Dear Reader

Our 26th annual Emergency Fund Luncheon and Rose Epstein Silent Auction was held on June 4 at Cannstatter’s Catering in Northeast Philadelphia. This event, which is the Emergency Fund Coalition’s major fundraiser, brought in $28,000 to benefit the fund – the largest amount ever raised! Pioneering geriatric podiatrist Arthur Helfand, who is the PCA board vice chair, was honored with the Bright Star of Aging Award for his work assisting and advocating for older adults on matters of proper foot health. In addition, Community Service Awards were presented to Hanna Do, outreach worker with the Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Coalition (SEAMAAC); Rev. John Jallah, executive director of the Agape African Senior Citizens Center; and Rev. Angela Lundy, founder and CEO of Interfaith Specialty Services, Inc.

Mindy Mozenter, director of community outreach for Home Instead Senior Care, returned as host. Student violinist Abigail Fayette of the Curtis Institute of Music provided tuneful entertainment.

Thanks to all who participated in the Walk + Run Against Hunger on April 11 and to those who sponsored a member of the coalition’s team. The event raised $5,153 to provide Emergency Fund food assistance. These dollars will help a great deal during the year ahead as many low-income seniors struggle with the difficult decision of whether to “heat or eat.”

While it might be difficult 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 5 at PCA. Using a “train-the-trainer” model, this event offers a great opportunity to get the latest information from experts about programs and resources to help seniors cope with the winter season.

The coalition welcomes the Unitarian Universalist House Outreach Program as its newest member. The program assists older adults in Northwest Philadelphia neighborhoods to age safely in their homes through support and connection to resources. Mary Fallon, the organization’s founder and director, is a 2014 Emergency Fund Community Service Award recipient and has many years of excellent experience administering programs and aiding seniors.

Sincerely,

Mark Weber, Emergency Fund Coalition Chair
Center Counselor
The Center at Journey’s Way
for older adults who are temporarily homebound. The Active Adult Life program there operates Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information: 215-698-7300.

KleinLife also provides the Active Adult Life program at these satellite sites:
KleinLife: Rhawnhurst (Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), 2101 Strahle St., 215-745-3127.
KleinLife: Center City (Fridays only, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.), 2100 Arch St., 215-832-0539.
KleinLife: Montgomery County (Tuesday through Thursday, 9:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.), 7763 Old York Rd. in Elkins Park, 215-635-5244.

For more information, call the location or visit www.kleinlife.org

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**CASE STUDY**

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA)
(Submitted by: Bridget Schoen, service coordinator, PCA Caregiver Support Program)

Mrs. A resides in a large home with her husband and adult daughter. The couple’s income is very low, making it difficult to pay their monthly bills. Their daughter is unemployed and unable to assist them financially.

I received a call requesting assistance to help the family with heat last winter. The household had less than a quarter tank of oil and had depleted LIHEAP and Crisis assistance funds. Due to the extreme cold of this past winter, the family needed to purchase oil every 10 days. The average cost to fill their oil tank was $300.

I referred the family to PCA's Emergency Fund because other community resources had been exhausted. The fund paid for a much-needed tank of oil. Mrs. A expressed how grateful she was for this Emergency Fund assistance, which helped her family stay warm during the past winter.

**Annual produce voucher distribution underway**

PCA began distributing Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (SFMPN) produce vouchers on July 6 and will continue while supplies last. This annual program encourages older adults to include fresh fruits and vegetables in their diet. Eligible Philadelphia seniors may receive $20 worth of produce vouchers, once per year, that can be used to purchase seasonal Pennsylvania-grown produce at certified famers’ markets throughout Philadelphia. The vouchers are distributed at PCA, 642 N. Broad St., on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and at other sites throughout the city.

To qualify, recipients must be income-eligible Philadelphia residents who will be age 60 or older by the end of the year. The 2015 household income limits are $21,775 for individual, $29,471 for couples, $37,167 for three people and $44,863 for four people. (Proof of age and residency is required; income test is self-declaratory.) In 2014, 36,750 older Philadelphiaans received the vouchers. The program seeks to serve the same number of people this year.

For more information, including distribution sites and famers' markets that accept the 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, 2015.