

## • SUCCESS STORY:

Senior Helpers Philadelphia

An Emergency Fund Coalition Member

Firsthand experience in caring for family members led Tony Bonacuse and Peter Ross to found Senior Helpers. Bonacuse opened the first Senior Helpers office in Baltimore, Maryland in 2002. The Baltimore location was a success, and it was evident that other locations could be too. Expansion began in 2004 and currently there are more than 300 offices nationally. There are also offices in Australia and Canada.

Senior Helpers Philadelphia is a non-medical home care agency licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and contracted under the Veterans Administration Medical Centers in Philadelphia and Coatesville, Pennsylvania. The agency specializes in providing professional caregivers to help care for individuals aged 18 and older. The Philadelphia office is owned and operated by Darlene Murphy, a Philadelphian who has operated this office for the last five years.

The following services are offered:

- **Companion Care:** For the basic level of care, caregivers provide services such as light housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation, medication reminders and companionship
- **Personal Care:** For the advanced level of care, professional and experienced caregivers provide activities of daily living services such as bathing, dressing, grooming and toileting.
- **Live-in Care:** Caregivers are ready to provide 24-hour coverage.
- **Peace of Mind Visits:** A short visit each day can help clients with, among other things, bathing assistance, transferring and meal preparation.
- **Sitter Assistance:** Caregivers monitor clients in hospitals, assisted living centers, nursing homes, senior centers and other locations, when the family cannot.
- **Respite Care:** Caregivers will assist families during vacations and provide relief for primary caregivers.

continued on back page

# EMERGENCY FUND COALITION BULLETIN

News and resources for those serving emergency needs of older Philadelphians | SUMMER 2016

## • Dear Reader

"I can't believe I have a shut off notice." "When I was so sick, I really got behind." "I'm so embarrassed. I have always paid my bills on time." "Can they really help me?" "Thank God for the Emergency Fund."

Staff of our agencies have heard each of these statements more than once, which is why we are such strong supporters of the Emergency Fund. We know firsthand the difference the Emergency Fund makes for low-income older Philadelphians. That's why it is so important that we participate in events like the Walk Against Hunger and the Annual Luncheon.

Our 27<sup>th</sup> annual Emergency Fund Luncheon and Rose Epstein Silent Auction fundraiser was held on Thursday, June 16, at Cannstatter's in Northeast Philadelphia. This event, the coalition's major fundraiser of the year, brought in nearly \$30,000. 6abc's Art of Aging series received the Bright Star of Aging Award. Community Service awards were presented to Roberta Balsam of the Unitarian Universalist House Outreach Program; Dr. Carl Boyd of Janes United Methodist Church; and Lisa Toll of the Jewish Relief Agency. Mindy Mozenter of Home Instead Senior Care returned as our host and the Liberian Women's Chorus for Change provided lively entertainment! Many thanks to everyone who contributed time, money and auction items for this important event.

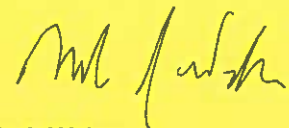
We also wish to thank everyone who participated in the Thomas' Walk Against Hunger on Saturday, April 9 and/or sponsored a member of the coalition's team. The event raised \$4,864 to provide Emergency Fund food assistance. While it may seem odd to think about cold weather now, it's time to save the date for the coalition's annual Winter Resources Training, set for Thursday, November 10 at PCA. As in years past, this event will use a "train-the-trainer" approach. Attendees will learn from experts about programs and resources to help older adults cope with the challenges of the winter season.

On behalf of the coalition, we are pleased to welcome Salus Health as our newest member. ("Salus" is Latin for safety and welfare.) This home health care agency serves 130 consumers in Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware Counties. We also want to express our appreciation to the many PCA staff members who are involved in administering and supporting the Emergency Fund.

Sincerely,



Mary J. Fallon,  
Emergency Fund Coalition Co-Chair  
Executive Director  
Unitarian Universalist House  
Outreach Program



Mark Weber,  
Emergency Fund Coalition Co-Chair  
Center Counselor  
Center at Journey's Way

• **Wellness Watch:** If the individual does not need daily home care, but needs someone for safety reasons, Senior Helpers will make a weekly phone call and a semi-monthly visit. A monthly progress report is also provided.

Senior Helpers Philadelphia is committed to community service to benefit seniors. In addition to participation in the Emergency Fund Coalition for Older Philadelphians, the agency hosts free workshops on various topics in senior centers and senior housing facilities to help improve the lives of seniors in our communities.

Senior Helpers accepts the following Medicaid waivers: Aging, Independence and Attendant/ACT150.

For more information:  
Senior Helpers Philadelphia  
7600 Stenton Avenue, Suite 1B  
Philadelphia, PA 19118  
215-242-2221 (24-hour call center)

[www.seniorhelpers.com/philadelphian](http://www.seniorhelpers.com/philadelphian)  
Office Hours, Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## • CASE STUDY

### Old City Presbyterian Apartments

(Submitted by Tamika Stroman, service coordinator)

A resident came to me and asked for some assistance with moving some of her furniture and other personal belongings from her apartment. The resident is 76 years of age and on a fixed income of less than \$900 a month. Her apartment was cluttered and was a potential hazard. She said she was unable to pay anyone to help with removing those things from her apartment. I contacted her daughters. They were willing to assist with putting her belongings in storage, but moving the items was still an issue.

I sent a referral request to the PCA Emergency Fund for \$100 to pay for the moving and hauling service. The request was approved, and the resident was able to downsize the amount of furniture and personal belongs in her apartment. It became manageable for work to be done in the apartment and comfortable to get around.

My process in applying to the Emergency Fund for the resident was not at all difficult. The contact person at the PCA Helpline was polite as she screened the referral application for eligibility. I recommend seeking help from the Emergency Fund program at PCA. The Helpline staff made me feel like they cared about the safety and well-being of this resident.

## Free produce vouchers available to low-income seniors, starting July 11

Nearly 32,000 Philadelphia seniors skip meals due to lack of money. Food programs, like the annual Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), help to address this need. Each summer since 2000, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) has distributed \$20 worth of SFMNP produce vouchers to more than 36,000 seniors. Distribution this summer begins on Monday, July 11 and continues while supplies last. Eligible Philadelphia seniors may receive the vouchers once per year and use them to purchase seasonal Pennsylvania-grown produce at close to 60 certified farmers' markets throughout the Philadelphia.

### Distribution sites

- PCA, 642 N. Broad St., weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Reading Terminal Market, 12<sup>th</sup> & Arch Sts., July 19 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Share Food Program, 2901 W. Hunting Park, July 21 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and July 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Senior Community Centers (dates and times vary)

Both the Reading Terminal Market and Share Food Program also accept SFMNP vouchers.

### Eligibility

In order to receive the vouchers, seniors must be an income-eligible Philadelphia resident who will be age 60 or older by the end of the year. The 2016 household income limits are \$21,978 for an individual, \$29,637 for couples, \$37,296 for three people and \$44,955 for four people. (Proof of age and residency is required; income test is self-declaratory.)

For more information, including distribution sites and farmers' markets that accept the SFMNP produce vouchers, call the PCA Helpline at 215-765-9040. The vouchers, made available through funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, must be used by November 30, 2016.

## • EFC MEMBERS

- BAYADA HOME HEALTH CARE
- BETTER HOME CARE, LLC
- CENTER FOR ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE ELDERLY (CARIE)
- CLARIFI
- EINSTEIN MEDICAL CENTER
- FEDERATION HOUSING, INC.
- HEALTHY CAREGIVER FOUNDATION
- HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE
- INTERCOMMUNITY ACTION (CENTER AT JOURNEY'S WAY)
- JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA
- KLEINLIFE
- LIBERTY LUTHERAN SERVICES/ LUTHERAN CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE
- MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON AGING
- NEWCOURTLAND
- NORTH CITY CONGRESS
- PHILADELPHIA CORPORATION FOR AGING
- PHILADELPHIA SENIOR CENTER
- PHILIP JAISSON MEMORIAL CENTER
- POLISH AMERICAN SOCIAL SERVICES
- SALUS HEALTH
- SENIORLAW CENTER
- SENIOR HELPERS PHILADELPHIA
- UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HOUSE OUTREACH PROGRAM
- UTILITY EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND