

The Philadelphia Foundation Makes \$120,000 Grant to Emergency Fund

A \$120,000 grant from The Philadelphia Foundation will help keep PCA's Emergency Fund in operation in the coming months when it is most needed. The Philadelphia Foundation gift, presented in early January, is the largest gift to the Emergency Fund in more than 25 years, according to PCA President Rodney D. Williams. "In human terms, it means that more than 1,000 low-income elders can afford to heat their homes, put food on the table and pay for medicine and other critical needs," he said.

The support came in part through a fund created at the foundation through resources set aside in a 1925 will to provide free coal to the poor. An appeal to The Philadelphia Foundation's current donors generated additional support for the Emergency Fund grant. Outreach to donors is ongoing, foundation officials say.

Williams noted that the Emergency Fund faces ongoing challenges to make sure sufficient funds continue to be available year-round. "During these difficult economic times, contributions are still needed to help make a difference in the months ahead for our most vulnerable citizens," he said.

• SUCCESS STORY: Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS)

JFCS provides quality social and community services across the life spectrum to enhance the lives of families, children and individuals. Guided by Jewish values, the services are available to all in the Greater Philadelphia region.



The Senior Services department of JFCS provides services that enable older persons to maintain maximum personal

independence within their community. These services include social work

continued on back page

EMERGENCY FUND COALITION BULLETIN

News and resources for those serving emergency needs of older Philadelphians | WINTER 2011

• Dear Reader



Philadelphia Corporation for Aging's Emergency Fund is totally dependent on private resources for its existence, and the deep recession has really hurt its stability. Consequently, the fund has temporarily limited the amount of money distributed to both individuals and couples. Requests are always pre-screened by social workers or clergy to assure that the Emergency Fund is tapped only as a last resort. Funds are going out as fast as they are coming in.

The "Keep Seniors Warm" campaign, www.keepteniorswarm.org, is in full swing to remind us about the terrible dilemma many elderly must face in choosing whether to spend their limited dollars on heat, food or medicine. The response to requests for help has been heartening.

In particular, a \$120,000 grant from The Philadelphia Foundation will make a real difference in keeping the fund going this year. PCA's 2010 M. Powell Lawton Conference on Urban Aging, held November 8, raised more than \$28,000 to benefit the Emergency Fund. In addition, a telethon held at CBS 3 TV on December 29 raised more than \$10,000 to benefit the fund. Individuals have also made a generous response to a direct mail campaign and public service announcements running on CBS 3. Keep in mind that the fund distributed more than \$280,000 last fiscal year and that demand this year is already up 9 percent from the year before.

To keep support for the Emergency Fund going year round, the coalition has started planning its 2011 fundraisers, including participation in the April 9 Walk Against Hunger and its annual Emergency Fund Luncheon on Friday, June 3.

If you would like to help replenish Emergency Fund resources, visit www.pcaCares.org or send your contribution to The Emergency Fund, c/o PCA, Planning Department, 642 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130.

In other news, the Emergency Fund Coalition for Older Philadelphians presented its third annual Winter Resources Training on November 17 to educate aging system community workers about governmental and private services to help seniors to "weather winter's worst."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Brown".

Charles Brown, Emergency Fund Coalition Chair
Philadelphia Senior Center

Save the Date:
Friday, June 3
Emergency Fund
Luncheon

Jewish Family and Children's Service Success Story (continued)

assessments, home visits, ongoing care management, home care, home-delivered meals, transportation for shopping, and respite service for caregivers. Social workers are available to assist with questions regarding public entitlements and financial management issues. JFCS Senior Services also assists persons who need to find quality assisted living and nursing home placement.

JFCS coordinates Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) in the Northeast and Wynnefield Heights neighborhoods and also provides assistance to Holocaust survivors. The agency has offices throughout Greater Philadelphia, with social workers available to see clients either in one of our offices or in the client's home. Fees depend on the type of services provided, and subsidies for services are determined according to need.

For more information:
1-866-JFCS-NOW
e-mail: info@jfcsp Philly.org
www.jfcsp Philly.org

Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia partners with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

● CASE STUDY

PACIFIC RIM RESOURCE CENTER

(Submitted by: Thuy Dinh, Resource Counselor)

PCA's Emergency Fund for Older Philadelphians has helped many of our senior citizens with assistance to pay for food, utilities, and other critical needs. Assistance provided through the Emergency Fund has helped these consumers get through difficult financial times in their lives.

It was of great help to Mr. T., a 65-year-old Vietnamese immigrant who speaks very little English. Mr. T. has no family in the United States and is quite isolated. His only family here had been his mother, who sponsored him to come to this country. Sadly, she passed away shortly after his arrival.

Mr. T. was referred to the Pacific Rim Resource Center (PRRC), an Emergency Fund Coalition member agency that provides case management services to the Asian community. The elderly man did not have any income aside from the little amount of money that he received in cash assistance through the state's Department of Public Welfare. It was barely enough to cover his monthly rent. However, he did not then qualify for food stamps due to his residency status. He often needed to ask his friend to share food. There were times he did not eat because he could not afford to pay for food or had no one to share food with him.

After hearing about Mr. T.'s financial difficulties, PRRC referred him for Emergency Fund assistance. Through the fund, he received a supermarket voucher enabling him to purchase groceries. Without that aid, Mr. T. might have starved. Instead, he was able to receive help to provide for his nutritional needs.

● EFC MEMBERS

AGAPE AFRICAN SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER
•
ALBERT EINSTEIN MEDICAL CENTER
•
CENTER AT JOURNEY'S WAY
•
CENTER FOR ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHT AND INTERESTS OF THE ELDERLY (CARIE)
•
THE CONSORTIUM, INC.
•
HADDINGTON MULTI-SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS, INC.
•
HEALTHY CAREGIVER FOUNDATION
•
JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA
•
KLEIN AND STIFFEL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
•
LIBERTY LUTHERAN SERVICES/ LUTHERAN CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE
•
MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING
•
NEWCOURTLAND
•
NORTH CENTRAL VICTIM SERVICES
•
NORTH CITY CONGRESS
•
PACIFIC RIM RESOURCE CENTER
•
PHILADELPHIA CORPORATION FOR AGING (PCA)
•
PHILADELPHIA SENIOR CENTER
•
PHILIP JAIHOHN MEMORIAL CENTER
•
POLISH AMERICAN SOCIAL SERVICES
•
THE SALVATION ARMY
•
SENIORLAW CENTER
•
UTILITY EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND

Fast Facts about the Emergency Fund

- There are more than 100,000 seniors living in poverty in Philadelphia.
- Last year the Emergency Fund helped almost 2,000 low-income senior households (up 16% from the prior year).
- Last year, the Emergency Fund disbursed more than \$280,000 in aid to cover basic necessities, such as food, medicine and fuel. This was an increase of 30% from the prior year, primarily due to the increased cost of fuel.
- The largest percentage, approximately 51%, was used for fuel assistance; 20% was used for food and 29% for general needs, including prescriptions, eyeglasses, home repairs, clothes, hearing aids, etc.
- 73% of seniors who received assistance were women; 83% were minority elders. All lived at or below 175% of poverty.
- Each oil delivery currently costs \$300 due to rising costs and vendor order minimums. Therefore, the fund can easily distribute \$1,500 or more in one day in winter if five requests come in.
- Since the inception of the Emergency Fund in 1979, more than 19,000 households have received assistance totaling more than \$2 million.
- PCA administers the fund at no cost, so 100% of all donations go to help those in need.