

NEW COMMUNITY

CLARION

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK SINCE 1968

NCC HOSTS NEWARK
CONVENING OF BUILDING
HEALTHIER, MORE EQUITABLE
COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE



New Community hosted the BHEC Newark Convening on Oct. 25 and 26. Pictured from left to right: New Community Director of Community Engagement Richard Cammarieri; Urban League of Essex County (ULEC) BHEC Newark and Nourishing Newark Coordinator (Food Justice, Healthy Living and Sustainability) Dr. Michelle Scott; New Community CEO Simone Gagneron; Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, ULEC President and CEO Vivian Cox Fraser, and ULEC Opportunity Corporation Program Manager Nathaniah Josma. Photo by Tamara Fleming Photography.

New Community served as the host site for the Newark gathering of organizations and entities involved in the Building Healthier, More Equitable Communities (BHEC) initiative. The BHEC Newark Convening was held on Oct. 25 and 26 at Monsignor William J. Linder Plaza, New Community’s corporate office location. The two-day event included participation from New Community, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Rutgers University Distinguished Professor of Law Dr. David Troutt, Urban League of Essex County, University Hospital and a variety of other organizations involved in the BHEC initiative.

The [BHEC initiative](#), led by the [Reinvestment Fund](#) with funding from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), aims to address the social determinants of health through changes to the built environment and the community investment system in four New Jersey cities: Asbury Park, Camden, Newark and Paterson. Those involved in the city teams for the four areas meet at convenings at each of the cities to delve deeper into the work being done in each location. [Urban League of Essex County](#) and New Community guide the Newark team.

New Community CEO Simone Gagneron welcomed the group to Newark and provided a brief history of NCC. She explained the progress the organization has made over the past 55 years thanks to partners like the Reinvestment Fund and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that support initiatives like BHEC.

“BHEC has helped us engage with partners in our work in the community, and begin to make the case to funders and policymakers for additional investment and support in the communities we serve,” she said.

Gagneron said gatherings like the BHEC Newark Convening allow for networking and for individuals to get a sense of the importance of their efforts.

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THE CEO’S CORNER |
BY SIMONE GAGNERON

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

On December 1, 2023, I celebrated my one-year anniversary with New Community Corporation. As I was reflecting on my experiences only one word came to mind: grateful! I am truly indebted to the Board of Directors, led by Dr. Zachary Yamba, for the opportunity to join such a dynamic team.

This year kicked off well. We held a computer campaign, and thanks to our partners at Prudential, we successfully deployed two computers and a printer to each senior building.

We held a host of live, in-person family events, including the [Father-Daughter Dance](#), [Family Sneaker Ball Gala](#), [Health Fair](#) and [Back 2 School Jam](#). In-person graduation ceremonies were held for [New Community Career & Technical Institute](#) and our early learning centers. We also resumed our live Jazz Nights at Monsignor Linder Plaza in July.

In-person activities ramped up in our residential buildings and at [New Community Extended Care Facility](#) as well. Residents enjoyed a variety of activities, including holiday celebrations, appreciation events and informational seminars.

We invited our partners [AFM Insurance](#) and [Withum](#) in for phenomenal volunteer events. AFM representatives [beautified the back courtyard at New Community Extended Care Facility](#) in the spring, making the space even more inviting for the residents living there. [Withum volunteers once again prepared and served a full Thanksgiving meal to the families living at Harmony House](#), New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families. (See page 8 for photos.)

We were introduced to a dynamic local organization called [Women Leaders in Action](#). They are doing great work for young college students and women leaders in New Jersey. (See page 4 for more information.)

We hosted our [Golfing for a Cause](#) fundraiser for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event highlighted the wonderful support we have from organizations and provided us with the opportunity to thank them in person during a fun day of golf and an evening reception.

I am grateful to each and every resident who trusts us with one of their most important needs: a place to call home. It is our number one goal to provide quality and safe housing to all of our residents. We are excited to launch a new resident software in 2024 called Rent Café. Please stay tuned for additional information.

I am grateful to the entire NCC team that works diligently and long hours at times to ensure each of our service areas runs smoothly.

May you have a blessed holiday and a happy New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all at our 2024 events and thank you for being a part of the NCC family!

AROUND THE NETWORK

NEW COMMUNITY CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE CELEBRATES MEDICAL ASSISTANTS WEEK

New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) celebrated Medical Assistants Week on Oct. 18 with a pinning ceremony for students in the school's Medical Assistant Clinical (MAC) and Patient Care Technician (PCT) programs. Each student received a pin of a stethoscope that was placed on their uniforms by an NCCTI staff member. Staff members also talked about the importance of the field they are pursuing and thanked them for their hard work. [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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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.

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.

NEWARK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY HOSTS FOOD DRIVE FOR NEW COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

Fourth Precinct Community Service Officers K. Eley and T. Frye with the [Newark Department of Public Safety](#) held a food drive at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, on Nov. 8. Residents received nonperishable food items and household supplies as part of the event. *Photos courtesy of the Newark Department of Public Safety.*



LEARNING HEALTHY COOKING TECHNIQUES

Residents of Manor Senior, 545 Orange St., Newark, had the opportunity to attend a cooking class in the Community Room of their building on Sept. 27, sponsored by [Aetna](#). They learned healthy ways to cook food. *Photos courtesy of Guadalupe Cepeda.*



PROVIDING FOOD TO THE COMMUNITY

New Community distributes food to area residents on the first Tuesday of each month as well as on the first business day after the 15th of each month at 220 Bruce St., Newark. On Nov. 7, Resident Services Coordinator for Families Anibal Alvelo worked with three volunteers through [Jersey Cares](#) to distribute food items. *Photo courtesy of Anibal Alvelo.*

NCC HOSTS NEWARK CONVENING OF BUILDING HEALTHIER, MORE EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

FROM PAGE 1

“I hope you recognize that without you and the organizations you serve, the critical change work that needs to happen won’t happen,” she said.

Urban League of Essex County President and CEO Vivian Cox Fraser discussed her organization’s efforts and how the BHEC initiative aims to have entities work together to tackle large issues.

“Through our collaboration, we seek to address the widening chasm of economic inequality, concentrated in generational poverty, poor health outcomes and intractable inequities in health and opportunities,” she said.

Dr. David Troutt, Distinguished Professor of Law and Founding Director of [Rutgers Center on Law, Inequality and Metropolitan Equity \(CLiME\)](#), served as the keynote speaker for the BHEC Newark Convening. He discussed CLiME’s work of addressing issues of structural inequality and systemic racism, which includes the report [Who Owns Newark?](#) That research showed that about half of home purchases in Newark were made by institutional investors, primarily impacting neighborhoods with the highest proportion of Black residents and Black homeowners.

“It was driving up prices, it was driving people out, making it harder to enter as new homeowners and, of course, it was inextricably increasing rents because the whole model is a passive income model with steady gains,” Troutt said.

CLiME also looked into the issue of affordable housing for Newark and found that the city lacks an adequate number of affordable units.

“The local measure determines that affordability in the city of Newark based on household income for renters would be \$763. And if that’s what affordable means, we need 16,000+ units,” he said.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka talked about how the lack of housing in New Jersey and nationwide is the source of many of the problems residents face.

“Housing is the number one issue in this



New Community CEO Simone Gagneron welcomes attendees of the BHEC Newark Convening. Photo by Tamara Fleming Photography.

country,” he said. “There’s just not enough of it.”

He said the lack of housing in the suburbs directly affects cities like Newark because those who grow up in the suburbs can’t find affordable housing options in their hometowns. Because of that, they move to cities like Newark which have cheaper housing options than where they grew up and often where they work. Those individuals then become part of gentrification, not because they’re looking to displace people but because they don’t have other options.

Baraka praised those in attendance for their efforts and said he hopes the work continues because Newark and cities like it need investment in housing, affordable housing and neighborhood health care facilities.

Dr. Colette Barrow Adams, Executive Director of Community and Population Health at [University Hospital](#), and Jill Crawford, Principal at [Type A Projects](#), talked about the collaboration between the two entities to develop 78 units of affordable housing with an 8,000-square-foot health clinic on the ground floor. The project includes 16 units of supportive housing for those experiencing long-term homelessness or housing instability. University Hospital refers patients to the supportive housing units and will run the health clinic, which will be a medical practice open to all.

New Community Director of Community Engagement Richard Cammarieri moderated



Newark Mayor Ras Baraka discusses the lack of housing during the BHEC Newark Convening. Photo by Tamara Fleming Photography.



New Community Director of Community Engagement Richard Cammarieri moderates a panel discussion during the BHEC Newark Convening with Newark Deputy Mayor Allison Ladd, Invest Newark and Newark Land Bank President and CEO Marcus Randolph and Newark Alliance and Newark Anchor Collaborative CEO Evan Weiss, left to right. Photo by Tamara Fleming Photography.

a panel discussion with Newark Deputy Mayor Allison Ladd, [Invest Newark](#) and [Newark Land Bank](#) President and CEO Marcus Randolph and [Newark Alliance](#) and [Newark Anchor Collaborative](#) CEO Evan Weiss. The group discussed examples of collaborative and cross-sector strategies to advance equity that are happening in Newark.

Attendees of the BHEC Newark Convening also participated in group discussions to talk about successes and challenges they have experienced in their work as well as a bus tour of sites throughout Newark and a reception at [Akwaaba Gallery](#), a Newark-based art gallery.

More information about the BHEC initiative can be found at [bhecnj.org](#).

NCC REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND YMCA LEADERS AND LEGENDS EVENT



Representatives from New Community attended the [Newark YMCA](#) 30th Annual Leaders and Legends Recognition and Scholarship Dinner on Oct. 24 at the [New Jersey Performing Arts Center](#) in support of the organization and its work. Photo courtesy of Simone Gagneron.

SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION DONATES HOLIDAY PIES TO NEW COMMUNITY

Representatives from the [Gill St. Bernard’s School Parents’ Association](#) delivered holiday pies to New Community’s [Emergency Food Pantry](#) on Nov. 16 for distribution. The donated pies come from the association’s Annual Pie Sale, which allows families to purchase items for themselves as well as donate some to organizations. New Community thanks everyone for their generosity. Pictured from left to right: New Community Resident Services Coordinator for Families Anibal Alvelo, Terry McSweeney, Leila McSweeney and Celeste Campos.



NCC CEO HONORED AT WOMEN LEADERS IN ACTION GALA

New Community CEO Simone Gagneron was the honoree at the [Women Leaders in Action](#) Annual Fundraising and Scholarship Awards Gala on Nov. 18 at the Hanover Manor in East Hanover. The event was titled “Empowerment through Education” and the organization awarded scholarships to several young women, with support from New Community. Women Leaders in Action is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering women for success through personal and professional development, mentoring, promoting diabetes awareness and community outreach. *Photos by Maria B Photography Studio.*



NCCTI CAREER FAIR CONNECTS ATTENDEES TO EMPLOYERS

New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) hosted a Career Fair on Nov. 16 at the school’s main campus, 274 South Orange Ave., Newark. The event, which was open to the public, connected attendees to a variety of employers, including New Community Corporation, [Newark Community Health Centers \(NCHC\)](#), [University Hospital](#), [Saint Michael’s Medical Center](#), [Family MD Urgent Care](#), [RWJBarnabas Health](#), [New Community Extended Care Facility](#), [Mavis Discount Tire](#), [WOLFoods](#), Harrar Cafe and [Complete Care at Orange Park](#). We thank all the employers and attendees who participated. [Click here for more photos.](#)



NCC PARTICIPATES IN WORLD HOMELESS DAY RECOGNITION

New Community CEO Simone Gagneron and employees from [Harmony House](#), New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families, participated in a recognition of World Homeless Day on Oct. 6 in Lincoln Park, sponsored by [Newark Emergency Services for Families \(NESF\)](#) and co-sponsored by Newark Council President LaMonica McIver. The event included food, clothing, haircuts, toiletries and showers as well as information on emergency shelter placement, rental assistance, legal services, job readiness, employment services, substance abuse counseling and medical services. *Photos courtesy of Simone Gagneron.*



Left photo: New Community CEO Simone Gagneron, center, with Harmony House Relocation Case Manager Emily Coote, left, and Senior Case Manager Cynthia Arroyo, right.
Center photo: New Community CEO Simone Gagneron with Director of the Newark Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services Luis Ulerio.
Right photo: New Community CEO Simone Gagneron, left with Harmony House staff.

NCCTI HOSTS FALL FEST LUNCHEON FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) brought all students and faculty members together for the Fall Fest Luncheon on Nov. 21 at the school’s main campus, 274 South Orange Ave., Newark. The school community enjoyed a meal and time together ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: ALIESHA HOWELL



Aliesha Howell joined NCCTI as its Culinary Arts Specialist Instructor in July.

her backup plan was to become a teacher. Now she gets to combine those two areas of interest as the Culinary Arts Specialist Instructor at [New Community Career & Technical Institute \(NCCTI\)](#).

Howell first learned to cook from her relatives. Her grandmother was a caterer for over 50 years and the rest of her family also really loves to cook. She decided as a child that she wanted to make a career for herself in the culinary world.

Howell attended and graduated from [Atlantic Cape Community College](#) in South Jersey with an associate’s degree in culinary arts. She has worked in a variety of positions within the food industry, including fast food, front-of-house management, banquet chef at a country

club and most recently quality assurance for a consulting firm, ensuring nursing homes throughout New Jersey were following health code regulations.

When her time at the consulting firm came to an end, Howell was searching for job opportunities when she saw an ad for a culinary arts instructor at NCCTI.

“I always said I would maybe become a teacher so being able to combine the two was like my destiny,” she said. “I really wanted to be an instructor for a long time.”

Howell applied for the position and began working at NCCTI in July.

NCCTI Director Dr. Sylvia McCray said Howell has brought a sense of newness and excitement to the program and has built a good rapport with the Culinary Arts Specialist students.

“Watching Chef navigate this world of education and move her students toward program completion and success is great to see,” McCray said. “Chef has the energy, the focus and the enthusiasm mixed with kindness for learning to permeate within her program and move it to the next level.”

Howell is working with McCray to expand and elevate the school’s Culinary Arts Specialist program.

“We’re moving to more modern cooking techniques and new things that people are

doing in the industry like gastronomy,” Howell explained.

The school is also expanding its network by partnering with new employers to provide greater employment options for graduates that will offer more opportunities for advancement.

Howell enjoys teaching the next generation of chefs.

“My favorite part is probably getting to share the knowledge that I’ve acquired over so many years of doing this,” she said.

The Culinary Arts Specialist program includes both classroom instruction and practical work in the kitchen, covering the basic tenets of cooking. Topics include techniques used to cook food like boiling, sauteeing and frying; cooking equipment; and parts of a meal including breakfast, appetizers, soups, salads, entrees and desserts.

“Anything you can think of that makes up the basics of what a person needs to be successful in the food service industry,” Howell said.

In addition to cooking, Howell likes to try others’ culinary creations, calling herself a foodie.

“I love to travel and I base a lot of my travel around eating,” she said. “I love going to new places and trying new restaurants.”

She also enjoys watching karaoke and being a member of a social club that participates in many acts of community service.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: DEBORAH MCCAULEY

Dr. Deborah McCauley is a longtime resident of Newark who moved to Douglas Homes in 2019. She enjoys living in the building and says that having her New Community housing application accepted was “life-saving.”

McCauley is a self-described scholar who holds a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from [Ohio University](#), a Master of Theological Studies from [Harvard University](#) and a PhD in Religion from [Columbia University](#). She has numerous publications and has earned several awards for her work, including the prestigious Bancroft Award from Columbia University.

She also was active after 9/11 working with FEMA and [Church World Service](#). She sat on the executive board of [New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#) representing the [National Council of Churches](#) through their disaster response arm.

McCauley’s work has often focused on religion. In addition to her degrees, she spent a significant amount of time researching Appalachian mountain religion and produced an award-winning publication on the subject in the 1990s.

While her work has been meaningful and fulfilling, she explained that it wasn’t lucrative monetarily.

“Scholarship is for honor. You do it because you think you have something to say and for the glory of it maybe,” she said. “People such as I, we have a call to do a certain type of work that you don’t get paid for. We find other gigs, other work that will fill in the gap and keep us going so that then we can do the work that really matters, that God put us on the earth to do.”

McCauley had a business creating databases for religious not-for-profits and then Fortune 500 companies, but that ended in 2008.

Because of that and health issues, McCauley found herself living off Supplemental Security Income (SSI) with no living family. Securing an apartment at Douglas Homes kept a roof over her head and enabled her to get needed surgery without fear of becoming homeless.

Six months after moving into Douglas Homes, McCauley underwent spinal surgery followed by surgery for a second recurrence of breast cancer. She recovered at [New Community Extended Care Facility](#) and then returned to her apartment at Douglas Homes. She has had a total of 18 surgeries since 2015, and she says her health has improved dramatically. When she first moved to Douglas Homes, she had to use a wheelchair, propelling herself with a walking stick. Now she’s able to walk independently or with the help of a walker when she goes out.

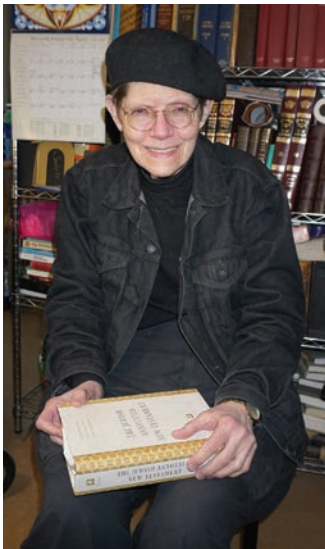
“It’s just an amazing thing where I am right now versus a year ago, versus five years ago,” she said.

McCauley said she loves living at Douglas Homes, mainly because of her neighbors.

“There are people from all different kinds of backgrounds, all different kinds of families and sets of experiences. I like the variety of the people and the decency of the people,” she said.

Douglas Homes Resident Services Coordinator Edris Grosvenor enjoys her conversations with McCauley.

“She is one of those tenants who is very peaceful and if you do see or hear her it is to impart some nugget of wisdom,” Grosvenor said. “Her history books collection could practically fill a small library and she loves to talk about her days of researching. She is just a joy to know and provide with whatever services she may need.”



Dr. Deborah McCauley has been a resident of Douglas Homes since 2019.

Despite her health issues, McCauley is still an avid consumer of news and books and she continues to write and produce scholarly work.

“My work is still in current events and world affairs, in whatever letters I write or calls I place or committees I’m on,” she said.

Having a view of Newark City Hall from her window is something she loves about her apartment.

McCauley is grateful to New Community and its mission of helping people.

“There’s a hand reached out to care for the least of these. And I wound up being among the least of these. No family, no money, no retirement,” she said. “Every day I thank God for being here.”

NEW COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICES CELEBRATES HALLOWEEN

More than 200 children came out for the New Community Halloween Party hosted by [Youth Services](#) on Oct. 28 at the NCC Neighborhood Center, 56-68 Hayes St., Newark. It was a great evening for families. Children got to dress up in their costumes, participate in games, win prizes and visit a haunted classroom. *Photos courtesy of Youth Services.* [Click here for more photos.](#)



CHELC CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN HALLOWEEN TRUNK-OR-TREAT

[Community Hills Early Learning Center \(CHELC\)](#), 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, hosted a trunk-or-treat for students on Oct. 31 in observance of Halloween. CHELC staff members and parents decorated the trunks of their cars and handed out treats to the children in the center’s parking lot. It was a fun way to celebrate the holiday. [Click here for more photos.](#)



NEW COMMUNITY RESIDENTS CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING



Orange Senior, 132 William St., Orange, hosted a Thanksgiving celebration on Nov. 16. Residents joined together in the building’s Community Room to enjoy the festivities together. *Photo courtesy of Alisha Chatman-Jenkins.*

Residents of Roseville Senior, 1 South Eighth St., Newark, received Thanksgiving meals on Nov. 21 from Newark West Ward Councilman Dupré Kelly. *Photo courtesy of Gladys Artis.*

Residents of Hudson Senior, 21-27 Orchard St., Jersey City, enjoyed a Thanksgiving potluck on Nov. 16 in the building’s Community Room. *Photo courtesy of Vivian Le.*

Assemblywoman Shanique Speight hosted a Thanksgiving dinner at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, on Nov. 20 with keynote speaker Rev. Marques-Aquil Lewis. *Photo courtesy of Andre LaPaul Speight.*

NEW COMMUNITY RECEIVES LASTING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



New Community Director of Community Engagement Richard Cammarieri, second from right, accepts the Lasting Achievement Award for New Community Corporation from the [Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey \(HCDNNJ\)](#) during the organization’s Annual Conference on Oct. 20. Presenting the award is HCDNNJ Board of Directors Vice Chair Edward Bethea, HCDNNJ President/CEO Staci Berger and HCDNNJ Board of Directors Chair Bridget Phifer, left to right. *Photo courtesy of the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey.*

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT NEW COMMUNITY SERVICES

New Community representatives participate in outreach at a variety of community events. [New Community Extended Care](#) Director of Admissions Julienne Van-Nooten recently attended [Branch Brook Park Fest](#) and [Greater Essex Counseling Resource Day](#). *Photos courtesy of Julienne Van-Nooten.*



New Community Extended Care Director of Admissions Julienne Van-Nooten explains the services NCC offers during Greater Essex Counseling Resource Day on Sept. 16.

New Community Extended Care Director of Admissions Julienne Van-Nooten provides information about NCC services at Branch Brook Park Fest on Oct. 28.

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233 West Market Street
Newark, NJ 07103
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Newark, NJ

NEW COMMUNITY

November/December 2023 | Volume 40 - Issue 6



WITHUM SERVES THANKSGIVING DINNER TO HOMELESS FAMILIES

Volunteers from accounting firm [Withum](#) prepared and served a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to families of [Harmony House](#), New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families, at Monsignor William J. Linder Plaza on Nov. 21. The families enjoyed an evening of food, fellowship and fun. New Community thanks all the Withum volunteers for their generosity. [Click here to view more photos.](#)

