

NEW COMMUNITY

CLARION



SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK SINCE 1968

NCC SECURITY OFFICER
ADMINISTERS NARCAN TO
MEN IN NEED



New Community Security Officer Satoya Williams administered Narcan to three men who had overdosed and were in the parking lot of Commons Senior on Nov. 17.

New Community Security personnel protect the organization’s property, residents and clients. But they sometimes go beyond that scope to help those in need. Security Officer Satoya Williams recently administered Narcan, a drug used to reverse an opioid overdose, to three men in the parking lot of an NCC residence while waiting for paramedics to arrive.

Williams was on duty at Commons Senior, 140 South Orange Ave., Newark, on Nov. 17 when a resident informed her that two men were lying on the ground in the building’s parking lot. Her first instinct was to bring Narcan with her when she went outside to investigate.

“One of the guys was completely out and the other one was going down so I knew it was something related to them being high,” Williams said.

She notified the Security Base Station to call for paramedics and administered Narcan to the unconscious man. She spoke with the other man.

“I asked him, ‘Can I please give you this to avoid you passing out?’ At first, he was saying no, but when he saw that he couldn’t stand up, he was like, ‘Give it to me,’” Williams said.

She administered Narcan to him as well. She located a third man between two cars shortly before paramedics arrived.

None of the men were New Community residents, but Williams said that didn’t matter.

“If they’re on our property, we are the first responders before anyone else gets there,” she said.

Williams had never administered Narcan before but followed the instructions on the box.

New Community Security Operations Manager Derek White praised Williams for her actions.

“Officer Williams’ quick thinking and decision-making in administering Narcan to the men not only saved lives, but it

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THE CEO’S CORNER |
BY SIMONE GAGNERON



Happy New Year everyone,

I hope this article reaches you all well and in good spirits!

With your support, 2024 was a fruitful and productive year.

In January we kicked the year off giving back at [Essex County Project Homeless Connect Day](#).

In March we [welcomed Cardinal Tobin to NCC Extended Care](#) and all near and far felt blessings.

FSB [partnered with The Black Poster Project](#) in April, bringing awareness to mental health and addiction and recognizing those who lost their lives. If you or a loved one requires assistance, contact FSB at 973-412-2056.

Graduation season is definitely a favorite here at NCC. This year [NCCTI graduates received words of encouragement from Newark Mayor Ras Baraka. CHELC and HHELC graduates took over the stage](#) and performed beautifully.

Our [annual Health Fair](#) was a success. Shout out to the planning team who made it possible. We served over 200 participants and partnered with 50 community vendors. The weather was perfect and Nelson’s BBQ was delicious. We hope to see all of you in 2025.

In September we hosted our 27th golf outing, [Golfing for a Cause](#), and raised over \$80,000 for Youth Services and scholarships.

We made new friends with [McKinsey and Company, who brought nearly 50 volunteers to NCC](#) during their Day of Service in October.

Our friends at accounting firm [Withum hosted their annual Thanksgiving Dinner](#) here at NCC for Harmony House families, providing amazing meals to over 100 individuals.

We can’t say thank you enough to [Victoria Foundation](#) who awarded us with a generous end-of-year \$400,000 grant to support our educational programs.

“With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.” -Eleanor Roosevelt. I hope in this new year you find time to relax, recharge and enjoy each day to the fullest.

I look forward to continuing our great work together in 2025.

Be safe and be well.

Simone Gagneron, CEO

AROUND THE NETWORK

NEW COMMUNITY EMPLOYEES ENJOY HOLIDAY PARTY

New Community employees gathered together for a holiday party at Monsignor William J. Linder Plaza, 233 West Market St., Newark, on Dec. 19. They enjoyed food, music, a photo booth, raffle prizes and a fun time with their coworkers. Members of the New Community Board of Directors were also on hand for the special occasion. New Community thanks everyone for their work and participation in the event. [Click here to view 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.

NCC RESIDENTS HAVE FUN EXERCISING

Residents of Orange Senior, 132 William St., Orange, enjoyed Zumba in the Building’s Community Room on Oct. 24 and Nov. 11. *Photos courtesy of Sister Pauline Echebiri.*



NCC RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MINI HEALTH FAIR

New Community Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, hosted a Mini Health Fair on Oct. 23 in the Community Room. Building residents had the opportunity to get information from a variety of vendors, including [CaptionCall](#), [Clover Health](#), [Community Health Insurance Advisors](#), [UnitedHealthcare](#) and [Wellpoint](#). *Photos courtesy of Anne Moran.*



NCCTI HOSTS INFO SESSION FOR MEDICAL PROGRAM

Those interested in the Medical Assistant Clinical (MAC) program at [New Community Career & Technical Institute \(NCCTI\)](#) had the opportunity to visit the main campus on Nov. 20 for an information session. During the session, they learned about the enrollment process, financial aid and how the school operates.



SANKOFA ACADEMY DONATES GOODS TO HARMONY HOUSE

[Sankofa Academy](#) Manager of Culture and Initiatives Zhada Stamps Moore brought a donation of canned goods and other nonperishables to [Harmony House](#), New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families, on Nov. 25. Students of the school collected the goods to ensure families had items for holiday meals. New Community thanks the students and staff members for their work and generosity.

WITHUM VOLUNTEERS PREPARE AND SERVE THANKSGIVING DINNER TO NEW COMMUNITY HARMONY HOUSE 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, 233 West Market St., Newark, on Nov. 26. The families enjoyed an evening filled with food, music, dancing and fun. New Community thanks all the Withum volunteers for their generosity. [Click here to view more photos.](#)



NCC EARLY LEARNING CENTER HOSTS THANKSGIVING FEAST

[Community Hills Early Learning Center](#) (CHELC), 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, hosted a Thanksgiving feast on Nov. 27 ahead of the holiday. The students got to enjoy turkey and sides at tables in the hallway of the school. Parents volunteered to help at the event as well. [Click here to view more photos.](#)



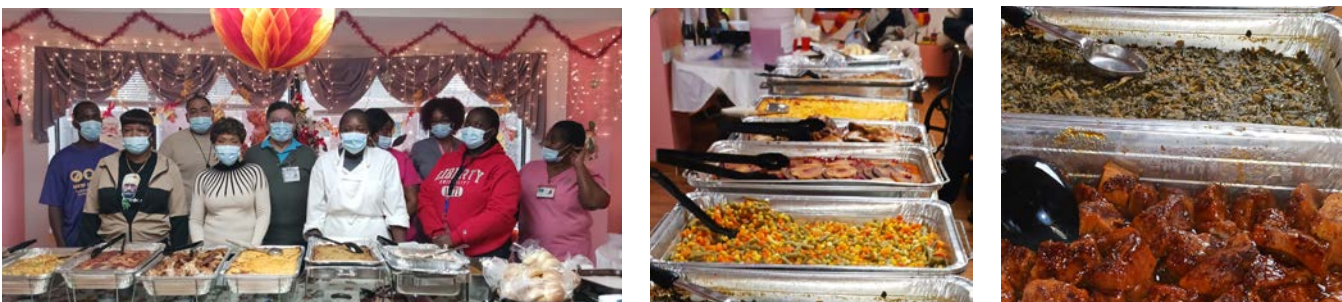
NEW COMMUNITY PARTICIPATES IN TURKEY GIVEAWAY

New Community's Resident Services Department partnered with [Believe WorldWide](#), [All Nations Worship Center](#) and [City of Restoration Church](#) to distribute 200 turkeys in Newark on Nov. 24. It was great way to help ensure families enjoyed a festive Thanksgiving. *Photos courtesy of Anibal Alvelo.*



EXTENDED CARE CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING

New Community [Extended Care Facility](#), 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, celebrated Thanksgiving with residents on the holiday, Nov. 28. Staff members served a variety of Thanksgiving food to those in the facility. *Photos courtesy of Julienne Van-Nooten.*



HARMONY HOUSE RESIDENTS RECEIVE THANKSGIVING BASKETS

For the 12th year in a row, [Spectrum360](#) organized a donation of Thanksgiving baskets to [Harmony House](#), New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families. Spectrum360 is an organization whose mission is to provide the highest quality educational and therapeutic programs for people with autism and related disabilities. Program participants and staff members brought 15 baskets to Harmony House on Nov. 25, along with additional items to be handed out to families ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. New Community thanks Spectrum360 and its members for their generosity.



NCC CELEBRATES RETIREMENT OF LONG-TIME EMPLOYEE

New Community hosted a retirement luncheon for Faye Harvey on Oct. 30 at Monsignor Linder Plaza, 233 West Market St., Newark, to celebrate her 20 years of service to the organization. Harvey's last day with New Community was Oct. 31.



EXTENDED CARE HOSTS HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

New Community Extended Care Facility, 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, hosted a Halloween celebration on Oct. 31. Patients and staff members dressed up for the occasion. *Photos courtesy of Julienne Van-Nooten.*



NCC SEEKS FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

The New Community Emergency Food Pantry is seeking volunteers to help with operations. The pantry distributes food on the first Tuesday of each month and on the first business day after the 15th of each month. The pantry is located at 220 Bruce St., Newark. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Anibal Alvelo at 973-639-7043 or aalvelo@newcommunity.org. *Photo courtesy of Anibal Alvelo.*



NCC SECURITY OFFICER ADMINISTERS NARCAN

FROM PAGE 1

demonstrates the dedication and preparedness that our Security team strives for," White said. "She is a valuable asset to our department and deserves to be commended for her heroism."

Williams said she didn't take action that day to receive accolades.

"I don't care about recognition for it," she said. "I did it because they were human and it was the right thing to do."

She said everyone, regardless of their circumstances, deserves help and has families that love them.

"My father was on drugs and I would've wanted someone to do everything in their power to help him if he needed that help before he passed away," she said.

Williams hopes the incident at Commons Senior raises awareness about Narcan and that her fellow Security officers know that it's available to them as a resource and understand the importance of using it when necessary.

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

It's that time of year again — New Year's! A time for celebration, reflection, and ... secretly wanting to pull our hair out. Between planning parties, making resolutions and bracing yourself for Cousin Fred's annual "new year, new me" speech, it's no wonder so many of us find ourselves teetering on the edge of a New Year's meltdown.

Here's the thing: while everyone else is thinking about countdowns, confetti and champagne, the New Year has a funny way of shining a spotlight on our stress. It's as if the universe looked at us and said, "Sure, you're managing OK, but what if we added reflection on your life choices, a splash of societal pressure and a pinch of existential dread? Let's see what happens!"

This year, let's make a pact to start fresh without losing our minds. Here are a few "New Year hacks" to keep your sanity intact:

- 1. Set Boundaries Like a Resolution Rockstar**
It's OK to skip the midnight bash or say no to hosting another gathering if it doesn't feel right for you. Start the year as you mean to go on: by protecting your energy and time. Boundaries are your 2025 superpower — set them boldly, stick to them unapologetically.
- 2. Say 'No' to the Overcommitment Trap**
Contrary to popular belief, saying "no" to yet another New Year's Eve plan doesn't make you a party pooper. It's OK to prioritize quality time with loved ones or even a quiet night in. Sometimes, self-care looks like opting out — and that's perfectly fine.
- 3. Carve Out Time for You**
Resolutions, goal-setting and big dreams are great, but don't forget about one essential thing: downtime. Whether it's a solo walk, a journal session or just zoning out with your favorite playlist, making time for yourself is one resolution worth keeping.
- 4. Laugh Your Way into the New Year**
Let's be real: some of the best New Year's memories come from the chaos. Maybe the fireworks were a dud, the playlist skipped or the countdown was five seconds too late. Laugh it off — it's those imperfect moments that make life interesting (and give you the best stories for next year's party).
- 5. Seek Support When You Need It**
For some, the New Year brings excitement and fresh starts. For others, it can be a tough time filled with reflection, uncertainty or even

loneliness. Remember, it's OK to ask for help. Whether you share your feelings with friends or reach out to a professional, support is always within reach.

So here's to starting the year with joy, a sprinkle of chaos and — most importantly — peace of mind. And remember, if you or

a loved one could use some extra support, we're here to help. Call [Family Service Bureau of Newark \(FSB\)](#) at our Newark office at 973-412-2056 or our Kearny office at 201-246-8077 to talk to someone who can help you navigate this New Year with confidence.

Cheers to 2025 — let's make it a good one!

NEW COMMUNITY

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Wellness Tip
December 2024

Winter Prep
Safety Tips



Prepare your Home

- Check your heating system to ensure it's running properly
- Make sure you have enough heating fuel if applicable
- Check and replace batteries in smoke detectors and CO alarms
- Insulate water line to avoid pipes freezing and/or bursting



Plan for Weather

- Regularly check weather forecasts
- Stock up on non-perishable food and water
- Keep cell phones charged
- Keep shovels and salt/sand handy for clearing snow or icy walkways
- Invest in a generator for when the power goes out



Prepare your Car

- Check your tire treads, install snow or all-terrain tires
- Check and refill antifreeze and windshield washer fluid
- Keep an emergency kit in case you get stranded. Include: first-aid kit, car phone charger, jumper cables, and flash light

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

VISION, DIGNITY, ACHIEVEMENT 5

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: NATALIE GEARY



Natalie Geary works as a mental health clinician at Family Service Bureau of Newark (FSB).

Newark public schools providing in-person counseling services to students. The other two days she spends at the Newark office.

Over the course of her tenure, Geary’s caseload became made up of predominantly children so she was presented with the opportunity to provide services in Newark schools through FSB. She pulls students out of class for 30 to 45 minutes to talk about their week and work on what they need, which can include a range of services from emotional regulation to grief counseling.

Referrals for the students come from the school. Geary said typically a teacher, social worker or member of the child study team refers students who they believe would benefit from the services.

Geary said counseling children requires a

Natalie Geary has been working as a mental health clinician at [Family Service Bureau of Newark \(FSB\)](#) for more than two years. She started as an intern in the Kearny office in January of 2022 and was hired full-time that summer.

Now she works three days a week at

different mindset than adults and it can be challenging to switch between the two groups.

“It’s hard to all of a sudden turn off the switch if you have a client who’s a 50-year-old parent and now all of a sudden you’re talking to an 8-year-old who maybe doesn’t know how to fully tell somebody that they’re sad,” she said.

Geary enjoys working with the children at the Newark schools.

“The kids are phenomenal,” she said. “To go through what they’ve gone through and still have the mindset they have, I feel like that keeps me going through the day. ... They’re just so positive.”

Another favorite part of her job is her coworkers who she said provide words of encouragement and keep her motivated.

“I love everybody that I work with. I think that makes or breaks a job,” she said.

FSB Director Christina Ward said she’s happy to have Geary on the team.

“Natalie brings so much joy to both staff and clients,” Ward said. “Her personality really shines and she’s one of the best clinicians FSB has.”

Geary originally went to school to become an IT professional. She graduated from [Syracuse University](#) with a bachelor of science in information technology. She worked in that field for a couple of years but decided it wasn’t for her. She received a master’s degree in social work from [Fordham University](#) and interned at FSB while still in school. She was happy to land her first job in the field at FSB.

Geary decided to pursue a career in counseling to provide comfort and support to those who might not have it.

“When I see people that maybe don’t have that and feel self-doubt or maybe their self-esteem is very low, I like being that reassurance and that boost to be like you’re on the right track, everything’s going to be OK,” she said.

Geary said that’s relevant not only for children but for many adults who don’t have close family or friends to talk to.

She enjoys the range of clients she has interacted with through FSB.

“The youngest I’ve met with is 6. The oldest I’ve met with is 70. It can be someone who’s anxious, depressed or just lost a loved one,” she said. “You get such a wave of all different people from all different backgrounds and at the end of the day, it’s so easy to feel connected to everybody because the underlying theme there is love. They want that love and that sense of support.”

Geary lives in Rutherford with her boyfriend and in her free time, she enjoys trying new things, whether that be a new restaurant, a new nail salon or exploring a new area on a walk. She encourages everyone, including her clients, to try something new no matter their age.

“There’s never a wrong time to do anything. At any point, try something,” she said. “Because then you can answer your question. Whatever you’re uncertain about, you’re going to have that answer if you try it.”

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: MELVIN JAMES

Melvin James, who has been a resident of Douglas Homes for five years, is a quiet man who enjoys socializing with his neighbors. He is an Air Force veteran who will turn 78 in February.

James grew up in Newark and moved to Irvington later in life. His late grandfather left his mother a house there and he moved in with her to help with the upkeep and expenses. After his mother died, he stayed in the house for a while but it became too taxing, both physically with home maintenance and financially with the taxes and mortgage. He sold the house and moved to Douglas Homes. He was familiar with the New Community building because his aunt lived there before her death.

James enjoys getting to know and socializing with other residents in the building. One of his good friends lives four floors below him and comes to his apartment to keep him company. He also likes the location in downtown Newark.

“You can walk through or ride, whatever your thing is. You’ve got a Whole Foods down the street,” he said. “It’s convenient.”

Douglas Homes Resident Services Coordinator Edris Grosvenor enjoys having James as a resident.

“Mr. James is a quiet individual with a ready smile and kind words. He doesn’t say much but loves to talk about his military days if you get him at a good time,” Grosvenor said. “Mr. James is a pleasure to work with and is one of the most peaceful residents in the building.”

James spent four years in the Air Force during the Vietnam War era maintaining aircraft. He was stationed in Maine for two years and Alaska for another two years.

“I worked in a group that they call SAC, Strategic Air Command,” he said. “They were essential to keeping all the aircraft going to Vietnam and back.”

After his time in the service ended, he worked

a variety of jobs including in a warehouse and for the Post Office.

James has one daughter who lives in Atlanta and a grandson who graduated from Rutgers.

He enjoys listening to jazz music and watching sports on television.

James likes the company of others.

“It’s fun looking at TV in your own house but it’s even more fun when you’re socializing with someone,” he said.



Melvin James has lived at Douglas Homes for five years.

SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS: ATTORNEY FEE CAP INCREASE

BY SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Effective Nov. 30, 2024, there will be an increase to the fee cap representatives can charge for help when you do business with Social Security. The maximum dollar amount for fee agreements approved by Social

Security will increase from **\$7,200** to **\$9,200**.

If a fee agreement is not filed, a representative can submit a fee petition after completing work on your claim(s). We’ll review the value of your representative’s services. We’ll also

let you know the fee your representative is authorized to charge and collect.

For more information, please read our publication, *Your Right to Representation*, at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10075.pdf.

NEW COMMUNITY SENIORS CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING



Members of [Trinity Lodge No. 33](#) visited New Community Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, on Nov. 22 to hand out roasted chickens ahead of Thanksgiving. *Photo courtesy of Anne Moran.*



Residents of Orange Senior, 132 William St., Orange, enjoyed a Thanksgiving celebration on Nov. 22 that included a hot meal.



Congregational Baptist Church, [Sunlight Missionary Baptist Church](#) and Future Scholars Daycare and After School Program sponsored the Elnora Hayes, Rev. Dr. Andre Speight and Lady Shanique Speight Thanksgiving Dinner at Associates on Nov. 26. *Photo courtesy of Anne Moran.*



An Associates resident receives a roasted chicken from a member of Trinity Lounge No. 33 on Nov. 22. *Photo courtesy of Anne Moran.*



Orange Senior celebrated November birthdays during the Thanksgiving celebration on Nov. 22.



Associates residents enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 26 at the sponsored dinner. *Photo courtesy of Anne Moran.*

NCC EARLY LEARNING CENTER HOSTS TRUNK-OR-TREAT

[Community Hills Early Learning Center](#) (CHELC), 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, held a trunk-or-treat in the building parking lot on Oct. 31. Children enjoyed a morning outside getting candy, playing games and dancing to music, all with a harvest theme. [Click here to view more photos.](#)



NCCTI STUDENTS ENJOY HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

[New Community Career & Technical Institute](#) (NCCTI) hosted a Holiday Luncheon for students on Dec. 12. Students and staff members from all programs enjoyed a hot catered lunch and time together ahead of the holidays.



EXTENDED CARE STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF ANTIBIOTIC SAFETY

[New Community Extended Care Facility](#) Administrator Veronica Onwunaka spoke with residents on Nov. 20 during an Antibiotics Stewardship Awareness event about the proper use of antibiotics. She stressed the importance of only taking antibiotics when necessary. *Photo courtesy of Julienne Van-Nooten.* [Click here to watch a video of the event.](#)



FAMILIES ENJOY NCC’S BREAKFAST WITH THE GRINCH

New Community’s Youth Services Department hosted Breakfast with the Grinch on Dec. 14 at the NCC Neighborhood Center, 56-68 Hayes St., Newark. Children and families enjoyed free breakfast, photos with the Grinch and gifts. *Photos courtesy of Youth Services.* [Click here to view more photos.](#)



NEW COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICES HOSTS HALLOWEEN PARTY

More than 200 children came out for the New Community Halloween Party hosted by Youth Services on Oct. 26 at the NCC Neighborhood Center, 56-68 Hayes St., Newark. It was a fun afternoon for families. Children got to dress up in their costumes, participate in games, win prizes, get their face painted, jump in a bounce house and visit a haunted classroom. New Community thanks everyone who participated and thanks [Brick City Candy](#) for donating treats for the event. *Photos courtesy of Youth Services.* [Click here to view more photos.](#)



NCCTI STUDENTS LEARN PHLEBOTOMY

Students in the medical classes at [New Community Career & Technical Institute \(NCCTI\)](#), 274 South Orange Ave., Newark, learn how to properly draw blood during the phlebotomy portion of their courses. NCCTI offers two medical programs: Medical Assistant Clinical (MAC) and Patient Care Technician (PCT). *Photos courtesy of Chanda Webb.*

Photo at left: Patient Care Technician instructor Dr. Ehab Salib shows his students the proper technique for drawing blood during a phlebotomy lab session.

Photo at right: A Medical Assistant Clinical student practices drawing blood during a phlebotomy lab session.



EXTENDED CARE HOSTS BLACK AND WHITE AFFAIR

New Community Extended Care Facility’s Recreation Department hosted a black and white affair on Oct. 25, celebrating Friday Dining in style with live music. *Photos courtesy of Julienne Van-Nooten.* [Click here to view more photos.](#)



NCC EXTENDED CARE HONORS VETERANS



New Community Extended Care Facility celebrated Veterans Day on Nov. 11 and honored residents Leroy Johnson and Lee Walter for their service. The facility thanks all of the veterans who have helped protect our freedom. We are very grateful for your service. *Photo courtesy of Julienne Van-Nooten.*