

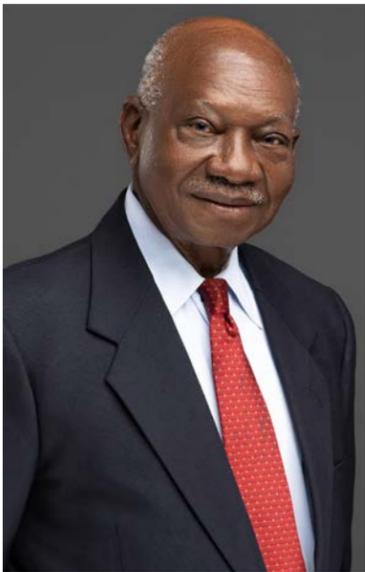
NEW COMMUNITY



CLARION

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK SINCE 1968

NEW COMMUNITY BOARD CHAIRMAN DR. A. ZACHARY YAMBA RETIRES



New Community Board of Directors Chairman Dr. A. Zachary Yamba has retired from his position with the organization, effective Dec. 31, 2023. Yamba joined the Board in September 2012 and became Chairman in June 2018 following the passing of NCC founder and Board Chairman Monsignor William J. Linder.

Yamba was involved with New Community long before his official capacity as a member of the Board of Directors. He was a parishioner of Queen of Angels Church where Monsignor Linder served as priest

during the founding of New Community. He had been asked to join the Board prior to 2012 but declined because of his employment responsibilities. After he retired, he joined New Community's Board of Directors.

He has enjoyed being able to give back to the community through his work on NCC's Board.

"The myriad of services that New Community offers are critical to the total well-being of the community. And that has been my passion all along," Yamba said.

During his service with the Board of Directors, Yamba oversaw the re-syndication of NCC housing, helped lead the organization through the COVID-19 pandemic, established Board committees to have closer working relationships with NCC leadership staff, assisted in the re-accreditation process for [New Community Career & Technical Institute](#), led NCC through times of leadership transition and helped relaunch the organization's Golfing for a Cause fundraiser following the pandemic.

NCC Interim Board Chairman Edgar Nemorin said Yamba has been an ambassador, advocate and steward to New Community.

"As Board Chairman, he successfully ensured that New Community Corporation continued its mission of providing services to the residents of Newark," Nemorin said. "Although he has resigned as a Board Member and Board Chairman of NCC, we know that he is only a phone call away to assist us in fulfilling our mission."

Under Yamba's direction, the Board worked with senior leadership after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the health and safety of NCC employees, residents and clients while maintaining the necessary services to the community. He also led the organization through two leadership transitions: the passing of Monsignor Linder and the retirement of CEO Richard Rohrman. He was instrumental in the search process for NCC's current CEO Simone Gagneron.

"Dr. Yamba defines what it means to be in public service. The dedication and support he has provided to New Community and the people of Newark is extraordinary," Gagneron said. "He has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE CEO'S CORNER | BY SIMONE GAGNERON



Greetings Family,

As we embark on another year of serving our community, I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to our shared mission. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and made a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

At the heart of our organization lies a deep commitment to addressing the most pressing issues facing our community:

affordable housing, food insecurity, quality education and access to quality health care. Whether it's providing essential services to those in need through NCC affiliates or advocating for social justice through our Newark Community Development Network (NCDN) work, our collective efforts have created meaningful change.

As we look to the future in 2024, it is essential that we continue to build upon our successes and adapt to the evolving needs of our community. This requires us to embrace innovation, collaboration and inclusivity in all that we do. By working together, we can amplify our impact and create a brighter, more equitable future for all.

I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together, but I also recognize that there is still much work to be done. As we confront new challenges and opportunities, I am confident that our community will rise to the occasion with the same resilience and determination that has defined us for so long.

In the coming months, we will be launching new initiatives, expanding our outreach efforts and seeking innovative solutions to the complex issues facing our community. I invite each of you to join us in this important work, as together, we have the power to effect real and lasting change.

This spring will bring NCC community events. On April 27, [Family Service Bureau of Newark \(FSB\)](#) will be hosting [A Gathering of Hope and Healing](#) to bring awareness to addiction and mental health. The event will feature posters of souls lost to addiction, courtesy of [The Black Poster Project](#), along with speakers, a tricky tray, free grief counseling and food and beverages. Our [Youth Services Department](#) will host the annual Father-Daughter Dance on April 20 and the second Family Sneaker Ball Gala on June 1. We hope to see families out on the dance floor!

Thank you for your continued support, passion and dedication to our shared vision. By working together, I am confident that we can build a stronger, more vibrant community for generations to come.

AROUND THE NETWORK

MANOR SENIOR HOSTS CRIB BLESSING FOR RESIDENTS

Manor Senior, 545 Orange St., Newark, hosted New Community's annual Crib Blessing on Dec. 20. Father Beatus Kituru led residents in prayer in the building's Community Room and then went outside to bless the nativity scene and turn on the lights.



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.

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 PCT STUDENTS HEAR FROM GRADUATE

Students in the Patient Care Technician program at [New Community Career & Technical Institute \(NCCTI\)](http://NewCommunityCareerandTechnicalInstitute.org) heard from program graduate Monica Parker on Jan. 16. Parker now works as a PCT emergency technician at [Saint Michael's Medical Center](http://SaintMichaelMedicalCenter.org). She shared her experiences in the program and in the workforce with the current class of students. We appreciate her taking the time to visit and wish her all the best in her new and successful career. *Photos courtesy of Chanda Webb.*



NCC RESIDENTS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

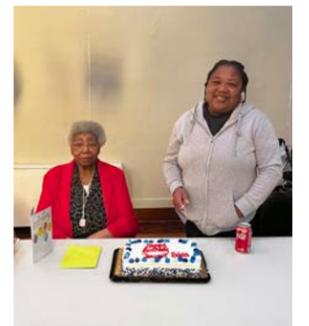
During the month of January, residents at Associates, Orange Senior and Roseville Senior celebrated their birthdays. *Photos courtesy of Resident Services.*



Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, celebrates birthdays on Jan. 17.



Orange Senior, 132 William St., Orange, celebrates birthdays on Jan. 31.



Roseville Senior, 1 South Eighth St., Newark, celebrates birthdays on Jan. 5.

RESIDENT SERVICES ACCEPTS DONATIONS

New Community Resident Services Coordinator for Families Anibal Alvelo accepts donations of new and gently used clothing and toys to give to those in need. On Dec. 6, residents of Mountain Lakes Alina and Will Gioielli, Amy Madison and Anna Bojovski brought a variety of toys. On Feb. 2, Oliver McSweeney, a student at [Gill St. Bernard's School](http://GillStBernardSchool.org), brought clothing and toy donations from himself and his classmates. We thank everyone for their generosity. *Photos courtesy of Anibal Alvelo.*



EXTENDED CARE CELEBRATES RESIDENT'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Every birthday is special, but turning 100 is an incredible milestone. [New Community Extended Care Facility](#), 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, celebrated the 100th birthday of resident Edna Hill on Dec. 13. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Council Member at Large Louise Scott-Rountree, West Ward Councilman Dupré Kelly and New Community CEO Simone Gagneron joined Extended Care residents and staff in honoring Hill alongside her family.

When asked how it feels to be 100, Hill said, "I feel good. I'm blessed to be an old lady."

Baraka said he was happy to celebrate Hill's milestone birthday.

"I just pray that I make it to live as long as you," he said. "I wish you many more and good health especially. God bless you."

Scott-Rountree read the City of Newark resolution marking the date of the celebration and Hill's birthday.

"May God continue to bless you, be in you to strengthen you, be beneath you to support you, go before you to guide you and put his loving arms of protection around you," she said.

Kelly shared the letter he wrote marking



New Community CEO Simone Gagneron, Newark Council Member at Large Louise Scott-Rountree, New Community Extended Care resident Edna Hill and Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, left to right, at Hill's 100th birthday celebration.



Newark West Ward Councilman Dupré Kelly speaks with 100-year-old Edna Hill during her birthday celebration at New Community Extended Care Facility as a family member looks on.

Hill's milestone birthday, discussing her contributions to her family, public service as a clerk and her church community.

"It is my sincere hope that the coming years and all of your years to follow are filled with wonderful experiences, new adventures and the fulfillment of your heart's desire," he said.

Gagneron expressed her congratulations to Hill and gratitude to all in attendance.

"On behalf of New Community, we are

excited, we are blessed to have you all and we say thank you and happy birthday to Ms. Hill and everyone celebrating their birthday today," she said.

In addition to Hill, Extended Care recognized all residents who celebrate a birthday in December. They enjoyed a meal, cake, music and dancing.

[Click here for more photos.](#)

[Read more about Edna Hill in the Senior Spotlight section on page 6.](#)

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS FOR NEW COMMUNITY RESIDENTS



Residents at Commons Senior, 140 South Orange Ave., Newark, enjoyed a Christmas party in the building's Community Room on Dec. 19.



Hudson Senior, 21-27 Orchard St., Jersey City, hosted a Christmas party for residents on Dec. 21 in the building's Community Room. *Photo courtesy of Vivian Le.*



Douglas Homes, 15 Hill St., Newark, displayed a Christmas tree in the building lobby. A group of residents gathered on Dec. 14 to show their Christmas spirit.



Residents of [New Community Extended Care Facility](#), 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, enjoyed a holiday party thanks to the Joan Peterson Group on Dec. 9. The residents were treated to pizza, music and holiday gifts. *Photo courtesy of Julienne Van-Nooten.*



The Orange Senior Christmas party on Dec. 21 included a hot meal for residents in the building's Community Room, located at 132 William St., Orange.



Floor Captains at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, enjoyed a Christmas lunch on Dec. 12 in the building's Community Room. *Photo courtesy of Anne Moran.*



Left: [Praise Temple Church of God](#) in Newark brought gifts for the residents of Roseville Senior, 1 South Eighth St., Newark, as part of the Newark West Ward Clergy Alliance. We thank Bishop Dr. Clive McBean and everyone involved. *Photo courtesy of Gladys Artis.*



Right: Residents of Orange Senior, 132 William St., Orange, enjoyed a Christmas party in the building's Community Room on Dec. 21. They enjoyed singing Christmas carols and the company of their neighbors.

HARMONY HOUSE FAMILIES ENJOY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Volunteer Sally Milad organized the annual Christmas party she hosts for the children and families at [Harmony House](#), New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families. The event took place on Dec. 17 and included presents and a visit from Santa. We thank Milad for her efforts to make the holidays bright for our families. *Photos courtesy of Sally Milad.* [Click here for more photos.](#)



NEW COMMUNITY HOSTS HOLIDAY PARTY FOR EMPLOYEES

New Community employees gathered together for a holiday party at Monsignor William J. Linder Plaza, 233 West Market St., Newark, on Dec. 14. They enjoyed food, music and a fun time with their coworkers. Several lucky employees also won gift cards for the holiday season. [Click here for more photos.](#)



NCC RESIDENTS RECEIVE PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

Pastor James Shaw, Sister Denise Shaw and Larry Best from [Shiloh Temple Church of God in Jesus Christ](#) visited Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, for morning prayers and blessings for residents on Dec. 19. *Photos courtesy of Clarence Gadson.*



NEW COMMUNITY BOARD CHAIRMAN DR. A. ZACHARY YAMBA RETIRES

FROM PAGE 1

clearly set the stage for others to follow. I would like to thank him personally and professionally for his guidance."

Yamba said New Community's mission is just as relevant today as it was in 1968 when the organization was founded and that its offerings continue to be vital.

"It's my hope and prayer and certainly part of Monsignor's vision that these services will continue to be provided as long as we have people who need them," Yamba said.

In addition to his work with New Community, Yamba has served the community in a variety of roles in the areas of education and community development.

Yamba is President Emeritus of [Essex County College](#). He served as President from 1980 to 2010, which is the longest tenure for that position at the school. He was also involved with the institution well before leading it. Yamba joined the humanities faculty when the college opened in 1968 and served as Dean of Faculty before he was appointed President in May 1980.

Current Essex County College President Dr. Augustine Boakye said Yamba strengthened the community through his work.

"Our Essex County College family and the Essex Community owe Dr. Yamba a debt of gratitude for enriching our lives and making education the cornerstone of community engagement and development," he said.

Yamba served as a commissioner of the [Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools](#) for more than a decade and is a founding member of the [Presidents' Round Table](#), an affiliate of the [National Council on Black American Affairs](#) of the [American Association of Community Colleges](#). His other past affiliations include serving on the boards of the Essex County WIB, Newark Downtown Redevelopment Corporation, American Conference on Diversity, Christ the King Prep Academy, Council of Higher Education in Newark (CHEN) and [Newark Boys Chorus School](#). He is also an Emeritus Board Member of [Victoria Foundation](#).

"For decades, Dr. A. Zachary Yamba has been one of Newark's great educators and activists. Whether as President of Essex County College, Chairman of the New Community Corporation Board or Commissioner of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, he has mentored and inspired his colleagues, students and residents of our city. His legacy is firm in the hearts and minds of

the generations he empowered in his many endeavors," said Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka. "As Dr. Yamba enters this new phase of his life, we thank him for his leadership and service to Newark, and wish him joy and success for the future."

Victoria Foundation Executive Officer Craig Drinkard said the City of Newark, Essex County and the State of New Jersey are all better places because of Yamba's leadership.

"His tireless and regal service to Newark and all of humanity spans decades and has helped to transform the lives of countless individuals and families," Drinkard said.

[Urban League of Essex County](#) President and CEO Vivian Cox Fraser said Yamba has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to advancing opportunities for families.

"As President of Essex County College and his leadership on the Board of New Community, Zack never lost sight of the people he was there to serve and help."

A graduate of [Seton Hall University](#), Yamba was awarded honorary degrees from his alma mater, [Rutgers University](#) and the [University of Development Studies](#) in Ghana. In 1980, Yamba, an All-America soccer player, was inducted into Seton Hall's Athletic Hall of Fame.

FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU OF NEWARK: IMPROVING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH DURING WINTER

Don't trust stairs in winter. They're always up to something... Or down if you aren't careful.

As we bundle up for the chilly days to come, let's have a heart-to-heart about keeping our spirits bright and our minds healthy, even when the weather outside is more frightful than delightful. It's no secret that winter can be tough on our mental health. Shorter days, less sunlight and the post-holiday slump can sometimes feel like a triple threat to our well-being. But don't fret, because we've got some tips to help you tackle these challenges head-on, with the same enthusiasm as a puppy seeing snow for the first time.

Tip #1: Let There Be Light!

Did you know that sunlight (or even simulated sunlight) can significantly boost your mood? So, open those curtains, take a brisk walk (yes, even when it's cold!) or consider a light therapy lamp. It's like bringing a little bit of summer into your winter days.

Tip #2: Routine is Your Cozy Friend

Establishing a routine can be a game-changer during the winter months. Whether it's a morning cup of tea, a midday stretch or an evening call with a friend, routines can create a comforting structure in our day. It's like having a roadmap through the winter wonderland.

Tip #3: Connection is Key

Let's not underestimate the power of connection. Reach out to friends, join a group (group therapy, perhaps?) or participate in community events. A shared laugh or a heartfelt chat can be the perfect antidote to a cold, gray day.

Tip #4: Embrace Your Inner Artist

Creative expression is a fantastic way to boost your mood. Draw, paint, write, cook or dance like nobody's watching. It's not about being perfect; it's about expressing yourself and having fun.

Tip #5: Give Yourself Some TLC

Finally, remember to be kind to yourself. If you're feeling down, it's OK. Acknowledge your feelings, practice self-care and don't hesitate to seek support if you need it. Our doors are always open for you.

So, as we navigate these winter months, let's remember to take care of ourselves and each other. Whether it's through a daily dose of sunlight, a cozy routine, heartfelt connections, creative outlets or some well-

deserved self-love, there are many ways to keep our mental health in check. Stay warm, stay connected and remember, spring is just around the corner!

If you need to contact [Family Service](#)

[Bureau of Newark \(FSB\)](#) or refer someone for a substance abuse or mental health assessment, you can call 973-412-2056 for our Newark location at 274 South Orange Ave., or 201-246-8077 for our Kearny location at 379 Kearny Ave.



New Community Adult Learning Center
563 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey 07107
(973) 558-5536
www.newcommunity.org/services/adult-learning-center/

<p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22;">Available Courses</p> <p>English for Speakers of Other Languages Mondays through Thursdays: 10 AM to 12 PM or 6 PM to 8 PM</p> <p>Citizenship Saturdays: 9 AM to 12 PM</p> <p>Computers – Basic & Intermediate Levels Saturdays: 9 AM to 12 PM</p> <p>ABE, Pre-HSE, & HSE (English only) Mondays through Thursdays: 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM or 5:30 PM to 8 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22;">Free Services</p> <p>Health Screenings Mammograms, Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, Nutrition, Eye Screenings, etc.</p> <p>Open Community Free workshops conducted by private institutions and/or volunteers for the general public</p> <p>Other Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organizing • Community rooms • Social services referrals
<p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22;">Cursos Disponibles</p> <p>Inglés para Hablantes de otros Idiomas Lunes a jueves: 10 AM a 12 PM o 6 PM a 8 PM</p> <p>Ciudadanía Sábados: 9 AM a 12 PM</p> <p>Computadora – Nivel Básico e Intermedio Sábados: 9 AM a 12 PM</p> <p>ABE, Pre-HSE, & HSE (Inglés solamente) Lunes a jueves: 9:30 AM a 1:30 PM o 5:30 PM a 8 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22;">Servicios Gratuitos</p> <p>Exámenes Médicos Gratuitos Mamografías, Colesterol, Presión Sanguínea, Nutrición, Examen de la Vista, etc.</p> <p>Comunidad Abierta Talleres gratuitos conducidos por instituciones privadas y/o voluntarios para el público en general</p> <p>Otros servicios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organización de la comunidad • Sala de reuniones • Referidos a servicios sociales

***Weekdays and Saturdays courses are 9 and 21 weeks long depending on the selected one.**

Do you have a story idea, questions or comments about the Clarion?

We'd love to hear from you!

Call 973-497-4413 or email clarion@newcommunity.org.



Wellness Tip
February 2024

HEART HEALTHY FOODS

In order to eat heart-healthily, you need to consume a variety of foods, eating a balanced diet can also help reduce the risk of heart disease and other health problems. For a healthy heart, incorporate these foods into your diet!

Fruits and vegetables are low in calories and high in fiber, vitamins, and minerals. The nutrients they contain are beneficial to the heart. Berry, citrus fruit, spinach, and tomatoes are particularly antioxidant-rich.



Whole grains, such as whole wheat, brown rice, and oats, are a good source of fiber and other important nutrients. They are low in saturated fat and can help reduce the risk of heart disease.

As an antioxidant-rich beverage, green tea can reduce the risk of heart disease. It can also help improve blood flow and blood pressure.

Avocados are rich in monounsaturated fats and fiber. They are a good source of potassium and can help lower cholesterol.

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

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: AKINADE ADEYEMI



NCC Security Sgt. Akinade Adeyemi at his Walden University graduation. Photo courtesy of Sgt. Akinade Adeyemi.

New Community Security Sgt. Akinade Adeyemi is a familiar face to many within the organization. As a sergeant on the 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. shift, he travels to every NCC site to check on the buildings, speak with officers that he supervises and make sure safety is maintained at all locations. He also conducts banking business for the organization.

Adeyemi joined New Community's Security Department in February 2013 as an officer and was promoted to sergeant in December 2020. He first learned about New Community at a chance encounter while at a bank. He took a brief phone call and a nun who was on line in front of him recognized his accent as being from Nigeria and they started talking. Adeyemi was looking for a job and she worked for New Community. She gave him the the phone number and told him how to apply for a position in the Security Department. He was granted an interview and hired.

During his time as an officer, Adeyemi worked in all of NCC's buildings. For a time he was assigned to the parking lot between the NCC Health Care Building and [Extended Care](#). He didn't know, but late NCC founder Monsignor William J. Linder, who lived at Extended Care at the time, was watching him do his rounds and interact with people. Adeyemi was called to Extended Care one afternoon at the request of Monsignor Linder and spent the evening with him in the building's activity room getting his food and drink and escorted him back to his room.

"We chatted for a long time," Adeyemi said. "That memory sticks here for the rest of my life because it was an awesome moment for me."

During their conversation, Adeyemi expressed interest in going back to school. Monsignor told him to let him know when he was enrolling so that he could offer him scholarship money. Unfortunately, Monsignor passed away before Adeyemi returned to school. Although he no longer had the opportunity to get the scholarship, Adeyemi still decided to continue his education. He attended [Essex County College](#) for a time but ultimately decided to attend [Walden University](#), an online school, because it offered a flexible schedule that allowed him to work.

Adeyemi earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice specializing in intelligence and homeland

security from Walden University. He attended a graduation ceremony this past summer in Florida.

"I think it's great that Sgt. Adeyemi got his bachelor's degree," said New Community Security Operations Manager Derek White. "It's a great accomplishment and we all wish him well in his graduation. He persisted and is an inspiration for all the members of the Security Department and NCC as a whole."

Adeyemi enjoys working at New Community and being part of an organization that makes a difference in people's lives.

"The service here is about humanity and I see the impact we have," he said. "I'm happy to be at New Community every day. I enjoy what I do."

Adeyemi likes collaborating with his colleagues at New Community.

"We work together as a team. And I enjoy being part of the team," he said.

Adeyemi immigrated to the United States from Nigeria about 13 years ago.

"It was part of my dream to be in America. And it was part of my dream to be an American," he said. "And by the glory of God, I achieved both."

In his free time, Adeyemi enjoys reading, browsing the internet, listening to music and traveling.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: EDNA HILL

As the saying goes, age is just a number. That's how Edna Hill feels about growing older. She turned 100 on Dec. 13.

"The age doesn't matter," she said. "I don't care about being a very old lady. It doesn't bother me one bit."

Hill moved to [New Community Extended Care Facility](#) in January 2017. She lived in New Jersey for many years but was born and raised in Florida, spending much of her time living with her grandparents.

While she was working in a facility folding clothes, she met her husband, who was responsible for washing the clothes. The couple married and lived in Tampa, Fla. They had five children together.

Her husband has since passed away and while she still misses him, she has fond memories.

"He and I had a good life together," she said.

"He was a fine, wonderful man. Handsome, kind and happy."

Becoming a centenarian isn't an easy feat. Hill's advice for longevity is to "be a kind, intelligent person. Don't be mean, ugly or nasty," she said.

Hill lives that positive attitude daily. Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka said Hill has been an inspiration for the last seven years she's been at the facility because she's very grateful, she's never angry and she never complains.

"It's people like her that want to encourage you to continue doing what you are doing because you see that smile, you see that happiness, you see that joy that makes you feel you've made a difference in somebody's life," Onwunaka said. "It's a blessing to have her and we continue to pray that the good Lord gives her another 10 years to be here because she deserves it."

Hill enjoys playing bingo, reading and watching *The Price is Right* and *Let's Make a Deal* on TV.

Although she can no longer walk and has difficulty using her hands, Hill is happy to be able to talk and enjoys living at Extended Care with people she describes as nice and kind.

"I've had a wonderful life," she said.

See page 3 to read more about Hill's 100th birthday celebration.



Edna Hill, who turned 100 in December, lives at New Community Extended Care Facility.

SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS: HELP SOMEONE YOU LOVE APPLY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY AND MORE

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

Sharing is caring. This Valentine's Day, take time to remind your loved ones that Social Security helps people in all stages of life. We provide easy and convenient ways to learn about and apply for benefits. Using our online services, you can assist friends and family members to:

- 1. Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).**
Check if the person you are helping is eligible for SSI – and start the process online – at www.ssa.gov/ssi.
- 2. Apply for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).**

When the unexpected happens and a loved one can no longer work due to a serious medical condition, SSDI can be a lifeline. Find out more at www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability.

- 3. Create a personal my Social Security account.**
If your loved one is planning for retirement or interested in estimating their future benefits, they can create a free and secure my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount and view their benefit estimates.
- 4. Check the status of a pending application for benefits.**

Checking the status of an application is quick and easy with a personal my Social Security account. If you don't have an account, you can create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

- 5. Appeal a decision for benefits.**
If someone you know was denied Social Security benefits or SSI, they can request an appeal. We provide information about how to appeal decisions for both medical and non-medical reasons at www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html.

To discover more ways you can assist others, please visit www.ssa.gov/thirdparty.

NEW COMMUNITY THANKS ITS HOLIDAY DONORS



Students and a staff member from St. Rose of Lima Academy in Short Hills give to New Community's drive for the 2023 holiday season. Photo courtesy of St. Rose of Lima Academy.



Representatives from Meyner and Landis provide gifts to NCC Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson. Photo courtesy of Madge Wilson.



NCC Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson collects donations from Seton Hall School of Law for the 2023 holiday drive. Photo courtesy of Madge Wilson.



Brian Topping from Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child provides donations to NCC. Photo courtesy of James McEvoy.



Representatives from Glenwood Elementary School give to New Community's drive. Photo courtesy of Madge Wilson.

Each year, New Community receives donations that benefit those we serve for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. New Community Outreach Coordinator and Board Member Ex-Officio Madge Wilson organizes and oversees a drive to ensure that children receive presents for Christmas. She also collects Thanksgiving meal donations and arranges for donated Christmas trees to bring holiday cheer to New Community buildings.

[Harmony House](#), New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families, also received donations during the holiday season to benefit its families.

We are deeply grateful and thank the following groups and individuals for spreading the spirit of joy during the 2023 holiday season:

- [St. Paul's Abbey](#), Newton, N.J. – Brother Jee and Brother Bernardo Lee, coordinated the donation of Christmas trees
- Mr. and Mrs. Mark Carelli and family
- Weichert Realty, Short Hills, N.J. – Bobbi Ostrow, Rebecca Berenson, Victoria McMurrian and Joanne Tedesco-Kloud, coordinators
- [Our Lady of Sorrows Parish](#), South Orange, N.J. – Ann Moore, coordinator, and parishioners
- [Milburn Fire Department](#), Milburn, N.J. – Fire Chief Robert Echavarria and coworkers
- [Saint Helen Catholic Church](#), Westfield, N.J. – Marilyn Ryans, coordinator
- [Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child](#), Summit, N.J. – Brian Topping, coordinator, coworkers and students
- [St. Rose of Lima Academy](#), Short Hills, N.J. – Betsy Guarnieri, Andrea

Mansfield and Rosemary Mattson

- [Notre Dame Catholic Parish](#), North Caldwell, N.J. – Donna Zarros, coordinator
- [Seton Hall University School of Law](#) and [St. Thomas More Society](#) – Father Nicholas Gengaro, coordinator, and students
- [St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church](#), Bloomfield, N.J. – Lorraine McMillian and Judy Nitkowski, coordinators
- [St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church](#), Summit, N.J. – Margaret Strong, Theresa Sweeney and volunteers and parishioners
- [Glenwood Elementary School](#), Short Hills, N.J. – Jessica Marinoff, Leslie Elible and Liz Sherman, coordinators
- [Church of the Assumption Catholic Church](#), Emerson, N.J. – Sandy Johnson, coordinator
- [Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church](#), Verona, N.J. – Barbara Yates, coordinator, and parishioners
- [St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church](#), Cedar Grove, N.J. – Brenda Pereira, coordinator
- [Meyner and Landis, Counsellors at Law](#) – Cindy Oliveira Oswald, coordinator, coworkers
- Mr. and Mrs. Desfardins, Maplewood, N.J.
- [Columbia High School](#), Maplewood, N.J. – Marcia Hicks, coordinator, and students
- [Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church](#), West Orange, N.J. – Maggie Macias, coordinator
- [Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament](#),

Franklin Lakes, N.J. – Elizabeth Harakins, coordinator

Thanksgiving Turkey Donations:

- [St. Rose of Lima Parish](#), Short Hills, N.J. – Michael Roberts, coordinator, and parishioners
- Office of Youth Ministry at [Don Bosco Prep School](#), Ramsey, N.J.
- Kathryn Grifonetti
- Anthony Falco
- Brother Travis Gunther
- [Office of Mayor Ras Baraka](#), City of Newark

Harmony House Donors:

- [Ebenezer Baptist Church](#), Pastor Oliver Coleman – Thanksgiving dinner and toy giveaway
- [Newark Interfaith Alliance](#), Pastor Lawren Monroe – Holiday celebration
- [Newark Board of Education](#) – Free shopping for families of children who attend Newark Public Schools
- [Spectrum360](#), Lumane Metullus – Thanksgiving baskets and household supplies
- Sally Milad – Harmony House Christmas Party
- [Kaufman Dolowich Law Firm](#) – Christmas gift donations
- Loretta Borronat – Christmas gift donations
- [St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church](#) – Christmas gift donations
- [Gibbons Law](#), Bria Beaufort – Christmas gift donations

[Click here for more photos.](#)

NCCTI HOSTS OPEN HOUSE



New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) hosts Open Houses monthly. [Click here for more photos from the Dec. 13 Open House.](#)

NCCTI HEALTH CARE STUDENTS TOUR UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Patient Care Technician students at [New Community Career & Technical Institute \(NCCTI\)](#) had the opportunity to tour [University Hospital](#) in Newark on Jan. 17. They saw the Emergency Department, Medical/Surgical and Critical Care areas in action and heard from staff members who work in each department. We thank University Hospital personnel who shared their experiences and information about the medical center and hope to see some of the students employed there soon.





FAMILIES ENJOY NCC'S BREAKFAST WITH THE GRINCH

New Community's [Youth Services Department](#) hosted Breakfast with the Grinch on Dec. 16 at the NCC Neighborhood Center, 56-68 Hayes St., Newark. A total of 65 families and over 150 children attended the event. They enjoyed free breakfast, photos with the Grinch and gifts. *Photos courtesy of Youth Services.* [Click here for more photos.](#)



NCC PARTICIPATES IN ESSEX COUNTY PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT DAY

New Community had a table at the Essex County 18th Annual Project Homeless Connect Day on Jan. 24 in the [Essex County College Gymnasium](#). Representatives from [Harmony House](#), New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families, provided information to attendees about the facility as well as the many other services available through New Community. The event provides a variety of resources to those experiencing homelessness, including health screenings, haircuts, mental health services, employment services and food. *Photos courtesy of Cynthia Arroyo.*



EXTENDED CARE RESIDENTS GET HEALTH INFORMATION



Residents of [New Community Extended Care Facility](#), 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, learned about geriatric care from representatives of [Newark Beth Israel Medical Center](#) on Jan. 25. We thank the facility for sharing useful information with our residents. *Photo courtesy of Julienne Van-Nooten.*

NCCTI WELCOMES NEW CLASS OF MEDICAL STUDENTS

[New Community Career & Technical Institute \(NCCTI\)](#) hosted orientation for its newest [Medical Assistant Clinical \(MAC\)](#) students on Jan. 11. The students met members of the NCCTI staff, learned the school's policies and procedures and had the opportunity to ask questions. The session began on Jan. 16 and will last about six months. We welcome the newest class and look forward to helping them achieve a successful career in the health care industry.



FSB OF NEWARK LEADS DISCUSSION ABOUT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Representatives from [Family Service Bureau of Newark \(FSB\)](#) led a speaking engagement at [Leaders for Life NJ](#), a Newark nonprofit that exposes youth to educational opportunities, on Jan. 10. FSB Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor John Moore and Columbia intern Rohun Sendhey led a discussion about substance abuse dangers. *Photo courtesy of FSB.*

