



June 2013



Newsletter

Our City's Most Vulnerable Need Your Help

Many of us have felt the sting of our nation's recent economic downturn. Whether out of work due to layoffs or struggling to make ends meet on increasingly dwindling means, the recession has been incredibly painful for our community.

In the face of vanishing resources, United Communities is stepping up its outreach and presence in our city. Three days a week, our most vulnerable neighbors receive groceries from the *Emergency Food Cupboard*. Stocked with fruits, vegetables, meats and non-perishable items, the *Emergency Food Cupboard* often means the difference between a full stomach and empty pantries. Each month, 100 of our neighbors receive bags of food, and we are seeing an even greater number as the economy struggles to improve.

As you are able, please consider a tax-deductible donation to support the *Emergency Food Cupboard* and ensure that we will be able to continue providing food for our neighbors.

Here's how your gift will help nourish our community:

- ~ **\$5 will provide one meal for a family of four**
- ~ **\$15 will provide 10 servings of protein for a family of four**
- ~ **\$35 will provide a weeks' worth of dinners for a family of four**

Nonperishable food items such as canned goods, rice, pasta and cereal may be dropped off at the Houston Center, 2029 S. 8th Street or Southwark House, 101 Ellsworth Street; Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Monetary donations are also appreciated, and checks can be made payable to United Communities Southeast Philadelphia. Please note "*Food Pantry*" on the memo line.

For more information please contact Danielle Wise-Streater at 215.468.1645, ext. 234 or at daniellewise@ucsep.org.

On behalf of our community, United Communities thanks you for your generosity.

United Communities Summer Camp...Where Learning is FUN!

The school year is coming to an end, and now you need to find a summer camp program for your child. One that will provide a safe, nurturing environment **where your child can learn and have fun.**



We invite you to take a look at United Communities Summer Camp Program. Our exceptional camp program is open to all children in grades K through 5. Camp runs July 1 through August 9. Children will participate in enrichment and camp activities including PBL (project-based learning), arts & crafts, sports, water games, dance, and technology.

Our goal is to help children avoid academic learning loss during the summer vacation, to gain confidence, and enhance their reading and writing skills. For additional information and how to enroll, please call 215.468.1645.

East Passyunk Crossing Civic Association Co-Sponsors English As A Second Language Program



Anna Reed, Chair of Outreach and Events of East Passyunk Crossing Civic Association (pictured with ESL students below), recently paid a visit to one of United Communities' English As A Second Language programs.

EPX is a proud co-sponsor of the program providing much needed books and learning materials for the students. Anna stated, "East Passyunk Crossing Civic Association (EPX) has made it a priority to include and help everyone in our community. Part of what makes our neighborhood so vibrant and strong is the large immigrant population, so sponsoring an ESL class seems like a perfect fit for us. Foreign languages have always been a passion of mine so it was fun to see learning from the other side. The students were all enthusiastic and the teacher kept the class moving forward and based in real life situations. What I enjoyed most about my visit was seeing the students help each other. This resonated with me because it seemed to exemplify what EPX is about: working and helping each other achieve a common goal."



For days and times of ESL classes call 215.468.1645.

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UNITED COMMUNITIES SOUTHEAST PHILADELPHIA

FUNDRAISER
APRIL 24 6-9pm
CAVANAUGH'S
421 S. 2ND ST.

FOOD! Drink! RAFFLE!

United Communities held a fundraiser on April 24th. The successful event was held at Cavanaugh's Head House, and featured a silent auction and raffle highlighting South Philly businesses and hometown sporting events. A big thank you to our sponsors Lindsay Insurance Group; Renzi Bernardi & Suarez Co., P.A.; eXude; and Finlandia Vodka.

Proceeds from the event go to supporting United Communities programs.



Entertainment for the fundraiser was provided by students in Furness High School's OST School Guitar Club (pictured above).



NEWS FROM THE EPIC STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

South Philadelphia EPIC will sponsor a **Child Safety Summit** on June 15th, at Universal Companies, 1427 Catharine Street, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call 215.468.1645, ext. 220 for more information.

On May South Philadelphia EPIC along with United Communities' NAC and Housing Departments, coordinated a meeting of Registered Community Organizations that are interested in expanding into the 6th to 8th Street corridors.



EPIC collaborated with the Friends of the Whitman Branch of the Free Library to sponsor a Scrabble Tournament. Theresa Squillacotti and Xiu Ting (pictured at left) were the winners of \$25.00 gift cards.



EPIC staff and board members Stepheni Trott-Battips and Annie Aiken, escorted 18 students from the Childs School (pictured at right) on a field trip to the Camden Aquarium.

NAC NEWS

Neighborhood Advisory Committee Sub-Community Board Development

A community board provides community residents with the opportunity to participate, at the neighborhood level, in an advisory role in planning and implementation around community revitalization with an emphasis on affordable housing, economics, and social development. An organized community is a good way to ensure that community residents have a voice and representation at city and state levels. Additionally, organized communities work together through diversity for the betterment of community issues that affect the community at-large. We are pleased to announce that elections for the NAC Advisory Committee were held on March 14, 2013. The following community residents will serve for two years on the sub-community board: Jerry Palin, Wiley Rivera, Nicole Prum, Dreama Ricco, Carolyn Welton, Bonnie Lucas, Erika Almiron, Dorretha Wise, Kevin Price, Nadiyah McIntosh and Brian Valdez.

Congratulations to the new board members. We are excited for them to begin the process of developing their strategic work plan for community improvement.

NAC Advisory Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:00- 7:30 p.m. at United Communities' Houston Center, 2029 S. 8th Street. For more information contact Danielle Wise-Streater at 215.468.1645 ext 234.

Block Beautification Is your block involved?

We are asking block captains and concerned neighbors to join forces with The Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) to make our community a better place to live, work and play. The NAC can assist you with getting the supplies and services you need in order to accomplish this task. Additionally, we can help you organize your block with selecting a block captain, ensuring that residents are aware of the valuable assistance the city of Philadelphia offers (Streets Department, recycling, pot holes etc).

Concerned neighbors interested in having your block participate in this initiative please contact Danielle Wise-Streater @ 215.468.1645, ext 234.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE HOUSTON CENTER 2029 S. 8th Street

NAC Board Meeting

June 11

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Rain Barrel Class

June 12

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

EPIC Community Meeting

June 13

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

First-time Homebuyer Classes

June 18 & 25*

5:30 - 7:45 p.m.

* Must attend both classes

Call 215.468.1645, ext. 227 for information

Youth Ambassador Meeting

Training on 311 Youth Challenge

June 25

4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

SEPC - Friends of Mifflin Square Park FREE Yoga!

Saturday's - June 8th, 15th & 22nd

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

6th & Wolf Sts.

Join the Friends Group and WakeUp Yoga sessions. Yoga mats supplied.



Building Strong Communities

Houston Center
2029 South Eighth Street
Philadelphia PA 19148
215-468-6111
www.ucsep.org
Like us on Facebook



A United Way Community Impact Partner
Our Donor Choice Number is 00120



ENERGY AND CONSERVATION NEWS



Conservation is Survival

The cooling season is right around the corner, and the average family's overall energy costs continue to rise. Knowing how to conserve energy is the key to saving money especially in these tough economic times. Follow the tips listed below and take advantage of all applicable energy programs is a good way for families to maintain comfort at minimal cost.

AIR CONDITIONING

Window Unit

- Turn it off on nice days (usually not needed during the month April, May and most of June)
Ensure unit is sealed properly in window

Central Air

- Install digital thermostat if possible and adjust temperature setting during night hours and when home is unoccupied

FANS

- Use fans to push hot air out, when the outside temperature is cooler than inside
To the extent possible, use fans instead of air conditioners
Circulate air from fan
Do not allow air to blow directly on you (risk of dehydration)

WINDOWS

- Open windows for ventilation and cooling on nice days
Close curtains or blinds during hottest part of the day, and keep doors and windows closed to keep out the hot air

Water Conservation Program



Do you have a leaky faucet, running toilet or other minor plumbing problem? Then the Water Conservation Program may be of assistance. This program provides free plumbing services to income eligible residents.

Recycling News

South Philadelphia is single-stream recycling. This means that you can now recycle paper, glass, cans, plastics (No. 1 and No. 2 containers), and cardboard all in one container. The NAC is an official distribution site for recycling bins and educational material. Plus, you can sign up for the Recycling Rewards Program. Recycling bins are available for pick up on Wednesdays only from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.



Utility Emergency Service Fund (UESF)

Have you already applied for the LIHEAP/CRISIS grant and are still facing a utility shut off? The Utility Emergency Services Fund (UESF) may be of assistance in providing up to a \$500 grant to either restore or prevent a service from termination.

For information on Energy Programs, call Danielle Wise-Streater at 215.468.1645, ext 234