

# 2007 New Jersey State Jefferson Awards



## SALUTE YOUR 2007 AWARDS HONOREE, ALMA D. CLAY

NOMINATED BY JEWELL SMITH



From left: Nominator Jewell Smith and medalist Alma Clay



From left: George Arwady, Publisher of the Star-Ledger, medalist Alma Clay, and Sam Beard, co-founder of the Jefferson Awards

### Do you know someone who makes a difference in your community?

If you do, then nominate them for the prestigious Jefferson Award by visiting [www.nj.com/jeffersonawards](http://www.nj.com/jeffersonawards)

Jefferson Awards honor ordinary people who, through public service, do extraordinary things for other people, their community, their nation, or the environment.

Alma Clay retired in Orange, New Jersey with a dream. During her employment her heart and thoughts were with the children. She was a former welfare recipient and remembered how hard it was to find daycare for her seven children as she worked toward improving her life. So what else would her dream be but to organize a free after school program in the fellowship hall of her church for the community? The program was not just babysitting, but offers a full range of services, such as tutoring and lectures needed for young people. She not only helps the children, but she assists the parents in many ways; sometimes just by inviting them to church. She operates this program on a wing and a prayer. Alma solicits donations anywhere she can, often using her own monies for snacks and supplies. When she received a donation in December, she took the children to New Jersey Performing Arts Center to introduce most to a culture they had never experienced. "Bethel Safe Haven", as she named her program, is truly making a difference in the Township of Orange. Her thought is "If I can save one child from the streets, it's worth everything I do."