

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS ENHANCE THE FUEL FUND'S EFFORT

Citi Funds Energy Education and Financial Literacy

With gifts totaling \$20,000 from Citi, the Fuel Fund of Maryland launched its first formal energy conservation education program. Citi has a strong interest in financial literacy for the general population. The Fuel Fund's focus has been on energy literacy; both have been combined into one program called "Watt Watchers."

Citi provides the tools and skills to implement the concept of financial literacy. The Fuel Fund's director of volunteer services, Danielle Phelps, recruits volunteers who receive training, curriculum materials, lesson plans, work sheets and hand-outs for students.

Mary Kaye DiUbaldo and Mary Ellen Vanni participated in the two-day training in Washington, D.C. and brought the ideas back to the Fuel Fund. Using this training, the energy conservation education was enhanced to include financial literacy.

The curriculum includes one full class on understanding the utility bill itself, such as what one does have control over



Mary D'Ambrogi helps to break down the intricacies of a BGE bill during a Watt Watchers class at Caroline Center.

(the number of kilowatts and therms used) and what cannot be changed (the cost of each kilowatt or therm). Likewise, one class now concentrates on understanding one's paycheck stub.

The mutual goal is to help families gain financial independence while maintaining uninterrupted utility service and home heating. To date, there have been four sessions of classes at the Caroline Center in East Baltimore. Three trained volunteers are presenting the classes; the search for additional volunteers continues.

ONE DOZEN BUSINESSES HELP STUDENTS TO SHARE THE WARMTH

Over twelve local businesses supported the Share the Warmth program, which Danielle Phelps initiated in 2006 as a member of Volunteer Maryland. The program promotes energy conservation awareness and is a leadership development opportunity for high school students. Students participate in information sessions to prepare them for implementing school-wide energy education activities.

Maryvale Preparatory School has been a leader in the program and will embark on its 3rd year of Sharing the Warmth in February. Other schools interested in participating should contact Danielle Phelps at 410-821-3022, ext. 106.

We would like to thank the following donors for their tremendous support of this project: *Applebee's, Bertucci's, Burger Bistro, Cold Stone Creamery, Giant, Macaroni Grill, Mars Super Markets, Moxley's, Noodles and Co., Panera Bread, Pizza Hut, and TCBY.*

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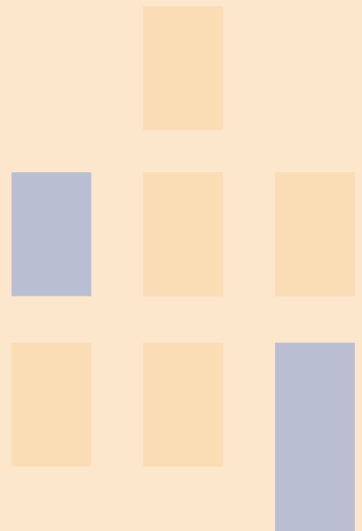
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LIGHT STROKES

From the President



Dear Friends of the Fuel Fund:

I live most of my professional life in the corporate world of investments,

deals, rates of return and bottom lines.

The Fuel Fund is a world of compassion, empathy and generosity from donors like you. It is also a world of gratitude, appreciation and hope from those who are recipients of your generosity.

Yet, everyone wants to invest in a good deal, with a good rate of return and a bottom line that indicates success. As an investment in people's lives, your donation to the Fuel Fund is all of these things.

First, it is a *good deal*: each dollar you give may leverage up to two dollars in utility bill payments, using matching credits from BGE and clients' own contributions to their bills.

Next, a good *return on investment*: protecting children from house fires and homelessness by maintaining electricity and home heating.

Finally, *the bottom line*: a healthier, safer and more hopeful community because of your investment.

Thank you for your support. It is a very good investment.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Phelps III
President

RAYS OF HOPE

It is sometimes easy to get caught up in numbers - too often scores of statistics are rattled off with little pause to consider what, or whom, they represent beyond a quantitative measure. In our last fiscal year, for example, the Fuel Fund assisted over 8,000 families, amounting to over 24,000 individuals - more than 12,000 of them children. It isn't difficult for those numbers to seem abstract. But it is important to remember that each client has unique struggles and circumstances that have put them in a position to need assistance from the Fuel Fund. One family's story is shared here, but only a newsletter thousands of pages long could highlight the story of every family that has been helped over the past year.

Fuel Fund families take many shapes — there are those stuck in a cycle of poverty, without adequate employment opportunities to be self-sufficient; there are seniors or others faced with health problems and costly medical expenses, and there are families facing crises and reaching out for help for the first time. Katie Sheffield relayed the story of Mrs.

Milton, who recently found herself in just that position. She visited Paul's Place, a Fuel Fund agency in Baltimore City, after being laid off from her job approximately 10 weeks prior. Mrs. Milton had held a full-time job at an elder care facility for the past nine years. The company has been struggling in recent months, so layoffs became a necessity. Mrs. Milton did have some money in savings, but realized after the first month of being unemployed that she was not as prepared financially as she thought she was for this type of crisis. She is currently applying for unemployment, but with two children to support, she needed assistance from the Fuel Fund to help bridge the gap. Mrs. Milton also told Fuel Fund staff that at her old job, she was always the one who organized food drives and fundraisers to help those who didn't have enough, so it was an unusual experience for her to now be on the receiving end of that assistance. The experience helped to validate for her the importance of that work - after helping others when she was able, she was grateful to be able to find that same help when she needed it herself.



MAJOR CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS MAKE EVENTS HAPPEN

Major corporate sponsors of Fuel Fund events enable us to raise money and cultivate friends of the organization.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities, call 410-821-3022, ext. 107.



HOW TO DONATE

- Mail your donation to:
Fuel Fund of Maryland
P.O. Box 62266
Baltimore, MD 21264-2266
- Call 410-821-3022, ext. 4
- Visit www.fuefundmaryland.org to make an online donation
- Remember the Fuel Fund in your will
- Contribute through workplace giving opportunities
- Combined Federal Campaign Number - 99844



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

DIANE SWEENEY

Diane came to the Fuel Fund through Volunteer Central. She is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and aside from being a die-hard Steelers fan, she has over 20 years of experience in the energy field. Her extensive knowledge on the environment, energy conservation and utility companies make her a perfect fit for our *Watt Watchers* program. She has proven to be an invaluable asset and we are lucky to have her.



MARY D'AMBROGI

Mary is a Maryland native, active golfer and long time friend and supporter of the Fuel Fund. Mary has a long and impressive history working with and volunteering in the non-profit sector. She has served three terms as a Fuel Fund board member, and has taught two *Watt Watchers* sessions. Her knowledge and experience have aided the Fuel Fund and those she has worked with in making the *Watt Watchers* program a soaring success.

SUSAN AYRES

Susan is also a Maryland native and active golfer who contacted the Fuel Fund seeking volunteer opportunities. She has been a great asset in the Fuel Fund office on a regular basis for the past year. Her dedication, time, attention to detail and smiling face have aided us all in our daily jobs, and have often rescued us in a time crunch!

TO VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in volunteering for the Fuel Fund, please contact Danielle Phelps at 410-821-3022, ext. 106. Available opportunities include office support, event support, school liaison and *Watt Watchers* educator.

All volunteers will receive adequate training and support.

FUEL FUND NEWS

New Board Members Appointed

The Fuel Fund of Maryland is pleased to announce new members of the board of directors Nicole Thomas Holmes and Jack Ramey. Ms. Thomas Holmes is Lending Compliance and Administration Manager with the State Employees Credit Union of Maryland, Inc. (SECU), and is a member of the Association for Financial Professionals.

Mr. Ramey is Vice President and Branch Manager for Fidelity Investments. Mr. Ramey creates and leads strategies to develop the branch. He also manages cross-company partnerships to create business opportunities, and participates in corporate leadership activities to foster those relationships.

New Staff Members

Michael K. Lee joins the Fuel Fund as Director of Program Services. Mr. Lee was previously Certification Manager for the Standards for Excellence program, a nationally recognized ethics and accountability program for the nonprofit sector, at Maryland Nonprofits.

Danielle Phelps is the new Director of Volunteer Services. Ms. Phelps has previously worked with the Fuel Fund through Volunteer Maryland, part of AmeriCorps. During that time, she created and implemented a student awareness campaign about energy conservation.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

September 4, 2008

10th Annual Salsabration at Havana Club - our generous sponsors, b free daily, FOX45, The CW Baltimore, BGE and Advance Business Systems, along with over 100 guests, helped to raise over \$21,000!

October 10, 2008

The 2008 Fuel Fund Fairways golf tournament took place at The Woodlands, where more than 80 golfers enjoyed beautiful weather for an afternoon on the links. Along with sponsors M&T Bank, BGE, Carroll Independent Fuel, Inc. and SC&H Group, LLC, over \$34,000 was raised to support our organization!



Salsabration guests enjoy a Salsa lesson from instructor Christian.



Representative Elijah E. Cummings (center) presents a donation of \$2,500 to Executive Director Mary Ellen Vanni and Board President Richard B. Phelps III.

The Fuel Fund of Maryland does not share, sell, lease, or otherwise provide contributor information to any other organization or business. The Fuel Fund of Maryland, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization - donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Financial report is available upon request from Fuel Fund of MD, 305 W. Chesapeake Ave., Suite 115, Baltimore, MD 21204-4435. Telephone number (410) 821-3022. Documents and information filed in accordance with the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act available upon request from the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of printing and postage.

FUEL FUND OFFICERS

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Nicole Thomas Holmes

Belinda Johnson

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Paul W. Richardson

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The Fuel Fund of Maryland provides resources to vulnerable Maryland families for heat and home utility needs.



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