Staff members of New Community’s Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) recently had the opportunity to share their work with others who are looking to duplicate a successful FOC model. New Community has run its FOC under the umbrella of Greater Newark LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) since 2016. The FOC operates out of New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) and helps individuals access financial education and financial coaching. Since its inception, New Community’s FOC has been a top performer in the LISC FOC network, which is made up of more than 100 sites nationwide. New Community FOC personnel hosted representatives from New Jersey agencies working with Greater Newark LISC to launch FOCs in four other New Jersey cities to explain how the model works and answer questions.

Greater Newark LISC Deputy Director Judith Thompson-Morris explained that LISC is expanding its programs to other parts of the state, starting with the FOC. The organization has plans to create FOCs in Camden, Elizabeth, Perth Amboy and Trenton.

The initiative has been in process for about two years and is now close to kickoff. The visit to New Community’s FOC was an opportunity to show partners how the program works in a practical way.

“You can explain what the FOC model is, but we thought it would be helpful for them to see and hear from the partners in the Newark footprint who have been doing this work for a while,” Thompson-Morris said.

While all LISC FOCs follow a particular framework, Thompson-Morris explained that each site has unique aspects to match the partner’s work in the neighborhood. For example, New Community’s FOC is tied to its career and technical education program at NCCTI, a service not every FOC partner offers.

NCCTI Director Dr. Sylvia McCray welcomed the visitors on NEW COMMUNITY SHOWCASES FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER TO LISC PARTNERS

New Community Career & Technical Institute Director Dr. Sylvia McCray discusses how the Financial Opportunity Center operates.

NEWARK HOMELESSNESS CZAR TOURS HARMONY HOUSE

Harmony House Director Yonette Fredericks, left, shows the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services for the City of Newark Luis Ulerio a unit in the transitional housing facility for homeless families.

Director of the Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services for the City of Newark Luis Ulerio toured Harmony House, New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families, on June 22. Harmony House Director Yonette Fredericks showed him the private units where families live, which include a private bathroom, bedroom and living space. Fredericks and New Community Director of Community Engagement Richard Cammarieri explained to Ulerio that families at Harmony House are provided with services to help them find permanent housing, further their education and find employment. Residents are referred to New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) to complete accredited post-secondary programs. Families are also offered mental health services through Family Service Bureau of Newark (FSB) and physical rehabilitation services at New Community Extended Care Facility. NCCTI, FSB and Extended Care are all next door to Harmony House, allowing for easy access.
Vision, Dignity, Achievement

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.

Around the Network

NCCTI Hosts Open House for Automotive Technician Program
New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) hosted an open house for its Automotive Technician program on June 15 at its Main Campus. Attendees learned about the program, met staff members and had the opportunity to ask questions. Those interested in any of NCCTI’s accredited post-secondary programs should visit newcommunitytech.edu or call the school at 973-824-6484 for more information.

Enjoying a Sweet Treat
Residents at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, enjoyed Italian ice outside the building’s front entrance on June 7 thanks to UnitedHealthcare, which sponsored the social event. Photos courtesy of Anne Moran.

Providing Food to the Community
Food is available to community members in need on the first Tuesday of each month at the site of the New Community Emergency Food Pantry, 220 Bruce St., Newark. No identification is required, but people must sign that they received items. Food was distributed to those in need on June 7. Photo courtesy of Anibal Alvelo.

Getting Tips About Fire Safety
A representative from the Newark Fire Department visited Douglas Homes, 15 Hill St., Newark, on June 13 to give a presentation about fire safety. Residents learned how to stay safe with a variety of tactics, including smoke detectors. Photo courtesy of Desiree Crespo.

Learning About Health
Residents at Roseville Senior, 1 South Eighth St., Newark, received nutrition education and health screenings on June 22 thanks to Elite Care. Representatives came to the building’s Community Room to meet with residents, perform health screenings and answer their questions. Photo courtesy of Gladys Artis.
New Community Chief Operating Officer Fred Hunter was also on hand to greet the guests and provide a brief explanation of NCC as a whole.

“The LISC partner site visit presented a wonderful opportunity for the staff at NCCTI to discuss the FOC program. FOC staff provided a robust discussion that included outreach activities, program enrollment, measuring success and the future vision,” Hunter said. “The success of the FOC program can be measured by the clients’ increased knowledge of their financial potential. Positive outcomes include improvements in job placement due to job coaching sessions, improved personal credit scores and financial plans that increase clients’ net value.”

McCray was happy to host the agency representatives.

“It was a good opportunity to meet other partners who are also committed to working with the community in understanding financial health, stability, growth and wealth legacy building for their future generations,” McCray said. “I look forward to our continued collaboration with not only LISC but its partners across New Jersey and the United States.”

Brown believes increasing the number of FOCs in the state is positive for residents, particularly those with limited financial resources.

“Access to having a financial coach is an important resource for low-income and moderate-income families,” she said. “In the past, a lot of wealth-building information was only available to the rich and the very few. The prospect of adding more Financial Opportunity Centers means more access to financial education and wealth-building services for everyday people.”

Four groups that will be launching FOCs participated in the event, both in-person and virtually: Center for Family Services in Camden, Isles Inc. in Trenton, Union County Department of Human Services in Elizabeth and United Way of Central Jersey in Milltown which will operate the Perth Amboy FOC.

Thompson-Morris said the Perth Amboy location will likely be the first new site since Congressman Frank Pallone secured funds in a federal bill for that FOC location. It could become operational in the fall.

There are currently three LISC FOCs in New Jersey: at New Community, Ironbound Community Corporation and Urban League of Essex County.

Since 1986, Greater Newark LISC has collaborated with community-based organizations in Newark and the surrounding region to improve the quality of life for residents and shopkeepers.

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

Community Hills Early Learning Center (CHELC), 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, held its pre-K graduation on June 24 in the parking lot of the facility. Children performed songs and received diplomas to commemorate the accomplishment. We wish everyone good luck moving on to kindergarten!

Photos courtesy of Sandy Le.

NCC RESIDENTS ENJOY BOAT RIDE

Residents of Hudson Senior, 21-27 Orchard St., Jersey City, participated in the Hudson County Senior Boat Ride on June 28. The residents enjoyed the sights, dancing, food and drinks. Photos courtesy of Sandy Le.

HHELC STUDENTS GET A VISIT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Children at Harmony House Early Learning Center (HHELC), 278 South Orange Ave., Newark, got a visit from members of the Newark Fire Department on June 14. The representatives brought a fire truck, their gear and the fire dog mascot. Photos courtesy of HHELC.
Samullah Mosafir came to the United States to escape the violence of Afghanistan. He enrolled at the Adult Learning Center to improve his English.

Mosafir's native language is Pashto. Now that he is in the United States, he says it is important to learn English to achieve his goals of completing his education and starting a small business.

"Without English, my life will be hard here," Mosafir said. "If I do not know English, I will be faced with a lot of problems, like I can't get a job easily, I can't understand anyone. I can't do anything as well here, because it is English everywhere."

Mosafir completed the Level 2 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course at the New Community Adult Learning Center in the spring. He improved his English skills. He is happy to have his family's support. He has six brothers and two sisters.

"The most important people in my life are my family members," he said. "I am nothing without them, and I love them very much. They are supporting me in everything."

HELP WANTED: NCC IS HIRING

There are a number of open positions available with New Community Corporation in a variety of departments. To see all job listings, along with descriptions and requirements of each position, visit newcommunity.org and click "Careers." Click "Apply" next to the position of interest to see the full description and then "Apply Now" to complete the application process. NCC requires job applicants to fill out an online application for consideration. If you have difficulty with the online application process, you can chat with a representative for technical support or check out the Frequently Asked Questions page. For additional information, job seekers can call New Community's main phone number at 973-623-2800. The site is continually updated, so check back often to see if there is a job of interest.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: DR. EHAB SALIB

Dr. Ehab Salib is the newest member of the teaching staff at New Community Career & Technical Institute. He serves as the instructor for the Patient Care Technician program.

Dr. Ehab Salib may be the newest member of the teaching staff at New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI), but he has a wealth of experience in the health care and education fields.

Salib became a doctor in 1985 and earned a master’s degree in surgery in Egypt in 1990. He later lived in California. He has four grandchildren.

Salib is 72 and enjoys the environment at Orange Senior.

“My favorite part of living here is that we associate with one another. We have friends,” she said. “We do activities together.”

While the COVID-19 pandemic put many of the activities on hold, Rikberg is hopeful that in time, the building will be able to resume its pre-pandemic schedule.

She praised the staff members.

“We have a good manager, we have a very nice social worker and the super is good too,” Rikberg said.

In her free time, she enjoys going on walks and window shopping with her friends along Main Street.

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SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS:
SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

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

For nearly 90 years, Social Security has provided financial protection to communities throughout the United States, including the Hispanic community.

Today, our retirement, disability and survivors benefits are an important source of income for Hispanics. Our Spanish-language website, www.ssa.gov/espanol, provides information for those whose primary language is Spanish. There, people can learn how to get a Social Security card, plan for retirement, apply for benefits, manage their benefits and much more.

We also provide many publications in Spanish at www.ssa.gov/espanol/publicaciones. Popular topics include:

- Retirement, Disability and Survivors benefits.
- Medicare.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Social Security cards.
- Fraud and scams.
- Appeals.
- Benefits for children.
- Payments outside the U.S.

Customers who prefer to conduct business in Spanish can reach a Spanish-speaking representative at 1-800-772-1213. Please share these resources with friends and family who may need them.
GARDENS SENIOR MOURNS LOSS OF INVOLVED RESIDENT

Cheryl McRae was well known at Gardens Senior. She was very involved in the building, always lending a hand and helping to feed residents. She lived in the building for nearly 12 years before she passed away on March 11. She would have turned 73 on March 30.

“Ms. McRae helped with the food distribution twice a month. She also cooked and delivered hot meals to residents,” said Gardens Senior and Family Property Manager Tajuana Leon. “She was a very nice person and always had a smile.”

McRae grew up in Newark and worked as a nurse before retirement. After retiring, she moved to Gardens Senior and spent her time assisting residents and staff members.

“She was always doing something like cooking for them for their parties, decorating the hallways, cleaning the hallways,” said her daughter, Deskaine McRae.

Cheryl McRae had many friends in the building. She would play cards with them every day. She also spent a lot of time with her family. She had one daughter, three sons, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandsons.

“She was loving, caring and giving. She loved helping everyone. She loved everybody and everybody loved her,” Deskaine McRae said. “She was the GOAT of our family, the greatest of all time.”

LESLEY LESLIE: GOOD MORNING GORGEOUS!

In a world of social media opinions, likes and/or negative comments, there really is a necessity for individuals to safeguard their feelings. You can post a photograph of yourself on your way out to a fun event and receive many positive or flattering comments and feel great about yourself as a result. Then there are the negative responses or comments, even if they are small in number, that have the ability to crush your spirit. Words can hurt and deliberate hurtful words expressed in a public format hurt even more.

While it’s easy to say, “you have to develop a thick skin” so as not to allow people to hurt you, what about those things that people say that “get under your skin”? Let’s face it, we all have feelings and when our feelings get hurt, they just hurt.

Take comfort in the inner voice that speaks to you and tells you that you are special, you are beautiful and you are kind. That inner voice is the God of this universe and God says you are “fearfully and wonderfully made…” Psalms 139:14. God says, “you are the head and not the tail…” Deuteronomy 28:13. God says, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people: that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light…” 1 Peter 2:9.

Encourage yourself with the affirmations (word) of God and allow what God thinks about you to overpower any negative external opinions or internal thoughts that serve to discourage you. Repeat the positive affirmations often and compliment yourself regularly. Before you know it, you will have established a habit of building yourself up. Make it a great day and remember who you are!

DOUGLAS HOMES RESIDENTS BID FAREWELL TO NCC EMPLOYEE

Residents of Douglas Homes, 15 Hill St., Newark, celebrated Property Manager Luz Toro who relocated and had to leave New Community. She first worked in the building as a Resident Services Coordinator before taking the Property Manager position. The residents held a farewell party for Toro on June 15. Photos courtesy of Desiree Crespo.

NCCTI ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS RECEIVE MEDICAL KITS

Students in the Clinical Medical Assistant (CMA) and Patient Care Technician (PCT) programs at New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) received medical kits to assist them in their new careers. NCCTI Director Dr. Sylvia McCray distributed the kits to students on June 20, which included blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes.

CELEBRATING FATHERS

Residents of Douglas Homes, 15 Hill St., Newark, enjoyed a Father’s Day coffee hour in the building’s Community Room. Resident Services Coordinator Desiree Crespo organized the event with coffee and waffles for the building’s dads. Photo courtesy of Desiree Crespo.

NEW COMMUNITY
VISION. DIGNITY. ACHIEVEMENT
The Youth Services Department of New Community hosted the Mother-Son Dance on June 11 at Monsignor William J. Linder Plaza, 233 West Market St., Newark. Boys ages 4 to 17 were invited to enjoy an evening with their mothers or significant female role models. The event included food, dancing and prizes. Photos courtesy of Edward Morris.