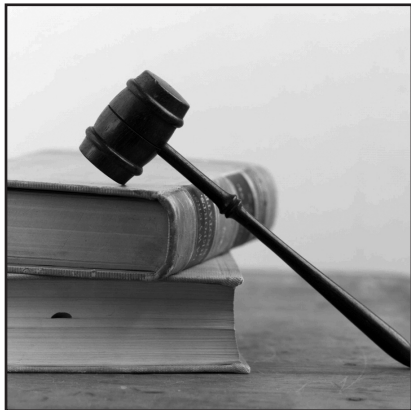


● SUCCESS STORY

SeniorLAW Center

SeniorLAW Center protects the legal rights of older Pennsylvanians. Founded 30 years ago as "Judicare," SeniorLAW Center now serves 10,000 seniors each year with individual legal representation, legal advice, information and referral, community legal education and training, and advocacy. An independent nonprofit organization, SeniorLAW Center helps seniors 60 and older throughout Philadelphia. Through its Pennsylvania SeniorLAW HelpLine, it serves seniors in all 67 counties of Pennsylvania. All of the center's services are free.



SeniorLAW Center's many projects and programs enable elders to remain in their homes and communities; live free from abuse; plan for their future health care; maintain their independence; and improve the safety and quality of their lives. Without the benefit of a legal advocate, many older adults routinely face the loss of their most important rights and cannot meet basic needs. SeniorLAW Center provides an advocate; access to justice; and empowering education, information, and resources to protect the rights of older persons.

The center's legal staff includes nine attorneys and four legal advocates. Together, they have well over 100 years' combined experience representing and advocating for seniors and low-income individuals and families.

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EMERGENCY FUND COALITION BULLETIN

News and resources for those serving emergency needs of older Philadelphians

SUMMER 2009

Emergency Fund Luncheon Friday, June 5 Highlights 20th Anniversary of the Coalition

The Emergency Fund Coalition for Older Philadelphians will celebrate its 20th anniversary and honor those who serve seniors in crisis at its annual luncheon and silent auction fundraiser on Friday, June 5. Glenn "Hurricane" Schwartz, chief meteorologist at NBC 10, hosts the event, which benefits the Emergency Fund for Older Philadelphians. It will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Hilton Philadelphia Airport, 4509 Island Avenue in Philadelphia. Charles Brown, director of the In-Home Support Program at Philadelphia Senior Center, is event chairman.

Awards will be presented to Geneva A. Black, executive director of Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults and one of the founding members of the coalition; and to the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger. Also

being honored are long-time luncheon sponsors AARP, the Albert Einstein HealthCare Network (Premier Years Program), Independence Blue Cross and PECO. Pennsylvania Secretary of Aging John Michael Hall will attend and make remarks. The Philadelphia Workmen's Circle Chorus will provide entertainment.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$40 each for persons under age 60 and \$35 for persons age 60 and over. For more information contact PCA's Community Relations Director Rick Spector at 215-765-9000, ext. 4247 or email

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● DEAR READER

The 2009 annual fundraising luncheon for the Emergency Fund takes place on Friday, June 5 at the Hilton Philadelphia Airport. The Emergency Fund Coalition for Older Philadelphians was formed in 1989, so this is a special year for the coalition as we celebrate our 20th anniversary. The coalition's original mission of providing direct financial assistance to older people with critical needs remains the same and just as important today.

The first Emergency Fund luncheon and raffle event was held November, 1991. It resulted from a challenge made by the W.W. Smith Charitable Trusts that the coalition raise \$10,000 before applying for a grant the following year. Sultan Ahmad, then of the Mayor's Office of Community Services, was the first coalition chairperson. Geneva A. Black, executive director of Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults, was the first luncheon chairperson and the second coalition chairperson. Both Ms. Black and the Haddington center are still active in the coalition today.

As we well know, the need to assist low-income seniors with basic needs remains very strong. Although the cost of fuel oil is less than it was a year ago, it still absorbs a disproportionate share of many senior budgets. The costs of food, medications, and health care all continue to rise. Our ability to provide emergency financial assistance to the vulnerable elderly on fixed incomes is so vitally important.

In other important news, at our January meeting, Inter Community Action, Inc. became an official member of the coalition. We welcome this new addition. Now our coalition has 21 active member agencies.

Thanks in advance for your support of our 20th anniversary luncheon. We also thank you for your support of the April 11 Walk Against Hunger. The coalition, which walked as Team 6, raised much-needed dollars for the Emergency Food Fund.

For more information about the coalition and our events, please call 215-765-9000, ext. 4247. ●

Sincerely,

Barbara Russell
Lutheran Children and Family Service

Susan Hoffman
JCC's Stiffel Senior Center

Social Security Administration Warns of Scams Targeting Special Recovery Payments

The Social Security Administration warns that scammers may target the one-time economic recovery payments being issued to eligible Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries by offering to “help” them obtain these payments. The \$250 payments, mandated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will be issued automatically during May. There are no special requests to make, no applications to complete, no emails to respond to, and no fees necessary to obtain them.

Professionals who work with Social Security and SSI beneficiaries and/or their representatives are urged to alert them about potential scams, which may include email “phishing” for beneficiaries’ information and attempts to intercept their recovery payments.

Allegations of fraud should be reported to Social Security’s Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at www.socialsecurity.gov/oig or by calling the fraud hotline at 1-800-269-0271 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST.

Success Story (continued)

The center’s many innovative program and projects include six community legal clinics at neighborhood sites; bilingual/bicultural services in Cantonese, Mandarin and Spanish and for other immigrant elders; home and hospital visits to help resolve legal issues for those who can’t come to the center; programs for seniors in hospice, for older homeowners and tenants, and for victims of abuse and financial exploitation.

Clients can access SeniorLAW Center by calling the intake line at 215-988-1242 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays. They also can go to the agency’s center city office, located at the Land Title Building, 100 South Broad Street, for walk-in intake Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. In addition, SeniorLAW Center offers services directly at its community legal clinics on specified dates and times each month.

For more information, visit www.seniorlaw-center.org or call the SeniorLAW HelpLine at 1-877-PA-SR-LAW. ●

Emergency Fund Luncheon (continued)

rspector@pcaphl.org. The deadline to purchase tickets is May 22.

Coordinated by Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA), the Emergency Fund is a crisis assistance program for low-income older Philadelphians. Applicants for Emergency Fund aid must be Philadelphia residents age 60 and over, whose income is 175% of poverty and who have exhausted other resources for assistance. Referrals for assistance must be made by a recognized social service agency or a member of the clergy. During fiscal year 2008, the fund served 1,718 households and provided more than \$292,000 in assistance for energy/utilities, food, rent/mortgage payments, and general needs, such as medical expenses. ●

● CASE STUDY: SeniorLAW Center

Submitted by: Bryan Liberona

Last winter, SeniorLAW Center received a desperate call from Mrs. A., a 70-year-old woman from Northeast Philadelphia. A native of Italy, she was injured and alone. She confided that she was behind on her mortgage as the result of a predatory loan and was in danger of foreclosure. Mrs. A. was also facing a lawsuit because she was unable to pay medical bills incurred as the result of a fall. She was living solely on \$700 a month in Social Security benefits.

Before SeniorLAW Center could deal with any of these complex legal problems, the center had to address an immediate need: Mrs. A. was hungry. She had turned all of her Social Security earnings over to her mortgage

company in a desperate bid to save her home and was left with no money for food. Legal Advocate Bryan Liberona turned to the Emergency Fund for help in this situation. Mrs. A. received immediate assistance from the fund, enabling her to purchase more groceries than she had in months.

With the help of SeniorLAW Center, she was eventually able to keep her home and negotiate down her debts. Through the combined legal and emergency financial assistance provided to her at a desperate time, Mrs. A.’s immediate and more long-term needs have been successfully resolved. A great partnership of services! ●

● EFC MEMBERS

- AGAPE AFRICAN SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER
-
- ALBERT EINSTEIN MEDICAL CENTER
-
- CAMBODIAN AMERICAN SENIOR ASSOCIATION
-
- CENTER FOR ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE ELDERLY (CARIE)
-
- CENTER IN THE PARK
-
- THE CONSORTIUM, INC.
-
- GREATER PHILADELPHIA OVERSEAS CHINESE ASSOCIATION
-
- HADDINGTON MULTI-SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS, INC.
-
- INTERCOMMUNITY ACTION, INC.
-
- KLEIN AND STIFFEL JCC’S
-
- JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICE OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA
-
- LIBERTY LUTHERAN SERVICES/LUTHERAN CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE
-
- MAYOR’S COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING
-
- NORTH CITY CONGRESS
-
- PHILADELPHIA CORPORATION FOR AGING (PCA)
-
- PHILADELPHIA SENIOR CENTER
-
- PHILIP JAISSOHN MEMORIAL CENTER
-
- POLISH AMERICAN SOCIAL SERVICES
-
- THE SALVATION ARMY
-
- SENIORLAW CENTER
-
- UTILITY EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND