



# BRIGHT LIGHTS



## Fuel Fund of Maryland -- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Back in 1981 and 1982, our founder, Mrs. Victorine Q. Adams, may have thought that the Fuel Fund would help for as long as necessary, until oil prices went down. Now, as the Fuel Fund completes a quarter-century of service, it is clearly an essential resource.

Those whom we helped many years ago could be a neighbor, sister, aunt, brother, former classmate, or college roommate. The youngsters of twenty-five years ago have grown up, the young adults have settled down, and middle-aged folks have become seniors.

Some families who needed assistance twenty-five years ago are now comfortable in their lives and are often giving back to us now.

Others have grown old with Social Security as their sole support, and need help again.

Still others, with limited capacity to earn a living due to physical, developmental or emotional disabilities, or educational challenges need continued help.

We want to ensure the Fuel Fund is present, as an institution on which Marylanders can rely for help with this essential commodity. To that end, you will find in this newsletter:

- On page 2, an initiative with high school students meant to introduce adolescents to the needs of many Marylanders as well as to teach about the need to conserve essential resources.
- On page 3, a recent recipient whose needs reflect the current challenges of medical coverage; and,
- On the back cover a description of our achieving a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. Today, such ratings help donors to select charities.

For twenty-five years, we have been able to meet the on-going essential energy needs of marginalized families in Maryland as we did in the beginning. Thank you for doing your part to make energy more affordable for your neighbors in need.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
 Sunday, April 29, 2007  
 at  
 Morton's the Steakhouse  
 RSVP required.

.....  
*(Your \$25 donation per person will be used for conservation kits to help our families reduce their energy cost.)  
 Cost is completely underwritten by  
 BGE, a Constellation Energy Company.*

  
 305 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 115  
 Baltimore, Maryland 21204-4435  
 Phone: (410) 821-3022 Fax: (410) 821-3026  
[www.fuelfundmaryland.org](http://www.fuelfundmaryland.org)

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## Calendar Highlights



### **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**Sunday, April 29, 2007**

*Morton's the Steakhouse, \$25 per person, advance reservation and payment required. Call: Mary Kaye DiUbaldo 410-821-3022 ext.2*

### **Salsabration 2007**

**June 2007**

*Enjoy a hot night of festive food, drinks, Latin dancing, and a silent auction. For tickets and more information call: 410-821-3022 ext.2*

### **Fuel Fund Fairways Golf Classic 2007**

**Friday, October 19, 2007 at the Woodlands**

*Come and spend a day at Baltimore County's newest, world-class golf venue and support the Fuel Fund of Maryland. Price includes: Golf Cart, Lunch, Cocktails and Award Dinner. For more information, sponsorship opportunities or to participate call: 410-821-3022 ext.2*



## **Fuel Fund Officers and Staff**

John F. Goedeke, Jr., President  
Rick Phelps, III, Vice President  
James Wilhelm, Treasurer  
Mary Ellen Vanni, Executive Director  
Matt Pillsbury, Chief Liaison  
Leonie Buchanan-Smith, Development Assoc.  
Danielle Phelps, Volunteer Coordinator  
Cindy Amberg, Consultant  
Terry Kennedy, Accounting Services  
Mary Kaye DiUbaldo, Events Coordinator

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

 A special thank you for your support this winter!

## Spotlight on Volunteers

Danielle Phelps, the Fuel Fund's Volunteer Maryland Coordinator, has been working with a group of students calling themselves "Spread the Warmth" from Maryvale Preparatory School to develop a program to educate and promote the importance of energy conservation and the mission of the Fuel Fund to the youth population.

The Spread the Warmth girls worked to plan an in-school energy week/energy campaign starting March 19th.

In preparing for "**Energy Week**" at their school, the group planned a "lights out" event during which students spent the night in the school without electricity. Through the night the students participated in:

- Educating their peers on the Fuel Fund
- Making blankets for Fuel Fund families
- Creating educational materials to be placed throughout their school
- Planning activities for "**Energy Week**"

Through this process the students worked toward completing their required school service hours and developed leadership and team building skills.

The hope for this project is that it will bring an awareness of the Fuel Fund and its mission to individuals.

*(To have a similar event in your school please call Danielle Phelps at (410) 821-3022 ext.106)*

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## **The Fuel Fund Welcomes Leonie Buchanan-Smith**

The Fuel Fund of Maryland is proud to announce the addition of Leonie Buchanan-Smith to its staff as the Development Associate. Leonie's primary responsibility will be the recording and acknowledgment of gifts to the Fuel Fund. She will also assist in the production of special events, newsletters, annual reports and direct mail campaigns.

Prior to the Fuel Fund, Leonie worked at the Marble Collegiate Church in New York City as the Special Events Coordinator and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America as the Development Coordinator.

## Light Strokes from the President

Dear Friends:

This fiscal year reflects the uncertainty that surrounds the energy environment and the lives of those who come to the Fuel Fund for help.

Those of us with relative security in our financial lives balance the fluctuations in temperature and fuel costs. Those with great economic disadvantages are caught on the cliff's edge of survival when piercing cold weather threatens the health of their families.

Our security is the support of empathetic Marylanders such as you and continued corporate support from BGE and other corporations. One single mom who is participating in a job training program in East Baltimore contacted us in February. Without the help that you provide, she would have had to take days off from her program to go from church to church asking for financial help. Because you were there, she paid the remainder of her bill and continued her studies uninterrupted.

As the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fuel Fund comes to an end, I thank you for your generous support for over 100,000 families in similar circumstances. In 25 years, individuals have given over \$15,000,000.

With your continued support, the Fuel Fund will be faithful to its vision that, ***Maryland will have adequate resources to make home energy affordable***, despite the effects of the environment and economy, and the number of families in need resulting from these factors.

For all of the hundred thousand families who are grateful for your help, let me express sincere appreciation to you for your confidence in this organization and your compassion for your neighbors.

Sincerely,

John F. Goedeke, Jr.  
Board President



## Rays of Hope

Fuel Fund of Maryland agencies pride themselves on their ability to help vulnerable families to navigate the sometimes complex process of receiving energy assistance.

Often that means providing clarification concerning a utility bill, helping to secure state funding through a referral to the Office of Home Energy Programs, or helping the household put together a monthly budget so that they can get out from underneath growing utility bills. Many of our families have the resources to help themselves but what about those who don't?

One particular at-risk population is seniors. In most cases these are people that have worked hard all of their lives and upon retirement have found that their Social Security benefits are not enough to afford the basic necessities once medical expenses and rising utility prices are factored in. These are circumstances that no amount of budgeting can resolve.

It was a situation like this that brought the Samuels to the Fuel Fund of Maryland. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel had a growing utility bill that, even with a low monthly consumption, got ahead of them because their monthly prescription drug costs were nearly a quarter of their income.

Each month they would put as much as they could afford toward their bill but it was rarely enough to meet the total amount. After several months they were faced with the prospect of their service being interrupted or finding someone to help them.

The Samuels felt fortunate that the Fuel Fund of Maryland could help until their new prescription drug plan with lower monthly payments started. All they needed was a little extra assistance, probably just once.

For many seniors in Maryland struggling to make ends meet on a fixed income, energy assistance programs like the Fuel Fund are, not just one-time help but ongoing essential support.



**CHARITY NAVIGATOR**  
Your Guide To Intelligent Giving

### **Charity Navigator Awards Fuel Fund of Maryland Highest Rating**

We are proud to announce that the Fuel Fund has received a four-star rating, the highest awarded by Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator. Working to advance a more efficient and responsive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator rates charities by evaluating two broad areas of financial health--**organizational efficiency** and **organizational capacity**.

Charity Navigator's ratings show donors how efficiently a charity will use their support today, and to what extent the charities are growing their programs and services over time. Charity Navigator provides these ratings so that donors can make intelligent giving decisions, and so that the philanthropic community can more effectively monitor itself.

The four-star rating means that the Fuel Fund of Maryland is classified as "exceptional," exceeding industry standards and outperforming most charities in its cause. You can view our report by visiting [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org), then type in Fuel Fund of Maryland.

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.



305 W. Chesapeake Ave., Suite 115  
Baltimore, Maryland 21204-4435  
[www.fueelfundmaryland.org](http://www.fueelfundmaryland.org)



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***Fueling Healthy Futures for 25 Years!***



