

not immediately available.

Walks will also take place Sunday in Pennsauken and Edison.

Dierdre McGuinness, a senior director with the American Cancer Society, said walkers turned out from "the whole Newark community."

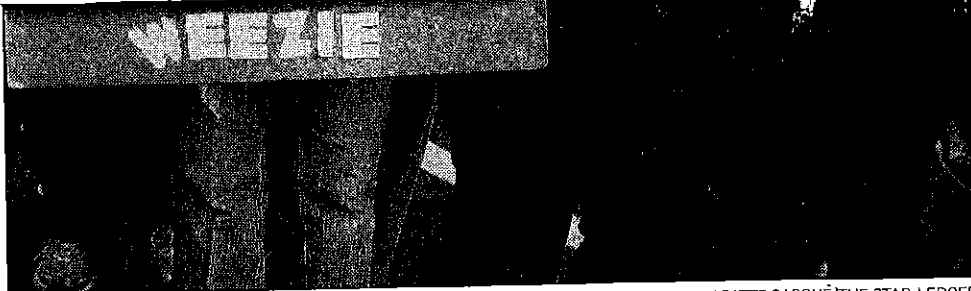
"We had over 200 (cancer) survivors, their family members, a lot of faith-based teams, as well as people who work together, neighbors," McGuinness said.

There were 6,960 cases of breast cancer diagnosed in New Jersey last year, according to the American Cancer Society. Half of the women who learned they had breast cancer turned to the society for help and support.

McGuinness said the participation of breast cancer survivors is invaluable.

"They're an inspiration for all of those people," McGuinness said. "I have several close friends who because of early detection are here today."

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PHOTOS BY PATTI SAPONE/THE STAR-LEDGER



Above, walkers participate in the 14th annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer march yesterday in Newark. At left, Ebony Ferguson, 8, one of the Brick City Lions cheerleaders, wears the breast cancer pink ribbon symbol painted on her face during the walk.

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## Seniors now enjoy their golden years where Catholic nuns once resided

By Linda Moss  
THE RECORD

The rooms at the former convent at St. Peter the Apostle parish in River Edge aren't big, but 88-year-old Rosemarie Rohlfs has made hers quite cozy. She has put down floral rugs, and brought in her grandmother's wood bureau. There's a large, comfy tan recliner facing a small flatscreen TV, which sits atop a pint-sized refrigerator.

There's a sink and a medicine cabinet by Rohlfs' door, where a Halloween decoration hangs. And her welcome mat reads "Live Laugh Love."

Rohlfs, a former New Milford resident, is among the first eight people to move into the Senior Residence at St. Peter the Apostle, a 24-unit facility that some see as a model for affordable housing for the elderly — not just in New Jersey, but nationally. The goal is to create safe, homey, non-institutional housing — and provide companionship — for the elderly at more reasonable rates than traditional nursing homes or assisted-living

facilities. The idea is to fill the housing gap between seniors living alone and having to move to assisted living.

There was a ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday for the renovated convent. The non-profit, Metuchen-based Build with Purpose has worked with the Archdiocese of Newark and St. Peter's to transform the former convent.

Following a Mass at St. Peter's, the Rev. Michael Sheehan Sheehan told parishioners that Build with Purpose "was working for justice in many ways, providing it not only here but in many places in the archdiocese by renovating some of the old buildings that we have."

The River Edge convent, built in 1952, was vacated by nuns in 2000. It was briefly used for senior housing, and as offices and adult day care for Catholic Charities. But by 2012, it was vacant again.

The monthly cost for someone at the Senior Residence is \$1,900, said Build with Purpose Director and Chief Executive Keith Timko.

Residents have their own bedrooms, but must share a bathroom. Three meals a day are served. While there is staff on-site 24/7, there is no specialized medical care.

One doesn't have to be Catholic to qualify for the residence, but should be 62 and older, Timko said.

Rohlfs said she had been living with her son and daughter-in-law but was looking for more of an opportunity to socialize. "This way I could talk to more people and do things; otherwise I just sat there," she said.

Sitting in the sunroom, former bus driver Charles Mackey, 91, said he left a large apartment in Little Ferry after his female companion of 42 years died.

Lucien Bonte, 95, said he moved back to New Jersey from Sun City, Ariz. "My wife passed away and the kids want me here," he said.

Arnold Ackerman, 86, said he left a Wyckoff apartment to come to The Residence.

"It's something I can afford," he said.



Luther Taylor of Somerville enjoys his meal held a spaghetti dinner Saturday, with proce

## Students host dinner

By Ed Murray  
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Immaculata High School students served dinner so others can be served.

Students' donations funded a spaghetti dinner Saturday night, and as volunteers cooked, students provided table-side dinner service for attendees.

All money raised went to benefit the Samaritan Homeless

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