

Corporate Sponsors Step Up in 2010

Fuel Fund Builds Strong Corporate Relationships Across Maryland

Like many other non-profit organizations, the Fuel Fund of Maryland relies on the generosity of corporate partners and the relationships established, especially in the Central Maryland area. Corporate relationships significantly aid the Fuel Fund in assisting as many Marylanders stay safe and warm in their homes as possible.

In 2010, the Fuel Fund's newest partner, Kaiser Permanente donated \$24,500. Kaiser Permanente's Community Benefit donation brought corporate support of the Fuel Fund to nearly \$84,000.

According to Maritha Gay, Senior Director of External Affairs for Kaiser Permanente, the Community Benefit program's mission is to improve the health of people living and working in the communities they serve through charitable donations, medical coverage and local health centers.

"Through the Community Benefit Program, Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States pro-actively made year-end donations to support organizations that provide emergency relief services in communities throughout the region," said Marith. "We know there are families struggling to pay energy bills, and through this donation to the Fuel Fund of Maryland, Kaiser Permanente is providing assistance to individuals and families in need."

"Traditionally, Community Benefit supports community health organizations," she added, "but we believe that the lack of access to heat and hot water impacts overall health in a number of ways. Kaiser Permanente's Community Benefit work is focused on improving the health of our communities, and this donation is another example of how we promote health and wellness."

In addition to this new partnership with Kaiser Permanente, the Fuel Fund is also generously supported by Baltimore Gas & Electric (BGE)'s matching bill credit program, Fox 45's marketing



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Kaiser Permanente is the newest corporate partner to support the Fuel Fund of Maryland.

and public service announcements, Direct Energy, Gilbane, Inc.'s employee volunteerism, T. Rowe Price's matching gifts and foundation grants, and Citi's foundation grant.

With the human and financial resources made available through corporate partnerships, the Fuel Fund is able to help those in need keep the heat on during the biting cold of winter, the lights on year round and continue to provide energy conservation and financial literacy programs.

These strong corporate relations allow the Fuel Fund to continue to help thousands of families in need across Maryland. If you know a corporation or business that may like to partner with us, please call 410-821-3022 ext. 4.



With Your Help
We Keep Families
Safe and Warm
Through Workplace
Giving Programs.

Does your
workplace match
donations?



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LIGHT STROKES

From the President



Dear Friends:

Leadership is a quality that is essential to any organization's success and one of the most important

forms of leadership is Corporate Leadership. Throughout 2010, our corporate sponsors took the lead to aid the Fuel Fund in its mission to help low-income families in Maryland stay safe and warm in their homes.

This leadership has come in many forms and has helped set an example to other organizations across Maryland. Through corporate giving and matching programs to campaign partnership and support, our corporate leaders have gone above and beyond to assist those in need.

As we aim to help as many families as possible throughout this winter, as well as into the coming summer, the continued leadership and support of our corporate sponsors will be fundamental to our work in 2011. Without this support, it could mean "lights out" for many families in Maryland struggling with high utility bills.

It is our hope that through our corporate partnerships we can continue to spread the message throughout Maryland. Thank you all for your continued leadership and contributions!

Marnell A. Cooper
President

RAYS OF HOPE

Sewing Seeds of Help

This past fall, the Fuel Fund of Maryland was fortunate enough to receive a significant planned gift donation from a long-time donor who had recently passed away. The continued generosity and care for her fellow Marylanders is a tribute to the life of Frances Marie Paul.

Marie, as her close friends called her, was a long-time resident of Howard County and lived in her home for more than four decades. Born in Stewartstown, PA, Marie moved to Maryland after graduating from high school to become a seamstress.

In 1968, she, along with her husband, moved into their home in Howard County. It was there that Marie met their neighbors, Theresa and Andrew, who would become not only life-long friends, but ultimately her health advocates and the executors of her estate.

"Marie was a very giving woman who was always willing to help," said Theresa. "She was always thinking of her neighbors and friends. She even installed a gasoline-powered generator in her home to provide heat in the winter and comfort in the summer for her neighbors."

Battling an ongoing medical condition, Marie's health took a turn for the worse last spring and after being hospitalized, she realized that she needed to get her affairs in order.



Marie, an accomplished seamstress by trade, "sewed" the seeds of charity in the community throughout her life.

Marie had no family other than the close friends she had in Theresa and Andrew and, after consulting them, she decided to split up her savings and bequeath her money equally among six charitable organizations. Among the six was the Fuel Fund of Maryland.

"Marie believed in the good work that the Fuel Fund does and was a long-time donor to the organization," said Theresa. "She wanted to know that her money was going to help families in Maryland who were in need."

Marie passed in October, 2010, but her selfless donation will provide for families in Maryland for a long time to come.

If you would like to make the Fuel Fund a part of your estate planning, please call us at 410-821-3022 ext. 4 for more information, or just designate "The Fuel Fund of Maryland, Inc." as a beneficiary.

How to Support the Fuel Fund

- We keep families safe and warm because of donors like you!

- Donate through www.fuefundmaryland.org.
- Mail your check or money order to: Fuel Fund of Maryland, P.O. Box 62266, Baltimore, MD 21264-2266.
- Remember the Fuel Fund in your will.
- Contribute through workplace giving opportunities.
- Give through the electronic funds transfer (EFT).
- Sponsor an event or host a fundraiser.
- Give through the donation envelope in your BGE Bill.

For more information, contact Patryc Barnes at 410-821-3022, ext. 4 or via email at pbarnes@fuefundmaryland.org.



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Non-profit organizations need more than financial contributions from charitable donors to succeed and that is certainly the case for the Fuel Fund of Maryland. Without the dedicated corps of volunteers, who donate hours of their time, week-in and week-out, the operations of the organization would not run nearly as smoothly as they do.

At the Fuel Fund, we have four volunteers that consistently come in to lend a hand with the day-to-day needs of running the office. They are Janhavi Jiniswale, Mary Jo Green, Susan Ayres and Sandra Esposito. These dedicated women handle such necessary office tasks as data entry, envelope stuffing and special projects needed by the staff.

“Volunteering at the Fuel Fund has enabled me to meet the wonderful people who work there while feeling that I am helping in a small way,” said Mary Jo. “My initial interest in the Fuel Fund was due to the BGE donation envelope, [but] I have since found the organization to be everything a charity should be.”

“I like the idea of ‘giving back’ to our community and to this very worthwhile cause,” said Sandra. “It feels good to know I am assisting in helping people less fortunate than I. I felt that the Fuel Fund was an especially good and worthy cause.”

In addition to our regular volunteers, employees at Gilbane, Inc. - a real estate development and building company - have stepped up to lead Watt Watchers energy conservations education classes through the company’s corporate volunteer program.

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 liason & Watt Watchers of Maryland™ educator. All volunteers will receive training & support.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Watt Watcher of Maryland™ Training
Training was held on the following dates from 6-8 pm at the Fuel Fund of Maryland offices:

- Tuesday, January 25, 2011
- Tuesday, February 1, 2011
- Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Attendance at all training sessions is mandatory for all Watt Watchers Volunteers.

Fuel Fund Volunteer Orientation
Our volunteer orientation and information session was held on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 from 1:00-3:00 at the Fuel Fund offices.

For more information and to RSVP for Watt Watchers of Maryland™ Training and Volunteer Orientation, please contact Danielle Phelps by calling 410-821-3022 ext. 106 or via email at dphelps@fuelfundmaryland.org.

Fifth Annual “Lights Out” at Maryvale
“Lights Out” at Maryvale Preparatory School will take place on February 11, 2011 from 8:00 pm - 8:00 am on February 12, 2011. “Lights Out” is a student-run event designed to increase awareness about the Fuel Fund of Maryland and understanding about the challenges Fuel Fund clients face.

FUEL FUND NEWS

Fuel Fund Partners With Direct Energy for Weatherization Day

The Fuel Fund of Maryland has partnered with Direct Energy to hold a Watt Watchers energy conservation training event this year on National Weatherization Day. Direct Energy, a leading supplier of natural gas and electricity in North America and Canada, is making a monetary contribution to the Fuel Fund along with a donation of 1-2 energy efficient furnaces (including labor) to be installed in the homes of Maryland families in need.

Held during Energy Awareness Month in October, National Weatherization Day is a day dedicated to focusing local, state and national attention on Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). WAP offers low-income families the opportunity to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient.

Details on the event will be announced as we approach this year’s National Weatherization Day, taking place on October 30, 2011.



Business

Direct Energy will sponsor an energy education event on National Weatherization Day 2011.

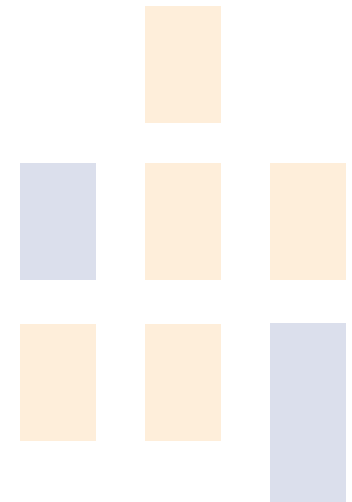
Fuel Fund Awarded Grant from United Way of Central Maryland

The Fuel Fund of Maryland is pleased to announce a \$37,500 grant award by the United Way of Central Maryland to help low-income residents in Baltimore City stay warm and safe in their homes. In December 2010, UWCM awarded \$2.8 million to 55 organizations to help vulnerable individuals and families meet their most basic needs. For more information on UWCM grants program, visit their website at www.uwcm.org.



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Spring 2011 Newsletter

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Caption

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.

The mission of the Fuel Fund of Maryland is to supplement the resources of those experiencing hardship with their home energy needs.