



CLARION



SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK SINCE 1968



BETTER LIFE HOSTS HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY EVENT



Pastor Bryant Ali, also known as Pastor in the Hood, told attendees at the Homeless Persons' Memorial Day event at Better Life that everyone's life has purpose even if they are challenged with issues like homelessness and substance abuse.

Funeral services and memorials are common events after a person passes away, however, if the individual is homeless, services aren't guaranteed. To remember all those without addresses who have passed, communities recognize Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, which is on Dec. 21, typically the longest day of the year and the beginning of winter. [Better Life](#) hosted an event on Dec. 21 to remember the homeless individuals who passed in 2022 and encourage those who are experiencing homelessness to continue working toward their goals.

Several speakers at the event shared their personal experiences with homelessness and a common theme was that homelessness does not have to be permanent.

Marques McCoy, who serves as the Individual Shelter Monitor for the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services in Newark, shared with the group that he experienced homelessness just three years ago after getting out of an abusive relationship. He was sleeping in a city park but now he lives 14 stories above where he used to sleep, drives a new car and represents the homeless population in Newark.

"Your dreams, your goals, your aspirations do not have to die if you don't allow them to," he said. "You are not your situation. You are not your circumstances. You are greater."

Debra Underwood, who organized the event at Better Life, works for [Project Live, Inc.'s PATH program](#), which stands for Projects for Assistance in Transitioning from Homelessness. She said recognizing Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, particularly during the holiday shopping season, is important.

"You don't think about the people that you might pass on the street with your shopping bags," she said. "They're kind of invisible."

Pastor Bryant Ali, also known as Pastor in the Hood, and leader of [New Psalmist Worship Center](#) in Newark, was previously homeless and a drug user.

"I knew what it was to be homeless. I knew what it was to be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Better Life staff members and volunteers helped serve a hot lunch to those who attended the Homeless Persons' Memorial Day service. Pictured are Better Life Lead Cook Jerrell Mann, Minister Valerie Seymore from Beauty for Ashes, Better Life Wellness Mentor Serena Zuppardo, Sharon McGreevey of NJ Reentry Corporation, Better Life Kitchen Staff Member Eleanor Glover and Better Life Kitchen Staff Member Darlin Hall.

Calling All Clarion Readers!

This year, the Clarion will be printed bi-monthly so you will receive six editions for 2023.

In between print editions, you can get New Community news on our website, newcommunity.org, and on social media:

- Facebook: [New Community Corporation](#)
- Twitter: [@NewCommunityCor](#)
- Instagram: [@newcommunitycorp](#)
- LinkedIn: [New Community Corporation](#)

Did you know the Clarion is also distributed digitally? If you're interested in receiving the newsletter by email, please send a message to clarion@newcommunity.org.

We thank you for your support!

AROUND THE NETWORK

NEWARK YMCA DONATES COATS TO NEW COMMUNITY

The [YMCA of Newark and Vicinity](#) donated more than 100 coats to New Community in December, which were distributed to residents of Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, and patrons of the New Community Emergency Food Pantry, 220 Bruce St., Newark. We thank the Newark YMCA for its generous donation and are happy that our residents and clients are able to stay warm this winter. *Photos courtesy of Simone Gagneron.*



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 FIRST RESPONDERS HOST BINGO FOR RESIDENTS

Officer Burrows and Officer Eley of the [Newark Police Department](#) and Firefighter Byrd from the [Newark Fire Department](#) hosted games of bingo for the residents of Gardens Senior, 265 Morris Ave., Newark, on Jan. 12. The first responders provided prizes and refreshments for all participants.



NEW COMMUNITY RESIDENTS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

[Click here](#) for more photos of Christmas celebrations.



Manor Senior, 545 Orange St., Newark, held a Crib Blessing on Dec. 15, led by Father Beatus Kituruu.



Commons Senior, 140 South Orange Ave., Newark, hosted a Christmas luncheon for its residents on Dec. 6.



Residents of Orange Senior, 132 William St., Orange, enjoyed a Christmas party on Dec. 21. *Photo courtesy of Alisha Chatman-Jenkins.*



Residents of Hudson Senior, 21-27 Orchard St., Jersey City, enjoyed a Christmas activity on Dec. 13 thanks to Assurance Group. *Photo courtesy of Vivian Le.*



New Community Extended Care Facility, 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, provided residents with a Christmas dinner on Dec. 14. *Photo courtesy of Julienne Van-Nooten.*



Manor Senior residents stand by the Christmas tree in the Community Room on Dec. 15.

NEW COMMUNITY THANKS ITS HOLIDAY DONORS



Representatives from St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church in Summit donate gifts to the New Community toy drive. NCC's Ali Jenkins, bottom left, and Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson, bottom center, picked up the items. Photo courtesy of Madge Wilson.



Father Nicholas Gengaro of Seton Hall University School of Law provides items to New Community Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson for NCC's annual toy drive. Photo courtesy of Madge Wilson.



Brian Topping and Lisa Durant of the Oak Knoll Theology Department and Campus Ministry Team donate to the New Community toy drive. NCC Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson and NCC's Ali Jenkins, center, accept the donations. Photo courtesy of Brian Topping.



Marcia Hicks and students from Columbia High School in Maplewood donate presents for New Community Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson, second from left, to distribute to families. Photo courtesy of Madge Wilson.



New Community's Ali Jenkins and Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson pick up donations from representatives of Glenwood Elementary School in Short Hills. Photo courtesy of Madge Wilson.

Each year, New Community Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson organizes and oversees a toy drive to ensure that children receive presents for Christmas. She finds out what the children would like for the holidays and communicates that to donors who purchase items.

These generous supporters of New Community and St. Rose of Lima parish allowed Wilson to distribute more than 2,000 gifts to families this season.

"It is a joy to me when I see so many children in need smiling from ear to ear," Wilson said.

In addition to the annual toy drive, Wilson also coordinates a turkey drive so that families can prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

We are deeply grateful to the following groups and individuals for spreading the spirit of joy during the 2022 holiday season:

- [St. Paul's Abbey, Newton, N.J.](#) – Brother Jee, donated Christmas trees
- Mr. Mark Carelli and Family, Maplewood, N.J.
- [Weichert Realty \(The Mill\), Maplewood, N.J.](#) – Rebecca Berenson, Coordinator
- [Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, South Orange, N.J.](#) – Anne Moore and parishioners
- [Millburn Fire Department, Millburn, N.J.](#)
- Fire Chief Robert Echavarria, Ted and coworkers
- Frank Consentine, Somerset, N.J.
- [St. Helen Catholic Church, Westfield, N.J.](#) – Marilyn Ryans, Coordinator
- [Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, Summit, N.J.](#) – Brian Topping, coworkers and students
- [St. Rose of Lima Academy, Short Hills, N.J.](#) – Elizabeth Guarnieri, Dan Solazzi and parents
- [Our Lady of the Lake, Verona, N.J.](#) – Barbara Yates and parishioners
- [Notre Dame Catholic Parish, North Caldwell, N.J.](#) – Donna Zarros, Coordinator
- [Seton Hall University School of Law and The Thomas More Society](#) – Father Nicholas Gengaro, Coordinator
- [St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Bloomfield, N.J.](#) – Lorraine McMillian and Judy Nitkowski, Coordinators
- [Glenwood Elementary School, Short Hills, N.J.](#) – Leslie Eible, Elizabeth Sherman and Jessica Marinoff, Outreach Committee Co-Chairs, and Dr. Jasin, Principal
- [St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church, Summit, N.J.](#) – Margaret Strong and Theresa Sweeney
- [Church of the Assumption Catholic](#)

[Church, Emerson, N.J.](#) – Sandy Johnson, Coordinator

- [St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Cedar Grove, N.J.](#) – Brenda Pereira
- [Meyner and Landis, Counselors at Law, Newark, N.J.](#) – Cindy Oliveira Oswald and staff
- Mr. and Mrs. Desfardins, Maplewood, N.J.
- [Columbia High School, Maplewood, N.J.](#) – Marcia Hicks and students
- Kathryn Grifonetti and Matthew Perricone of The Leonidas Foundation
- [Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, West Orange, N.J.](#) – Pat Paxton, Coordinator
- William and Kathy Hoffman, Lebanon, N.J.

Thanksgiving Turkey Donations

- [St. Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills, N.J.](#) – Mike Roberts, Coordinator, and parishioners
- Kathryn Grifonetti, Old Tappan, N.J.
- [The Leonidas Foundation, Wycoff, N.J.](#) – Matthew Perricone

NEW COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTES COATS FROM WBGO COAT DRIVE

For the past 13 years, Newark public radio station [WBGO](#) has organized a Coat Drive during the holiday season as a community service to provide those in need with outerwear for the winter. New Community has been a recipient of the donated coats for the last 10 years, distributing the essential items to Newark residents. We thank WBGO, its listeners, staff and volunteers for their hard work over the years. Since its inception, WBGO's drive has provided more than 5,000 coats to Newark residents, ensuring a warmer winter for so many. We are happy to be a part of the effort to provide comfort to those who are struggling.



New Community SAIF Intensive Case Manager Sonia Garcia, left, and New Community Family Resource Success Center Director Joann Williams-Swiney, right, pick up donated coats from Newark public radio station WBGO. WBGO Volunteer Coordinator Sylvia M. Brewer, second from left, and WBGO President and CEO Steven A. Williams, second from right, pose with them. Photo courtesy of Joann Williams-Swiney.

NCCTI STUDENT USES BUILDING TRADES SPECIALIST PROGRAM TO LAUNCH CAREER AFTER INCARCERATION



Andre Moore is currently enrolled in the Building Trades Specialist program at New Community Career & Technical Institute and will be graduating in the spring.

New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) helps students of all ages and circumstances reach their goals. Andre Moore is 47 years old and is currently residing in a halfway house. While others living in the facility were looking for jobs, Moore decided he wanted to enroll in a trade school to learn valuable skills that could help him launch a career after his release date.

Moore is currently enrolled in NCCTI's Building Trades Specialist program with aspirations to use the knowledge and skills he gains to become a business owner in the construction industry. He began the program in October and is on track to graduate in the spring. His release date from the halfway house is Oct. 27, 2023.

Ever since he was in his early 20s, Moore has wanted to gain the skills to build his own house. While in prison, he learned masonry and wanted to build upon that with a trade school, which is how he settled on the Building Trades Specialist program at NCCTI. He enjoys the program and is learning a lot.

"I love it here," he said.

Moore said that his instructor, Yusto Awich, is one of the best teachers he has ever had. He said Awich makes learning fun and challenges his students to help them reach their full potential. Awich has even helped Moore look up civil engineering programs, which he is researching for potential enrollment after graduation.

Awich said he is happy to have Moore in his class.

"Andre's dedicated, on time and willing to learn and explore more than he's taught," Awich said.

As a Building Trades Specialist student, Moore is also part of the [Rising Stars program](#), which is a partnership between NCCTI and [Tremco](#) that aims to introduce students to a variety of aspects of the construction industry and connect them to job opportunities. Rising Stars, run by Tremco employee David Hutchinson, brings guest speakers from the industry to the class weekly to discuss their areas of expertise and answer questions.

"It shows you what you're capable of doing and what's a possibility," Moore said of Rising Stars.

Moore said the earning potential in the building trades industry is unlimited.

"The income you're capable of generating within the industry that this class teaches, there's no ceiling to it unless you put a ceiling on yourself," he said.

NCCTI aims to help individuals, regardless of their circumstances, fulfill their goals and put them on a path to success.

"NCCTI sees its students and believes in its students. In our ability to fully see students, we are able to tailor instruction or address needs accordingly. We see Mr. Moore as the purpose-driven person that he has displayed himself to be upon starting the program," said NCCTI Director Dr. Sylvia McCray. "We will continue to teach, expand and challenge him to meet his goal of obtaining a Building Trades Specialist diploma."

The mindset of providing individual assistance comes through. Moore said staff members have gone above and beyond to help him sign up for the program and address any issues he has had.

"The staff has been there for me every step of the way," he said.

According to NCCTI staff members, Moore has shown that he is serious about his studies

and completing the program.

"Mr. Moore is an enthusiastic, polite and devoted individual who has a clear vision of what he wants to achieve," said NCCTI Financial Coach Akeen Downes. "He exhibits a positive attitude both inside and outside of the classroom. We are proud that he continues to be resilient and motivated while working towards his certification."

In addition to becoming a business owner, Moore has a plan to offer more affordable housing in Newark, where he was born and raised. With his skills, he would be able to convert dilapidated and abandoned houses owned by the city into usable homes, which he says would be a win for families in need of affordable housing and for the city, which would be able to collect taxes on the properties.

Moore plans to maintain a relationship with NCCTI after graduation and use it as a source for workers.

"When I do make it, I know NCCTI's a place that I can pull prospective and future employees from because I know what Mr. Yusto offers to a student who's enrolled in the program," he said.

Moore is optimistic about the future. He looks forward to completing the Building Trades Specialist program and putting his plans into practice.

"Now I can move forward in life and become the success that I was always meant to be," he said.

NCCTI is an accredited post-secondary career and technical institution that is currently enrolling for the following programs: Automotive Technician, Building Trades Specialist, Medical Assistant Clinical, Patient Care Technician and Culinary Arts Specialist. 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.

BETTER LIFE HOSTS HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

FROM PAGE 1

addicted. I knew what it was to feel like you were never going to get free. Like death was your only option," he said.

But he realized that his life had meaning and he was able to overcome his challenges and help others. He told the crowd that no matter what, everyone has victories, even if they seem small.

"One victory was we woke up this morning," he said. "Because we're still here, we still have a purpose."

Minister Valerie Seymore runs the nonprofit [Beauty for Ashes](#), which helps adults who are victims of abuse and/or addiction, economically disadvantaged and those in danger of or facing homelessness. She is a recovering drug addict and uses her

experiences to help others. She aims to encourage people and brought that message to the event.

"I just want to say don't give up," Seymore said. "If you're on drugs, it doesn't matter if you've got 30 years clean, 30 weeks, 30 days, 30 hours, 30 minutes or 30 seconds. Give yourself a hand."

In addition to remarks, the service included a dance by Almeria Holt, dedicated to her homeless friend who passed away while living on the street, and a song by solo artist Apryl who has experienced abuse and homelessness.

Following the Homeless Persons' Memorial Day service, attendees enjoyed a hot lunch. Helping to prepare and serve the meal were

Better Life staff members and volunteers, including Sharon McGreevey of [New Jersey Reentry Corporation](#), a nonprofit organization that aims to remove all barriers to employment for citizens returning from jail or prison.

Better Life, 101 14th Ave., Newark, offers an Engagement Center that welcomes any individual experiencing homelessness, Essex County Wellness Respite Services for individuals in crisis who have mental health or substance abuse issues and supportive housing units for chronically homeless individuals. New Community built, owns and manages the Better Life building and contracts with [Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey \(CSPNJ\)](#) as the service provider. For more information, call 862-229-1400.

FAMILIES ENJOY NEW COMMUNITY BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

New Community's [Youth Services Department](#) hosted its annual Breakfast with Santa event on Dec. 17 at the NCC Neighborhood Center, 56-68 Hayes St., Newark. Children and their families received free hot breakfast and photos with Santa, along with some toys. More than 170 children participated in the event. *Photos courtesy of Youth Services.* [Click here for more photos.](#)



FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU OF NEWARK: START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT

Let 2023 be the year of self-improvement. Occurrences of mental health or addiction issues can be overcome through the empowerment of the client to take control and responsibility for their life. Some pointers as adapted from the National Mental Health Association/National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare can be learned at [Family Service Bureau of Newark \(FSB\)](#):

- **Get help when you need it.**
Seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness. It is important to remember that treatment is effective. People who get appropriate care can recover from

mental illness and addiction to move on to lead a full, rewarding life.

- **Set realistic goals.**
Aim high, but be realistic and don't over-schedule. Life is more enjoyable and will provide a tremendous sense of accomplishment and self-worth as you progress toward a goal. So, what is your 2023 New Year's resolution? Make it realistic so that you attain it. Set smaller goals to lead your way up to achieving bigger goals.
- **Learn how to deal with stress and quiet your mind.**
Stress is part of life. Learn coping skills, learn to identify stressors and label them. Try meditation or simply take 15 minutes out of the day to reflect and plan your everyday life.

- **Take care of your body.**
Taking care of yourself physically can improve your mental health and help develop strategies to cope with cravings of addiction if that is your struggle. For 2023, eat nutritious meals, avoid smoking and vaping, drink plenty of water and exercise. It helps decrease depression and anxiety and improve moods. And remember to get enough sleep to allow the body to restore the energies spent every day.

The leadership team at FSB wishes the community a happy and prosperous 2023.

FSB Director: Christina Ward

Compliance Manager: Dametria Wertz

Administrative Coordinator: Scarlet Vasquez

NCCTI WELCOMES NEW MAC STUDENTS



New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) held an orientation for its newest [Medical Assistant Clinical \(MAC\)](#) class on Jan. 4. Students received an overview of the policies and procedures and met members of the school staff.

The newest MAC session began on Jan. 9.

Those interested in any of NCCTI's accredited post-secondary programs should call the school at 973-824-6484, visit the Main Campus at 274 South Orange Ave., Newark, or visit newcommunitytech.edu and click [Request Information](#) to start the process to enroll.

vna Health Group
Moving Healthcare Forward

Wellness Tip
February 2023

BE HEART HEALTHY!

GET A GOOD NIGHT SLEEP

Studies show that people who sleep 7 or 8 hours a night have less calcium in their arteries (sign of heart disease) than those who slept 5 hours or less.

EAT HEART HEALTHY

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

CHECK BLOOD SUGAR

It's important to know your blood sugar as millions of people with diabetes or prediabetes are unaware of their condition. Visit your healthcare provider regularly for screening to keep your heart healthy.

STAY PHYSICALLY ACTIVE

Aim for 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or 75 minutes per week of vigorous aerobic activity, or a combination of both, spread throughout the week. Add moderate to high-intensity muscle strengthening activities (such as weights or resistance bands) at least 2 days per week.

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

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: MUHARRAR BEYAH



Muharrar Beyah participated in the Supportive Assistance to Individuals and Families (SAIF) program before being hired as its receptionist.

Muharrar Beyah is well suited for her role as the receptionist for the [Supportive Assistance to Individuals and Families \(SAIF\)](#) program at New Community. She not only has transferable skills from experience in customer service, but she knows how the SAIF program works because she was previously a client.

Beyah was participating in the SAIF program, which provides intensive case management to individuals and families who have received public assistance for 48 months or more. She was searching for employment, but nothing was working out, mainly because many of the positions required hours that she couldn't work because she has to care for her school-aged son. Although at times she was frustrated,

Beyah continued applying and interviewing because she wanted to work.

SAIF Intensive Case Manager Sonia Garcia provided Beyah with job leads and helped her with her resume.

"She never gave up," Garcia said of Beyah. "She went to all those job fairs and she applied and never stopped applying."

Beyah said the support Garcia provided to her and other SAIF participants is important and appreciated.

"Sometimes when you're trying to get a job and trying to get yourself together, sometimes your spirits can be kind of broken down," Beyah said. "But Ms. Garcia is always here to try to uplift her clients."

When Garcia was out for medical reasons, SAIF Program Director Dr. Jackie Andrews was meeting with her clients, including Beyah, as the program resumed in-person meetings following COVID shutdowns. When she met with Beyah, Andrews found her to be personable and employable. Since SAIF was in need of a receptionist following a retirement, Andrews asked Beyah if she would be interested in volunteering in the role to try it out.

"I didn't expect her to say yes because people

don't really like to volunteer," Andrews said.

But Beyah agreed and volunteered for SAIF for a week.

"That's when I really made up my mind to hire her because she showed that she really wanted a job and she was dedicated and loyal," Andrews said. "Those are some good qualities that I look for in a staff person."

Beyah officially applied for the position and became a full-time employee on Aug. 1, 2022. Her favorite part of her job is interacting with the clients. That sometimes includes providing a bit of inspiration as a former client.

"You don't have to stay where you are. There's always room for improvement and growth," Beyah said. "I was there and now I'm here."

Andrews called Beyah an asset to the SAIF program, saying she's cooperative, willing to learn and open to constructive feedback.

"She could possibly move up to be a case manager because she knows both sides of the service," Andrews said.

In her free time, Beyah writes poetry and attends slam poetry sessions where she shares her work. She also participates in humanitarian efforts with a group of girlfriends, donating food and other items to individuals in need.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: JUANITA WILLAMSON

Juanita Williamson is known around Roseville Senior for her compassion, whether she is helping her neighbors or stray cats. The 59-year-old has lived in the building for more than five years and has resided in the general area for more than four decades.

Health problems forced Williamson to stop working long before she intended. She was working as a home health aide, a job she had done for about 20 years, when she experienced several heart attacks. Her doctor told her she had to stop working for her health. Unfortunately, she lost her apartment and had to move in with a friend. That situation wasn't working out so she applied for an apartment at Roseville Senior. After providing a doctor's note and the required documentation, she was accepted and has lived in the building ever since.

In addition to experiencing heart attacks, Williamson deals with other medical issues, including diabetes, lung disease and a painful stomach condition. She also had a cancerous tumor that required surgery, chemotherapy

and radiation treatment.

Despite her ailments, Williamson has a positive outlook and helps others whenever she can. She will cook for her neighbors, even providing meals that she's not able to eat herself. Every year she surprises people with Christmas dinner.

"Juanita is a big help to many residents here in the building," said Roseville Senior Resident Services Coordinator Gladys Artis. "She runs errands, cooks for them and always extends a helping hand."

That kindness also extends to the animal kingdom. Williamson has a strong connection to cats. She had one cat for 15 years before the cat passed that she called her best friend. She also feeds neighborhood cats every two days, which she's been doing since 2009.

"When I go out there and feed those cats, they show me appreciation and they look like they're so happy to see me," she said.

In addition to helping neighbors and caring



Juanita Williamson has lived at Roseville Senior for more than five years.

for cats, Williamson enjoys playing cards and games, including bingo, and shopping. She often purchases items for others that she believes they will enjoy.

"I like to go to Walmart. I like to shop and I like trying to help people. I like helping my cats," she said. "And that's my life."

SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS: GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR MEDICARE PART B

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

If you did not apply for Medicare Part B (medical insurance) within three months before or after turning age 65, you have another chance each year during the General Enrollment Period. The period runs from Jan. 1 to March 31 every year.

If you don't enroll in Part B when you're first eligible for it, you may have to pay a late

enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part B coverage. Your monthly premium will increase 10 percent for each 12-month period that you were eligible for Part B but did not sign up for it. Your coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up.

To learn more about Medicare, please visit our Medicare Benefits page at www.ssa.gov/

benefits/medicare. You may also read our publication at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it – and share it on social media.

SANTA VISITS COMMUNITY HILLS EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Children at [Community Hills Early Learning Center \(CHELC\)](#), 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, got a visit from Santa Claus on Dec. 16. They had the opportunity to sit on his lap and take photos. Some classes also sang him a song. It was a fun way to celebrate the holiday season. [Click here for more photos.](#)



NCC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FROM MONSIGNOR LINDER SCHOLARSHIP



The Monsignor William Linder Scholarship Committee awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Gardens Senior Resident Services Coordinator Desiree Crespo to pay for the education of her daughter, Mia Lopez. Lopez attends Harmony Christian Academy in Elizabeth.

This scholarship, named for New Community Founder Monsignor Linder, is awarded annually to New Community employees whose children attend Catholic or private schools. Monsignor Linder believed that quality education is the foundation of a successful life and the scholarship is a way of honoring his legacy.

Photo at Left: New Community Director of Mission Frances Teabout, Gardens Senior Resident Services Coordinator Desiree Crespo, Crespo's daughter Mia Lopez, Chief Financial Officer Elizabeth Mbakaya and Monsignor William Linder Scholarship Committee Member and Family Representative Jim Rohrman, left to right. Crespo and Lopez were presented with the Monsignor William Linder Scholarship on Dec. 19. Mbakaya serves as the committee chair and Teabout and Rohrman are committee members. Photo courtesy of Benjamin Galvez.

HARMONY HOUSE CHILDREN ENJOY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Volunteer Sally Milad once again organized a Christmas party for the children and families at [Harmony House](#), New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families. The event took place on Dec. 18 and included presents, a visit from Santa and pizza. We thank Milad for her efforts to make the holidays brighter for our families. Photos courtesy of Sally Milad.



EXTENDED CARE RECEIVES DONATION

Staff members at [New Community Extended Care Facility](#), 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, accepted a donation of a rehabilitation standing table from [South Orange Village Trustee Donna Coallier](#) and the [South Orange Police Department](#) on Dec. 9. Sergeant Nicholas Lonero and Officer Jose Albino helped transport the machine to Extended Care.



The rehabilitation standing table is priced at \$8,000. It is used for a variety of purposes, including to stand patients that cannot stand independently from the wheelchair, to increase neuromuscular functions for stroke patients and to ensure improved blood circulation in the legs. It can also be used to transfer patients that are in wheelchairs.

We thank South Orange Village Trustee Coallier and the South Orange Police Department for their generous donation. The device will be put to good use at the facility.

Photo courtesy of Veronica Onwunaka.

LEARNING TO DETECT MEDICARE FRAUD



Residents of Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, participated in a presentation by a representative of [Senior Medicare Patrol \(SMP\)](#) on Dec. 15 where they learned ways to prevent, detect and report health care fraud, errors and abuse. Photo courtesy of Anne Moran.

NEW COMMUNITY



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THE CEO'S CORNER | BY SIMONE GAGNERON



Happy New Year everyone. I hope and pray 2023 is off to a great start. While my time here has not been long, I can take a moment to acknowledge this dynamic community:

- To the individuals and families that put your trust in NCC, thank you for working with us all year through the pandemic. You have been supportive of the changes we had to make in services and provided the flexibility we needed from you to meet the needs of those we serve.
- To the employees of NCC, thank you with all my heart and words, for all you do, every day. You are champions of our mission.
- To our community and donors, your

generosity and support are a lifeline to all of us.

- Finally, to the NCC Board of Directors, thank you for your trust and guidance.

While challenging, 2022 did not disappoint us. We successfully held youth events such as the Father-Daughter Dance, Back to School Jam, Halloween Party and Breakfast with Santa. Save the date as these events will be held again in 2023!

Our career and technical school, NCCTI, resumed in-person events and kicked off a retention program so no student is left behind. Please visit newcommunitytech.edu to learn more about the school.

Our Adult Learning Center resumed in-person classes in 2022, helping students learn English and computers, prepare for citizenship and earn a high school diploma. More information about the center is available on our website by [clicking here](#).

Our Extended Care Facility was home to over 100 residents who enjoyed activities and were supported by a caring nursing staff. If you or someone you know are in need of long-term residential

services, please visit our website, newarknursinghome.org.

So much has changed since March 2020 and some of these changes will continue into 2023. What does remain constant is the NCC mission, our commitment to those we serve, our compassion for families and our care for our employees.

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

The global pandemic, COVID, may have temporarily impacted our programs and services; however, COVID did not change our mission or our intent to be there for you. We are committed to resuming all activities, services and events in 2023. Whether virtual or in person, we look forward to seeing you all again.

Looking forward to a year of connecting and reconnecting!

Be safe and be well.

Simone Gagneron, CEO