



UESFacts

UESFacts is an update on Philadelphia's energy-poverty situation.

Summer 2003

HAVE YOU TUNED IN YET? *Milestones on the Radio*

The following article features current Board Secretary and long time advisor to UESF, Rick Spector.

With radio programming increasingly targeted at younger audiences, radio show host and PCA community relations director Rick Spector sees a large, untapped audience in seniors.

"Just when you thought the days of inoffensive radio programming had all but been completely replaced by 'shock jocks' and pessimistic political banter, we offer the kind of show that adults and seniors can relate to," explains Spector.

Produced by PCA, Milestones Radio Show debuted February 8 on WPEN, 950 AM. The show airs every Saturday morning and is a companion broadcast to PCA's premier newspaper for seniors, Milestones.

Guests have included Philadelphia radio and TV legend Bill "Wee Willie" Webber, "the Price of a Child" author Lorene Cary, and Pennsylvania Department of Aging's Tom Snedden. On May 24, Spector will welcome the celebrated voice of Philly's sports broadcasting Bill Campbell.

A self professed nostalgia enthusiast, Spector's show

includes traditional Philadelphia lore and other 'remember when' segments on popular culture. "I'm quite the nostalgia buff," he says. "reminiscing has a way of reconnecting ourselves with our past, in a way that gives perspective to our current lives, who we are and where we're going." Spector believes seniors appreciate this one-of-a-kind broadcast and expects many more will continue to tune in.

"So much regular TV and radio broadcasting is geared toward younger listeners, while ignoring a large, educated, and active senior audience. We're having thousands of seniors from throughout the region listen each week."

Calling it "novel and a long-time coming" Spector says the show will always feature important news and information on senior programs, events and issues like lifestyle, healthcare and legislation.

Spector encourages everyone to tune in every Saturday morning from 8:30 to 9:00 on 950 AM, WPEN.

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Rick Spector, host of Milestones Radio Show.

Photo courtesy of Philadelphia Corporation for Aging

UESF Looks to Hit the Links

UESF looks forward to another highly successful PECO Best Ball Golf Tournament. On Monday, October 13, 2003, at 12:30 p.m., golfers from many local businesses and organizations will test their skills on the beautiful greens of McCall Field in Upper Darby.

This marks the 7th year for the signature event. The day again promises to be a crowd pleaser with fun, food and prizes. In the past six years, this event has raised over \$230,000 to support the efforts of UESF in the community. This event has the ability to provide assistance to over 120 families as they face the challenges ahead.

If you are interested in sponsorship or participation, please contact Timothy Lau, 215-829-0545 or visit www.uesfacts.org for more info.

Looking to Make a Difference?

UESF could be your answer. The Utility Emergency Services Fund is looking for interested individuals to serve as members of the Board of Directors. The leaders of this organization have been firm in their resolve to provide an answer to a basic need that many low-income families face with their utilities. Your experiences may help us to make a difference in your community. The requirements of your time and effort are small compared to the joy and relief that families feel when UESF has been able to help. With five to six meetings held annually, your input and direction can lead UESF to face the challenges that lie ahead. If you feel that you can bring forth ideas and leadership to this organization, please contact Ed Lynch at the UESF office.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

All donations are matched dollar-for-dollar, and your contribution will directly help a family in need. So please, send your tax-deductible donation today to UESF, 125 S. 9th Street, Suite 501, Phila., PA 19107.

\$50 \$25 \$10 Other _____

The official registration and financial information of the Utility Emergency Services Fund may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Edward F. Lynch, Jr.
Executive Director

LIHEAP Update

LIHEAP stands for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. It is the federal program which helps low-income households pay their heating and cooling bills.

Federal

The LIHEAP program is going through reauthorization which basically allows Congress to determine if the program should continue as is, make changes, or eliminate it all together. As part of the reauthorization process, a funding ceiling is set. There is very strong support in the House and Senate for increasing the LIHEAP authorization in fiscal years 2004-2006 to \$3.4 billion. This does not mean that the funding for each of these years will reach the \$3.4 billion level, (funding is established separately each fiscal year), but it would give Congress the full budget authority to go this high.

There are some moves afoot to change the allocation formula and to make some other dramatic changes to the LIHEAP program through the reauthorization process. LIHEAP has been around since 1983 and is now a tried and true program. It has worked out all the kinks and does not need to be changed. Please tell your Congressman and Senators to reauthorize LIHEAP at the \$3.4 billion and to not make any changes to the current program (main switchboard 202-224-3121).

State

This past winter LIHEAP assisted 359,000 low-income Pennsylvania households with grants totaling \$128.2 million to pay their heating and utility bills. Philadelphians received \$32.7 million for 107,567 households. UESF will help 4,500 to 5,000 households. You can easily see why we promote the federal LIHEAP program. We couldn't possibly fill the energy assistance needs of all Philadelphia's poor families.

Happy Anniversary!

While UESF is celebrating its 20th anniversary, Michele Lewis is also celebrating 20 years. Michele's has seen great change in both the city of Philadelphia and UESF during her time. Having seen the organization grow from its roots, she remarked that the biggest difference was technology. "When we started, we had rulers and wrote all of the transmittals. Keeping the records has become so much easier with the addition of our computer database. I don't miss those days." She also remarked, "Another big change has been the number of intake sites. I think that it's great that there are more sites than we've ever had. I think that is important with the price of gas going up, the economy being bad and people's utility bills reaching into the thousands." Michele modestly gives credit for her longevity with UESF to her supervisors. "All of my bosses have been great."



Tidbits

United Way Campaign

The United Way will be starting up their Fall 2003 campaigns shortly. Please consider making a contribution to UESF through the Donor Designated Choice program. **UESF's Donor Option number is 04702.**

Program Director Honored

Closing out a tremendous 2002, Brenda Wingfield, UESF's Program Director, received a certificate of appreciation for her contributions from Dixon House. She received her award at their Annual Luncheon on December 13, 2002.

New Staff

Joining the UESF team in early June as our new Development/Marketing Director is Timothy Lau. Tim comes to us from The MBF Center in Norristown where he served as the Development Director. In addition to his fund raising experience there, he has also worked for Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ) in both his Senate office and on his presidential campaign in 2000.



- LIHEAP Public meeting to take testimony on the Proposed FY 03-04 State LIHEAP Plan: July 15, 2003; 10:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m.; Department of Public Welfare, Vine Street District Office, Philadelphia, PA.
- UESF's website is undergoing a facelift. Visit www.uesfacts.org soon for up to date features and a new look.



UESFacts is published by the Utility Emergency Services Fund. Comments or requests to be added to the mailing list may be sent to:

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