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UNITY

PCA's 2021 "*Inspirations in Aging*"
Virtual Gala, presented by
Gateway Health

November 18, 2021 • 5-6 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY

RESILIENCE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to PCA's 2021 Virtual Gala! We are excited that you can join us tonight and thank you for your continued support. Our annual gala is vital to raising much needed funds for the Rodney D. Williams Philadelphia Fund for Seniors, which supports the ongoing and growing needs of older Philadelphians and adults with disabilities living in Philadelphia.

The perseverance and strength of PCA consumers, community partners, donors, members of the aging network, and our staff are highlighted this evening to recognize all that we have accomplished together. Goodwill has been in no short supply these last two years and despite the many challenges, we have witnessed some amazing examples of humanity at its greatest and "Inspirations in Aging." We have all witnessed these genuine acts of individuals going "above and beyond," including those who work around the clock to ensure that no family goes hungry despite job loss and economic hardship. We keep the faith that we will all be stronger, individually and together, after this experience.

At PCA, we are unified in the motto "teamwork makes the dream work." The accomplishments of our organization are a direct reflection of PCA staff's commitment and dedication to our mission. Whether providing services directly or indirectly to consumers, or working behind the scenes to support PCA operations, each PCA staff member has played a part in keeping services on track and connecting PCA to the older adults who need us.

Tonight, we recognize the resilience, strength, and vibrancy of our Philadelphia communities. We also express gratitude to our supporters as we look purposefully toward the future, confident in our continued provision of meaningful aging services for older Philadelphians. Thank you, once again, for your unwavering support. We could not do this work without you. It is our hope that next year, we are sharing stories in person. In the meantime, we wish you and your loved ones, and our beloved consumers, the best of health until we meet again.



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EVENT AGENDA

- DJ Touchtone, 107.9 fm
- Tamala Edwards, co-host from 6abc
- Najja R. Orr, MBA, co-host, PCA President & CEO
- Shaunise Spivey, PCA Chief Operating Officer
- Joel TeBeest, PCA Chief Financial Officer
- PCA Overview video
- Trapeta Mayson, Philadelphia Poet Laureate, and her work
“This is How We Get Through”
- PCA Testimonial – Lois Thompson O'Keefe, Lutheran Settlement House
- “Inspirations in Aging” vignette on Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium
- Philly's own jazz bassist Gerald Veasley with singer Carol Riddick
- Philadelphia Sun lion dancers
- PCA Testimonial – Andrea Lopez, Norris Square Senior Center
- “Inspirations in Aging” vignette on Placita Market at Norris Square Senior Center
- Tempo Alegre Latino band

EVENT AGENDA

- Judee Bavaria, PCA Board Chairperson
- Katherine Galluzzi, D.O., FACOPF, PCA Immediate Past Chairperson
- PCA Testimonial – Beverly Murray-Madyun, North City Congress, Northern Living Center
- “Inspirations in Aging” vignette on Backpacks for the Homeless
- Presenting Sponsor Rodney Robbins, Jr., Director, Corporate Social Responsibility, Gateway Health
- Sponsor Michelle Tepper, Director, Strategic Relationships, Exude
- Philly’s own jazz bassist Gerald Veasley with singer Carol Riddick
- PCA Testimonial – Jai Yi Liao, On Lok Senior Center
- “Inspirations in Aging” vignette on Dr. Dorothy Johnson-Speight & Mothers In Charge
- Philly's freestyle ballroom dancers from Star Dust
- DJ Touchtone, 107.9 fm

UNITY



RODNEY D. WILLIAMS PHILADELPHIA FUND FOR SENIORS

Philadelphia has among the highest proportion of older adults living in poverty of any of the 10 largest cities in the U.S. Approximately 135,814 (43%) of older Philadelphians (60+) live at less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

In 2014, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) established the Philadelphia Fund for Seniors to supplement public funding that had not kept pace with the growing needs of older Philadelphians. Following the passing of Rodney D. Williams, PCA's founder and first president and CEO, in 2020, the fund was renamed in his honor to highlight Rodney's legacy as an advocate for older adults and their needs, and to continue the work he began nearly 50 years ago.

Each gift to the Rodney D. Williams Philadelphia Fund for Seniors helps to support PCA's mission of improving the quality of life for older Philadelphians and adults with disabilities living in Philadelphia by providing them with assistance to achieve their maximum level of health, independence and productivity. Contributions to the fund help PCA to provide a number of supports to those in need.

TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE RODNEY D. WILLIAMS PHILADELPHIA FUND FOR SENIORS



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teresa.heavens@pcacares.org or visit pcacares.org/donate

COURAGE

SPECIAL GUESTS



Tamala Edwards

PCA is pleased to welcome back Tamala Edwards for a second consecutive year as our Gala co-host. Tam joined 6abc in January of 2005. She is the weekday co-anchor of Action News Mornings and is a regular co-host of Inside Story. Prior to joining 6abc, she was the anchor of ABC's World News Now and World News This Morning; an ABC News correspondent, and a staff writer at TIME Magazine and a correspondent in the Washington bureau of Time, where she covered society, breaking news and politics. Tam was born in Georgia and raised in Texas. She graduated from Stanford University with an honors bachelor of arts degree in international relations. She is the wife of Rocco Lugrine, the executive pastry chef at Le Bec Fin and the mother of two sons, Rocco Jr. and Massimo.



Trapeta Mayson

A native of Liberia who grew up in North Philadelphia and Germantown, Trapeta's work sheds light on and honors the immigrant experience as well as amplifies the stories of everyday people. She is a recipient of a Pew Fellowship in Literature, a Leeway Transformation Award, a Leeway Art and Change Grant, and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Grants. She is a Cave Canem and Callaloo Fellow and an Aspen Words Emerging Writer's Fellow with the Aspen Institute. She is the author of *She Was Once Herself* and a chapbook, *Mocha Melodies*. Trapeta has also released two music and poetry projects, *SCAT* and *This Is How We Get Through*, in collaboration with internationally acclaimed jazz guitarist, Monnette Sudler. Her other publications include submissions in *The American Poetry Review*, *Epiphany Literary Journal*, *Aesthetica Magazine*, and *Margie: The American Journal of Poetry* among others.



Gerald Veasley & Carol Riddick

Gerald Veasley is a prominent jazz bass guitarist who has been active in the international and Philadelphia jazz communities for more than 40 years. Gerald's mentors include Joe Zawinul of Weather Report fame and Grover Washington Jr., and has also gone on to collaborate with many celebrated artists, including Gerald Albright, David Benoit, Rick Braun, Randy Brecker and Alex Bugnon. He has produced many albums over his lifetime, including his latest *Live from SOUTH*, which includes vocals from singer Carol Riddick in a version of the Sound of Philly classic, "You are Everything." Carol, a South Philadelphia native, got her start touring with Jazzy Jeff and The Fresh Prince. Under her own independent label, she produced her debut album *Moments Like This* and her follow-up *Love Phases*. She has also collaborated with a number of artists, including Jill Scott, and a number of Grammy award winning producers and songwriters.

SPECIAL GUESTS



Philadelphia Sun Lion Dancers

Operating from the Crane Center in Chinatown, this intergenerational group specializes in the performance of Lion Dancing, a traditional Chinese ritual dance from the Tang Dynasty of 400 A.D. Packed with high energy and roaring acoustics, the lion dance is celebratory in nature and commemorates prosperity and success. Dancers channel their inner lions into the performance, which traditionally was used to scare mythical beasts and protect the prosperity of Chinese villages.



Tempo Alegre

Hailing from Somerset, NJ, Tempo Alegre is a 9-piece Latino music variety band that has graced countless events and gatherings with their smooth sounds for over 15 years.



Star Dust Ballroom Dancers

For more than 20 years, Rita Redfern-Powell and Tony Powell have practiced freestyle ballroom dancing as part of Star Dust in Bellmawr, NJ, while residing in Philadelphia. Joined by Kim Alston, this trio brings a fresh take on traditional ballroom dancing by channeling the tempo, sounds and feelings of the moment into every step.



DJ Touchtone

The first time Olney's Anthony Stevenson took a needle from a turntable and scratched it against a record, he was a 13-year-old radio buff. The record was Rick James's Street Songs; it belonged to his mother, and when he was done, it was totally ruined. His mother wasn't too happy about that but a career was born. Since then, Stevenson, now known as "The World's Number One Blind DJ," Touchtone has learned to scratch properly, as well as mix songs and edit sound bites, for his popular part of the Lady B Show on 107.9 fm. PCA is pleased to welcome Touch back to our virtual Gala for a second consecutive year to open and close our event!

INSPIRATIONS IN AGING

Black Doctors Covid-19 Consortium

Led by Dr. Ala Stanford, the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium provides education and advocacy for African Americans to reduce the incidence of disease and death from coronavirus, who are being diagnosed at a disproportionately higher rate than other groups and are dying from coronavirus at a higher rate than other groups. To address that need, the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium provides a testing and vaccination alternative that is BARRIER FREE to assist in providing protection from the coronavirus disease in our hardest-hit areas of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Norris Square Senior Center

Norris Square Senior Center is located in the Norris Square neighborhood of North Philadelphia and serves a large contingent of Hispanic participants. Norris Square promotes positive aging by encouraging older adults to stay active in body, mind and spirit. In July 2021, Norris Square Senior Center opened an on-site pantry. Stocked with both fresh and dry good food items, La Placita (The Little Plaza) is a super-market-style pantry that allows senior center participants to shop for food items each week. Friends of Norris Square, such as partner organizations and individuals in the community, donate regularly to keep La Placita stocked with foods in a true community-supported effort to meet the needs of Norris Square's older adults.

H.E.L.P.I.N.G the Homeless Backpacks

Founded by Alexa Rhodes, a senior at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia, H.E.L.P.I.N.G the Homeless Backpacks provides backpacks with essential items such as blankets, toiletries and clothes to individuals, including older adults in Philadelphia experiencing homelessness.

Mothers in Charge

Mothers in Charge, Inc. (MIC) is an organization comprised of mothers, sisters, aunts and grandmothers working together to prevent fatal violence in communities. Following the tragic death of her own son to violence, Dr. Dorothy Johnson-Speight along with other grieving mothers founded MIC. Based in Philadelphia, the nonprofit engages in proactive intervention with children, young adults, families and community organizations. The organization's mission is realized through collaborative partnerships with the school districts, youth and faith-based and community organizations, and government agencies, while providing grief support to families affected by violence.

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PCA and our partners have shown extraordinary resilience, courage, and strength over the last year.

Thank you to all PCA staff and supporters for your unwavering commitment to the agency's mission. Through your efforts, we have been able to ensure continuity of service to those in need, and I look forward to our future together.

Sincerely,
Najja R. Orr, MBA
PCA President & CEO

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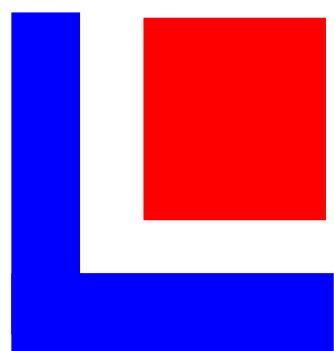
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PCA: PHILADELPHIA'S AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) is the first place for older Philadelphians and adults living with disabilities in Philadelphia to turn to for information and services to help maintain or improve the quality of their lives. One of the region's largest nonprofits, PCA offers or provides (through over 200 contracted providers) services aimed at helping older Philadelphians and adults with disabilities living in Philadelphia. PCA also works to spotlight older Philadelphians and bring visibility to their needs in collaboration with aging advocates and Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) associations at both the state (Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging) and national level (US Aging).

PCA has been an established AAA since 1973 and serves older adults and adults with disabilities in Philadelphia County. PCA provides vital programs that allow individuals to remain engaged in their communities and empowered in their homes. PCA is a private, nonprofit, nationally-recognized Area Agency on Aging funded primarily through federal and state sources.



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