

# NECESSITY KNOWS NO SEASON.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Ben Ballard** is RFP Editor and Assistant Vice President at T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. He is a Loyola College graduate, and has been involved as a volunteer at Port Discovery Children's Museum and Christopher Place Employment Academy.

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**Bob Frazee** is the President and CEO of MidAtlantic Farm Credit, a farming loan company. Bob is a graduate of University of Maryland College Park and Johns Hopkins University.

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**David Saunders** is a research analyst for Credo Capital Management. David has a B. A. from Wofford College and an MBA from Carey Business School of Johns Hopkins University.

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**Terry Slade Young** most recently worked for St. Joseph's Medical Center in Towson. Terry has extensive fundraising and event experience.



*The Fuel Fund is excited to welcome these new community members to the Fuel Fund of Maryland Board of Directors.*

## A LITTLE HELP FUELS BIG DREAMS

PROVIDING CRITICAL ASSISTANCE TO A FAMILY STRIVING TO SUCCEED

As Jasslynn Colon walked into Paul's Place, she was all smiles and apologies. She was a bit late because she was helping her kids with their homework and lost track of time. Homework time would have been far more challenging had she not been able to keep the lights on for her kids to read by with the help of Fuel Fund of Maryland and Paul's Place. Exuberant and grateful, she explained, "they [Paul's Place and the Fuel Fund of Maryland] helped me fast."

Three years ago, Jasslynn moved from Delaware to Baltimore with her husband and her three boys, ages 5, 3, and 1 at the time. A family friend had an apartment in Baltimore which they offered to rent without a credit check and for low rent – exactly the help she needed to begin to improve her family's financial situation. She had accrued poor credit and was struggling with the rent and monthly bills. Though she had completed her CNA/GNA (Certified Nursing Assistant/Geriatric Nursing Assistant) certification and was working as a personal home health aide, her earnings were not enough to support her family. Adding to the challenge, her husband works limited hours due to a heart condition.

One year after moving to Baltimore, Jasslynn still struggled to find steady employment. She discovered Paul's Place, a community center serving her neighborhood in Southwest Baltimore and an agency in the Fuel Fund network. "Sometimes people need help," she said, "and it's a place they can get help." Her main interest was using the computer lab and employment services to get a job. But as she developed a trusting relationship with an employment expert at Paul's Place, she learned about the center's ability to connect eligible clients with Fuel Fund energy assistance as well.

"I thought my electric was going to be turned off," Jasslynn lamented. As a mother of three



Jasslynn's smile shines brightly as she receives assistance for her energy bill.

very active young boys, a home without power would mean not being able to refrigerate healthy food for them, not being able to give them warm baths, and no television like all her children's friends had at home. She explained that a caseworker helped her work through the application process to apply for federally-funded assistance first, and then for funds provided by the Fuel Fund of Maryland. She received the help she needed for her utility bills and was able to keep her power on.

Now, thanks to the Fuel Fund of Maryland and Paul's Place, she is able to keep up with her new job as a one-on-one student aide in an elementary school class room, help her children with their homework after school, and prepare hot meals for her family. Her new security has helped her begin planning for her future again too. She says that she loves working with kids, but she looks forward to going back to school to work towards her RN degree once her children are a little older.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

We sincerely thank you for continued commitment to and support of the Fuel Fund of Maryland, Inc. Our work of helping families meet their energy needs is greatly enhanced by partners like you. Every night, some family within Central Maryland will face a dark night, with no lights, no electricity, no hot water, and no food. We work every day to prevent that from happening. The effort is not always easy, but it is worth working through the myriad of challenges we face.

Recently, we adopted a three-year strategic plan that will guide our movement for the days to come. Within the plan, one of the critical areas of our focus will be generating additional funds for helping more families avoid cold, dark nights. The numbers speak for themselves. Our need now is greater than its ever been. And, that is why we value and appreciate our partnership with you.

As you read this newsletter, you will discover what we have accomplished, and more importantly, what yet has to be done. The Fuel Fund of Maryland, Inc. is an entity that has more demand than it has resources. Help us to address that critical need by sharing our work with your networks. Together, we are poised to help families remain safe in their homes, despite the elements of the outside.

Warmest regards,



James B. Smith  
President, Board of Directors

## ENERGY AFFORDABILITY IN MARYLAND

MANY HOUSEHOLDS UNABLE TO AFFORD BASIC ENERGY COSTS

Average dollar amount by which actual home energy bills exceeded affordable home energy bills for households below 185% of poverty level.



\$2,378 per household

RANK: #42

Average total home energy burden for households below 50% of poverty level.



79.5% of household income

RANK: #42

Portion of Heating/Cooling Affordability Gap covered by federal home energy assistance.



24.8% of gap is covered

RANK: #34

More people need energy assistance than government programs can provide. In the information above, a higher ranking (1 is the highest) indicates better conditions, while a lower ranking (51 is the lowest) indicates worse conditions relative to other states. SOURCE: Fisher, Sheehan & Colton, 2012

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!

YOU'VE MADE A HUGE IMPACT



Your dollar



BGE matching credits



Client payments



3x the Impact!

The Fuel Fund is able to triple the impact of every dollar received through BGE matching credits and client payments. **This means that your \$100 donation is actually able to resolve a \$300 bill.** Your dollar has gone a long way! Thank you for being a Fuel Friend.



The Watt Watchers Program teaches individuals and families how to save money on their utility bills - focusing on cooling, water, and heat.

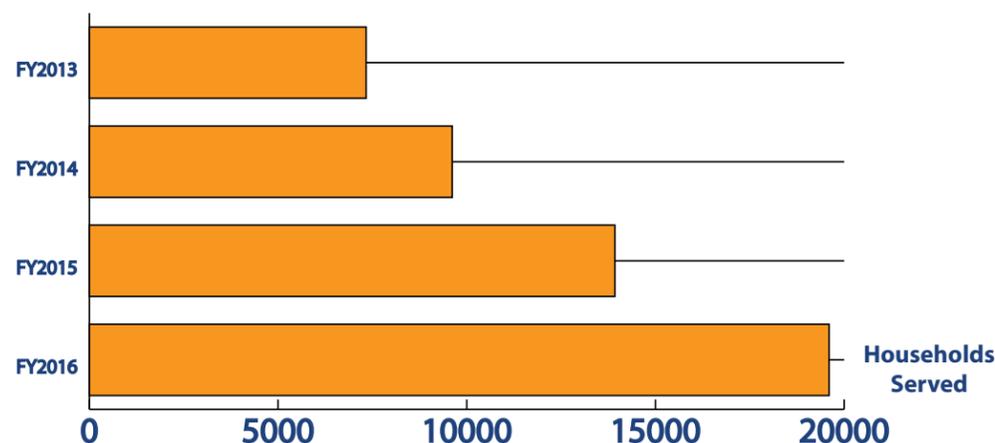
Fill in the blanks below for a chance to win a prize!

1. Named after a Scottish engineer, this word refers to an SI unit of power, and is equal to 1 joule per second. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The practice of modifying a building to reduce energy consumption. \_\_\_\_\_
3. All of the natural and living things around us. When we decide to be more energy-efficient, we are helping the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. These energy efficient light bulbs have a distinctive shape. \_\_\_\_\_
5. When you \_\_\_\_\_ your electronic devices, you are saving energy and optimizing the device's battery life.

Email your answers to [wattwatchers@fuelfundmaryland.org](mailto:wattwatchers@fuelfundmaryland.org). The first five people to send in correct answers will win a prize!

## FUEL FUND GROWTH

PLANNING TO SERVE MORE HOUSEHOLDS EVERY YEAR



The Fuel Fund's strategic plan seeks to build capacity to better serve those in need of supplemental resources for their home energy needs. This growth will only be possible with your continued support.

## FUEL FUND BOARD

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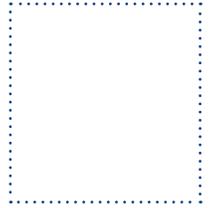
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FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Story Spotlight: Working parents keep the lights on for their kids with help from the Fuel Fund
- Marylanders continue to struggle to afford basic home energy costs
- The Fuel Fund Future: poised to keep more families connected!
- Watt Watchers Interactive Game

[WWW.FUELFUNDMARYLAND.ORG](http://WWW.FUELFUNDMARYLAND.ORG)