



ShopRite Associate Carolyn Evans

Carolyn Evans was flipping through the newspaper one day when she came across a familiar name and face. It turned out to be one of her customers from the Hillside ShopRite.

“I found out that she passed away,” said Evans. “I was kind of upset. You really get to know people and they get

to know you.”

Evans has been employed at the Hillside ShopRite on Route 22 West in Hillside since June of 2008. She is a graduate of New Community’s Partners in Training/ShopRite Training Program, which trains welfare recipients for jobs at one of 13 ShopRite stores throughout Northern New Jersey.

The training takes place in a simulated mini ShopRite supermarket in Newark where the shelves are stocked with non-perishable goods. This training center, which is owned and operated by New Community, is where the students—who are called Associates—learn how to operate ShopRite’s latest computerized cash register and how to conduct transactions involving everything from personal checks to food stamps.

“At first I thought it would be hard, but once I put my mind to it and asked a lot of questions, it turned out to be fairly easy,” said Evans, 45, the mother of two grown children.

Managers seem to love graduates of the New Community program, as they require only minimal instruction once they get to the store.

“She’s very good,” said Tyrone Riley, a front end supervisor at the Hillside ShopRite. “She never complains and is always on time.”

Evans said she simply loves her work and notes that no two days are the same.

“I love interacting with the people,” she said. “It’s something different everyday.”

Yes, there are challenging customers from time to time, but Evans said she has learned to “turn the other cheek.”

“I bite my tongue. Some people can try to push your buttons, but it’s best not to say anything,” she said.

Most customers, she insists, are “lovely” and are the reason she enjoys coming to work everyday.

“When I got this opportunity and got the job, I was very happy. “I’m still happy.”