) and [Withum](#) who each committed their support and participated in the planning of such a successful event. It is our community partners that allow NCC to offer the array of services we provide, which includes affordable housing, transitional housing, long-term care for seniors, adult education, early childhood education and mental health and substance abuse counseling. In numbers, we have approximately 7,000 residents and reach another 3,000 Newark residents in our other service areas. In total that’s approximately 10,000 individuals serviced by NCC each year.

We enjoyed seeing our NCC friends at the Golf Outing, and we would like to see you at our upcoming [Jazz Night on Dec. 1](#) and the annual Breakfast with Santa hosted by Youth Services on Dec. 16.

We look forward to seeing you at our events and thank you for being a part of the NCC family!

Be safe and be well.
Simone Gagneron, CEO

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AROUND THE NETWORK

NEW COMMUNITY HOSTS POP-UP AT MANOR FAMILY

New Community hosted a pop-up event in the Manor Family courtyard at 225 Hunterdon St., Newark, on Sept. 1. Employees handed out free food, information about NCC programs and services and backpacks for the children. We thank everyone who participated. [Click here for more photos.](#)



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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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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Want to Support New Community?

You can make a difference in the lives of inner city residents by making an online donation. Visit newcommunity.org and click “[Donate](#)” to give today! We appreciate all support.

NCCTI HEALTH CARE STUDENTS HEAR ABOUT SAINT MICHAEL’S MEDICAL CENTER HIRING PROCESS

Representatives from [Saint Michael’s Medical Center](#) spoke with Medical Assistant Clinical and Patient Care Technician students at [New Community Career & Technical Institute \(NCCTI\)](#) on Sept. 26 about the facility’s hiring process. We thank Talent Acquisition Specialists Maria Ras, Erika Perry and Brandon Perez and HR Manager Jessica Bernokeits for their assistance.



SENIORS GET HEALTH INFORMATION

Assemblywoman Shanique Speight and VITAS Healthcare hosted the Senior Healthcare Celebration and Information Tour at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, on Aug. 31. The event, which was co-sponsored by Senator M. Teresa Ruiz and Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin, provided seniors with lunch, prizes and information from a variety of vendors. *Photos courtesy of Resident Services.*



CELEBRATING THE END OF SUMMER

[New Community Extended Care Facility](#), 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, held an End of Summer Cookout on Sept. 28 for residents and staff members. *Photos courtesy of Julienne Van-Nooten.*



NEW CHELC DIRECTOR HAS STRONG TIES TO NEW COMMUNITY

Community Hills Early Learning Center (CHELC) has a new director who is a familiar face to the children and families. Daniel Charles became the Director of CHELC on Sept. 1 but previously served as a teacher at the center since December 2022.

Charles has been an early childhood educator for about 23 years and prior to starting his teaching career, he worked as a buyer for Newark Public Schools, obtaining goods and services for the public school system.

He was successful in his role as a buyer and hadn't thought about becoming an educator until someone approached him with the idea, telling him he would be a great teacher. When he thought about it further, he decided to pursue that career path. He got a provisional teaching license and went back to school to get a P-3 certificate, which allows a person to teach preschool through third grade. And he never looked back.

Charles originally decided to enter the education arena for the children and families.

"I wanted to make an impact on young lives and be able to mold and pour into and have a hand in something that's great," he said.

Before coming to CHELC, Charles served as the director of the preschool program at Passaic Community College in Paterson. When Sister Maurice Okorji left CHELC in June, Charles decided to apply for the director position because of his past director experience and his familiarity with the center.

New Community Director of Mission Frances Teabout is pleased to have Charles at CHELC.

"Mr. Charles is a dedicated educator with a

wealth of experience as an early childhood teacher and administrator," she said. "He came to Community Hills as a teacher and assumed the director role when Sister Maurice left to accept a position in Nigeria."

Charles believes his coming to CHELC was ordained because of his strong connections to New Community. He was born in Newark and lived at Hayes Homes directly across the street from where CHELC is today. He was a parishioner at Queen of Angels Church, where New Community founder Monsignor William J. Linder served as priest and many of the others who helped start and build New Community worshipped. Later in life, Charles lived at New Community Manor Family at 72 Hayes St. in Newark.

Throughout the years, Charles has had a positive opinion about New Community and its mission.

"New Community has always proven to be a help to the disadvantaged," he said. "So I always admired and was always inspired by what New Community stands for."

Now that he's a part of the organization, he hopes to further uplift its reputation and to serve the children and families in the community.

"I want to put New Community on the map as that place of excellence, that place where people say, that's where we need to go. That place of hope," Charles said.

Charles has spent his career serving others. He is a disabled Navy veteran who served our country before entering the education field. He said his current role is another form of servitude.

"I'm serving the children, serving the parents, serving the teachers and serving the community," he said. "And bringing all



Daniel Charles took over the role of Director of Community Hills Early Learning Center on Sept. 1.

those things together with a common goal to achieve excellence."

His favorite part about working in education is seeing children succeed long after he is an everyday part of their lives. This past school year, a former student mentioned him during the speech he gave at his middle school graduation. Hearing about the impact he had on the student was very meaningful to him.

Charles sees himself as an advocate for teachers, in addition to students, parents and the community. With experience as a teacher himself, he understands the importance of sharing information and techniques and encourages that.

His main goal is to work to ensure children, families and staff members are in a positive environment that promotes success.

"I believe in people. I believe in investing in people, pouring into people," Charles said. "I want them to excel. I want them to achieve. I want everybody to win."

NEWARK COUNCILMAN KELLY HOSTS FASHION SHOW AT MANOR SENIOR

Newark West Ward Councilman Dupré Kelly hosted a fashion show at Manor Senior, 545 Orange St., Newark, on Aug. 29. Residents strutted their stuff on the runway into the building's Community Room. They enjoyed light refreshments as well. *Photos courtesy of Guadalupe Cepeda.*



NCCTI CULINARY STUDENTS TOUR LOCAL EATERY

Students in the Culinary Arts Specialist program at [New Community Career & Technical Institute \(NCCTI\)](#) had the opportunity to tour [How Delish HD](#) in West Orange on Sept. 19. The eatery serves vegan desserts and sandwiches. It was a great opportunity for the students to see a culinary business in action. *Photos courtesy of NCCTI.*



NEW COMMUNITY HOSTS GOLFING FOR A CAUSE TO BENEFIT YOUTH

FROM PAGE 1

Fund has on young people’s future. The scholarship helps send students to Catholic and private schools to give them a strong educational foundation and encourage them to continue on to college.

“It’s really changed lives,” he said of the scholarship fund named after New Community founder Monsignor William J. Linder.

Students from New Community’s Youth Services Teen Enrichment Network (T.E.N.) were in attendance and assisted with handing out raffle prizes during the reception. The T.E.N. program is designed for high school students to promote positive behavior, develop career awareness and assist with college readiness. The Youth Services Department also provides after school programs and summer camp for Newark youth, along with a variety of events for families, including a Back 2 School Jam, Halloween Party, Breakfast with Santa and family dances.

New Community thanks everyone who participated in this year’s Golfing for a Cause and encourages everyone to save the date for next year’s event, which will take place on Sept. 23, 2024 at Cedar Hill Golf and Country Club.

Photos by Ron Wyatt. [Click here to view more photos.](#)



From left to right: New Jersey Redevelopment Authority COO Darryl Godfrey, New Community Board Member Ex-Officio and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson and retired NCC CEO Richard Rohrman during cocktail hour.



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Representatives from HUB International and Philadelphia Insurance, both Platinum Sponsors of the event.



New Community Chief Executive Officer Simone Gagneron speaks to guests during the reception portion of Golfing for a Cause.



From left to right: New Community Board Members Fernando Colon, Diane Johnson and Edgar Nemorin with retired CEO Richard Rohrman and current CEO Simone Gagneron at the Golfing for a Cause reception.



New Community Board Chairman Dr. A. Zachary Yamba addresses the crowd during the reception.



Representatives from Withum, a Platinum Sponsor of the event.

FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU OF NEWARK: TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Oct. 10 marks World Mental Health Day and on Oct. 14, National Depression Screening Day is observed. The [Family Service Bureau of Newark \(FSB\)](#), which serves communities in both Essex and Hudson counties, wants to highlight the critical need for mental health awareness and affirm that help is accessible. The societal stigma surrounding mental health serves as a barrier to finding constructive solutions. This stigma often leads to a hesitance to pursue professional help or treatment and results in misunderstandings from family, friends and colleagues. It may also limit life opportunities in employment, education, social interactions and housing, while reinforcing the idea that improvement is unattainable.

FSB offers various services like counseling and ongoing medication assessments. We want to communicate a straightforward message to our communities: Don't hesitate to reach out; assistance is available. By contacting FSB's Newark office at 973-412-2056 or the Kearny location at 201-246-8077, anyone can embark on a path to managing their mental health conditions more effectively.

Reluctance to seek help due to fear of stigmatization should never be a roadblock. Professional treatment can alleviate distress by pinpointing the problem and mitigating symptoms that disrupt daily life. Recognizing what kind of treatment is needed can significantly enhance one's quality of life. FSB recognizes that some individuals grapple with both substance abuse and mental health issues. We provide treatment for co-occurring disorders.

Our expert team at FSB offers individualized solutions like in-house treatments or referrals based on the severity of the condition. Behavioral health complications often stem from mental, physical and psychological conditions, and therapeutic intervention is vital for those affected. If you find yourself dealing with symptoms of depression, such as ongoing sadness or disinterest that impacts your everyday life, consider calling FSB to arrange for a screening and potential treatment.

FSB would like to take this opportunity to thank the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey. We appreciate their generous support, which has enabled us to extend our services in mental health and substance abuse to a broader population in need. FSB provides an empathetic and healing outpatient treatment environment, where individualized plans address the root issues tied to specific conditions. The primary aim of our therapeutic intervention is not just overcoming mental health and addiction challenges, but also equipping people with the necessary skills to lead a fulfilling life.

We also invite you to visit the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey's website at [hfnj.org](#) to find out more about their initiatives.

Contact FSB:

Newark Office:
274 South Orange Ave.
Newark, NJ 07103
973-412-2056

Kearny Office:

379 Kearny Ave.
Kearny, NJ 07032
201-246-8077

NEW COMMUNITY

JAZZ NIGHT



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Wellness Tip
October 2023

Breast Cancer Awareness

What Are the Symptoms?

There are different symptoms of breast cancer, and some people have no symptoms at all. Symptoms can include:

- Any change in the size or the shape of the breast
- Pain in any area of the breast.
- Nipple discharge other than breast milk (including blood).
- A new lump in the breast or underarm.



Consult your healthcare provider about screenings and how often you should get them done or if you notice any worrying symptoms. You can identify breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat, with the use of yearly screenings.

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

Have questions or comments about the Clarion?
Call 973-497-4413 or email clarion@newcommunity.org.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: SHENEQUA WILLIAMS



Shenequa Williams serves as the Director of Clinical Services for Family Service Bureau of Newark (FSB).

Shenequa Williams joined New Community in January as the Director of Clinical Services for [Family Service Bureau of Newark \(FSB\)](#). She oversees the clinical operations of the agency and manages its robust internship program.

“I handle anything involving clients,” Williams said.

She explained that if a client and clinician have an issue or there is a scheduling problem, she gets involved. She also serves as a sounding board for clinicians if they

want advice about how to work with a certain client.

Williams’ favorite part of her job is watching the FSB staff and interns grow and helping them along the way.

“I like how FSB is like a team and a family,” she said. “Everybody works together and helps each other out.”

FSB Director Christina Ward is happy to have Williams as part of the agency.

“Shenequa joining the FSB team has been one of the most positive experiences we’ve had all year,” Ward said. “She brings with her many years of valuable knowledge and experience, and I have no doubts that Family Service Bureau will have continued success with her overseeing our clinical operations.”

Williams earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology at Bloomfield College and a master’s degree in social work at Rutgers. She has been working in the human services field since 2014, serving in roles ranging from case management to social work to clinical services. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC).

She originally was going to enter the nursing field but switched to psychology and eventually social work. She has served as a clinician and a supervisor at previous organizations.

Williams decided to apply for the FSB position because she was looking for an advancement opportunity and wanted to return to a clinical environment.

She has always wanted to help others in her work.

“That’s how I decided I wanted to do therapy or something of that nature,” she said. “And that’s how I got into social work.”

Now she trains and supervises the next generation of clinicians and works to help build up FSB’s services. She has helped expand the agency’s internship program and has been involved in creating a school program where FSB clinicians work out of Newark schools and see students for the day.

Williams is from Bergen County and now resides in Essex County with her daughter. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her daughter, sisters and friends; watching movies; going out to dinner; and relaxing.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: MARILYN CARABALLO

Marilyn Caraballo is a familiar face to her neighbors at Commons Senior, 140 South Orange Ave., Newark. She can be found in the Community Room playing bingo and participating in building activities, including holiday gatherings and special events.

She enjoys the environment and friendly atmosphere at Commons Senior.

“It’s like family,” she said.

Caraballo moved to Commons Senior in 2019 but she is no stranger to Newark. She has lived in the city for decades. She was born in Puerto Rico and has traveled back and forth between New Jersey and the island for many years.

She has two children, a son and a daughter, who were both born in New Jersey. She

lived with her daughter in Newark before moving to Commons Senior.

Caraballo worked at Extra Supermarket on Avon Avenue in the city and Western Beef Supermarket on South Orange Avenue as a cashier. She also worked in a fabric facility making belts and blouses.

Now at age 61, Caraballo enjoys relaxing, playing bingo with friends and traveling to casinos. She recently took a bus trip to Wind Creek in Pennsylvania with a neighbor and friend.

Her favorite part about living in the building is interacting with the other tenants.

Commons Senior Resident Services Coordinator Jill DeRios said Caraballo gives off a positive energy.



Marilyn Caraballo has lived at Commons Senior for more than four years.

“Ms. Caraballo participates in our building activities and is a friendly face in the Community Room,” she said.

SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS: CELEBRATING 88 YEARS OF SOCIAL SECURITY

BY AMMY PLUMMER, SOCIAL SECURITY DISTRICT MANAGER, SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, NEWARK, NJ

For 88 years, Social Security has provided income protection to millions of retirees, people with disabilities, dependents and families that lose a wage earner. This year, we will administer more than \$1.3 trillion in benefits and payments to more than 70 million beneficiaries. In addition, we issue millions of Social Security numbers each year, maintain wage records and more. We are proud to serve the American people every day.

To better serve you, we have prioritized our online customer experience. Our website

[SSA.gov](#) makes it easier for you to find what you need. More than 180 million people visit our website every year. Whether providing service in person or online, our goal is to help you understand what you may qualify for and transition you to an application process.

We have also worked to make sure our programs, particularly Supplemental Security Income (SSI), remain accessible to the people who need it most. Last year, we launched an online tool that allows you or your representative to request an

appointment to file for SSI and protect your filing date. A Social Security employee will then schedule a full interview. Find more information about SSI at www.ssa.gov/ssi.

We remain committed to helping maintain the well-being and protection of the people we serve. We strive to ensure that every person who is eligible for or receives benefits gets them timely and accurately. That is how we help you secure today and tomorrow.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it.

FAMILIES COME OUT FOR NEW COMMUNITY BACK 2 SCHOOL JAM

New Community's [Youth Services Department](#) hosted the Back 2 School Jam on Sept. 16 for children and families. The event included a video game truck, rock climbing wall, school supplies giveaway, games, face painting, food and music. The school supplies were donated by [Swing Phi Swing Social Fellowship Inc.](#) Photos courtesy of Youth Services. [Click here for more photos.](#)



GETTING HARMONY HOUSE CHILDREN READY TO HEAD BACK TO CLASS

Volunteer Sally Milad once again arranged for a back-to-school event at [Harmony House](#), New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families, which was held on Aug. 28. This is the seventh year Milad has thrown the event with the help of donations and volunteers. Children received backpacks, school supplies, pizza and snacks at the event. Boys were able to get haircuts and girls got their nails done and their hair braided. We thank Milad and the other volunteers for their hard work. It was a great way to kick off the new school year. [Click here for more photos.](#)



NEW COMMUNITY PARTICIPATES IN ANNUAL BACK 2 SCHOOL STORE

New Community Board Member Ex-Officio and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson once again arranged for New Community families to participate in the [Back 2 School Store](#) sponsored by the [National Council of Jewish Women of Essex County \(NCJW/Essex\)](#). Children get escorted through the pop-up store to choose clothing, winter coats and school supplies. This was the 15th year of the Back 2 School Store, which was held on July 30.

"I would like to thank the entire NCJW/Essex committee and volunteers who gave so much of their time to make this event a successful one for the children," Wilson said. "I would also like to thank others who donated backpacks and school supplies to New Community and St. Rose of Lima parish including [St. Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills.](#)" Photos courtesy of Madge Wilson.



COMMUNITY HILLS EARLY LEARNING CENTER HIGHLIGHTS DADS

[Community Hills Early Learning Center](#), 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, celebrated [Dads Take Your Child to School Day](#) on Sept. 21. The day celebrates and encourages the involvement of fathers and other significant male caregivers in the lives of children. Thanks to all the fathers who dropped off their children that day and who are involved in their educational development. Photos courtesy of CHELC. [Click here for more photos.](#)



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CHILDREN ENJOY NEW COMMUNITY SUMMER CAMP 2023

New Community’s [Youth Services Department](#) provided an eight-week [summer camp](#) this year, which included a variety of activities and trips. The camp serves children from 5 to 13 years old. They enjoyed swimming, sports, STEAM activities, theme days and field trips to a variety of locations, including [iPlay America](#); [Rock ‘N Air](#); the [Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum](#); [Liberty Science Center](#); [American Museum of Natural History](#); and [Dorney Park](#). Campers also performed a camp finale. *Photos courtesy of Youth Services.* [Click here for more photos.](#)

