



UESFacts

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

Fall 2002

6TH ANNUAL PECO BEST BALL GOLF TOURNAMENT



It is that time of the year again, our Sixth Annual PECO Best Ball Golf Tournament will be held Monday, October 14, 2002 at McCall Field in Upper Darby. The day promises to be fun-filled with golf, prizes and food.

Currently, we are seeking corporate sponsors for the event, which benefits UESF's Adopt-A-Family Program. If you know of a company that can help sponsor this special event, please forward the information to our development office. With the UESF maximum grant increasing from \$500 to \$750, it is essential we increase our corporate support so that we can aid as many families as we have helped in the past. All proceeds are matched dollar-for-dollar. The tournament has raised \$200,000 over the past five years.

This may be a special outing for key employees and/or clients. Please contact our development director for more information, 215-829-0545 or visit our website, www.uesfacts.org.



PGW BOOK FAIR RAISES MONEY FOR UESF

Harvey Clark, Vice President Of Corporate Communications, presented a check for two hundred and thirty-two dollars to Utility Emergency Services Fund's Executive Director, Ed Lynch. The money was raised from the May 16th Book Fair.

Maximum Grant Increased to \$750

After much discussion and a little hand ringing, the Utility Emergency Services Fund's Board of Directors unanimously voted to increase the UESF maximum grant for all three utilities – gas, electric and water, to \$750. Since our inception in 1983, the maximum grant has been \$500. A recent telephone survey indicated that nearly two out of every three requests for assistance exceeded the \$500 maximum. The decision to increase the grant amount is a reflection of the reality that in 20 years utility bill arrearages have increased along with the cost of living. UESF grants will still be matched dollar-for-dollar by our three utilities: PECO Energy, Philadelphia Gas Works and the Philadelphia Water Department. This means that a \$750 grant will be composed of \$375 in contributions and \$375 in utility bill credits.

The larger grant amount went into effect with applications received after March 31, 2002. The larger grant amount means that we will have to increase our fund-raising efforts to serve as many households as we have served in

the past. And much thanks goes out to our sponsoring utility companies for increasing the amount that they are matching with utility bill credits. We can still say every contribution to UESF is matched dollar-for-dollar.

Support UESF While Shopping Your Favorite Stores Online

iGive.com, an online mall, will donate up to **25% of each purchase** you make to UESF when you shop your favorite stores online. Through September 30, 2002, **iGive.com** will also donate a bonus **\$5 for each new shopper** to UESF. It's a win-win situation. You shop great stores you know and love. You save money with exclusive coupons & deals. You help UESF with each purchase – and it's easy! Gap, Walmart, Old Navy, Barnes & Noble, Target, Eddie Bauer, Eddie Bauer Kids, Dell,

Ann Taylor, L.L. Bean, Office Max...are just a few of over 350 participating stores. Here's how:

- 1 Go to our website www.uesfacts.org and click on Home Page.
- 2 Click on the **iGive.com** logo and
- 3 Start shopping

As you may know, each contribution UESF receives is matched dollar-for-dollar by one of our three participating utility companies.



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 registered 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.

Happy Birthday, LIHEAP!



Edward F. Lynch, Jr.
Executive Director

It was 25 years ago, May 1979, that President Carter signed a supplemental appropriations bill providing the funds to turn a pilot program in what was the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Community Services Administration (CSA) into what is now the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The program very nearly failed to come into being.

Following the extraordinarily cold winter of 1976-77, Congressman David Obey (democrat, Wisconsin), asked the Labor-Health, Education and Welfare Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, to provide \$200 million in the FY 1977 Supplemental Appropriations Bill to the Community Services Administration. The emergency funding was to be sent to governors of the various states for distribution to elderly and low-income families who could not pay their heating bills and faced utility shut-offs. The Community Services

Administration had operated such a program on a very small scale for a number of years, and the \$200 million would enable it to become a national program.

The request was approved by the Subcommittee. But when it came before the full committee, LIHEAP was met with an obstacle in the person of Bob Michel of Illinois, the Ranking Member of both the Labor-HEW Subcommittee and the full Appropriations Committee. Michel objected partly on procedural grounds, and the provision was stricken on a 26-24 vote. Following the painful reversal, Congressman Obey was able to persuade 23 members of the

committee to join him in signing a separate statement in the committee report objecting to the committee action. This allowed the matter to be taken to the House floor. The House voted 233-170 on March 16, 1977, to restore funding for the program.

LIHEAP helps an estimated 5 million households each year – households made up of the working poor, those making the transition from welfare to work, the disabled, elderly, and families with young children. Without this vital energy assistance, many beneficiaries of the program would have to choose between heating and eating, or going without other vital necessities.

Every Penny Counts and Every Penny is Accounted For

The UESF program is audited on an annual basis by one of the top five accounting firms, most recently PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP. In 19 years of service to the community, there has never been an instance of non-compliance, questioned costs or negative material finding in

any of our audits. Contributors can be confident that every cent given to UESF is used to help low-income families in emergency need of gas, electric and/or water utility service. Every dollar is matched with utility bill credits and no contributions are used to pay operating costs.

Tidbits

United Way Campaign

The annual fall campaign will begin soon. Please designate UESF as your donor choice. Our number is **04702**. Your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar by our local utility companies and will give a low-income family a fresh start.

FY 2002 Banner Year

June 30, 2002 ended the UESF Fiscal Year 2002. We served 6,576 households and settled 6,874 accounts with \$3,534,358 in grants. The average grant provided to settle a utility account was \$537. FY 2002 was without a

doubt the largest grant settlement year for the Utility Emergency Services Fund. The continuing need for our service is evident.

20th Year Anniversary

July 1, 2002 marks the beginning of the Utility Emergency Services Fund's twentieth year of operation. Our projections indicate that at the end of this year, we will have served over 110,000 Philadelphia households containing 300,000 persons with over \$50 million in emergency utility grants to restore or maintain gas, electric and/or water utility service.

New Staff

Jackie Rivera joined our staff in late May as our Development and Marketing Director. She comes to us with over twenty years of development, sales and marketing experience in both the non-profit and for-profit worlds.



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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