



BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

25th ANNIVERSARY of the ADA

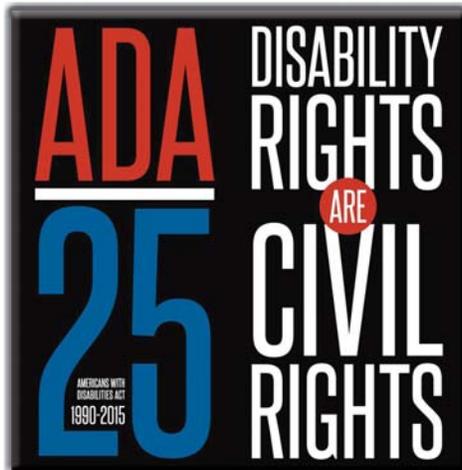
On Saturday, July 25, 2015, Philadelphia, the birthplace of our Nation, celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with disabilities Act.

The festivities kicked off at Dilworth Park with speakers and live performances by musicians with disabilities. From there, hundreds lined up for a parade down Market Street to the National Constitution Center where more speakers addressed the crowd of hundreds.

Retired Senator Tom Harkin (D., Iowa), the

primary author of the ADA; former Governor Ed Rendell; Councilman at Large, Dennis M. O'Brien; and many leaders of advocacy groups spoke on the warm day as children played in the fountains nearby.

“Twenty-five years ago, we declared victory over intolerance,” Senator Harkin told the crowd of about 200. “Victory over discrimination, victory over prejudice, victory over fear. As President George Bush said at that time when he signed the ADA, ‘Let the shameful wall of exclusion come tumbling down.’” Harkin noted the progress made nationwide, including the shutting



Continued from page 1

of state hospitals that institutionalized the disabled; infrastructure improvements such as street curb cuts, ramps, and widened doors; and accessible buses and subways.

In the 25 years since this legislation was

signed into law, we have made many strides towards equality, both nationally and internationally. Employment discrimination based on a disability is prohibited. Integration regulations requiring public entities to offer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting

appropriate are now in place and enforced. The City of Philadelphia is working towards a more accessible taxi system. And on an international scale, the United Nations was inspired enough to open a treaty on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for signature in 2006. The ADA has ensured millions of people with disabilities

the opportunity to live productive lives in the community. There is still a long way to go before things are perfect, but since the ADA was signed, we've come a long way as well!

The ADA has given people **FREEDOM, ACCESS, POWER, CHOICE AND CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN**

Families and Self-Advocates met with Nancy Thaler, Deputy Secretary of the PA Office of Developmental Programs at Vision for EQuality, Inc. in July 2015

Families and Self-Advocates relayed their concerns and struggles to Nancy Thaler, who met with and listened with a sympathetic ear. Everyone in attendance was afforded an opportunity to tell their stories and day-to-day struggles with keeping their family stable in their homes and communities.





CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME to Nancy Thaler

who was appointed the new Deputy Secretary of
Pennsylvania's Office of Developmental Programs

Secretary of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Ted Dallas announced that Deputy Secretary of the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Nancy Thaler was honored with two prominent awards at The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities' National Home and Community Based Services Conference today in Washington, DC.

"Nancy is a champion for individuals with disabilities in Pennsylvania and across the nation," said Secretary Dallas. "We are fortunate to have a leader of her caliber here in Pennsylvania and look forward to the difference she will make in the lives of thousands of individuals living with disabilities. I consider myself lucky to be her colleague and to count her as a friend."

Thaler received an Administrator Citation Award from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in recognition and appreciation for her leadership, performance, and dedication to public service and the programs of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. She also was honored with the Katie Beckett Award from NASDDDS, which recognizes tireless advocacy and tenacity in supporting persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Last year former First Lady Rosalynn Carter received the Katie Beckett Award.

Before beginning her current position in June, Thaler was Executive Director of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services. She served the Commonwealth in the Department of Public Welfare (now DHS) 1986-2003, first as Director of the Bureau of Community Programs, then as Deputy Secretary for what is now ODP, overseeing 4,000 employees and a \$2 billion budget.

Save the Date!

15th Annual Points of Transformation Awards

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Community Behavioral Health, 801 Market Street, 11th Floor Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

**A celebration of Direct Service Professionals & Supports Coordinators who exemplify our motto:
"It's all about community!"**

Keynote Speaker will be: Nancy Thaler, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Developmental Programs
in the PA Department of Human Services

For more information contact: Wendy Williams (215) 685-4680 Wendy.Williams@phila.gov

LifeSharing



What is Lifesharing?

Lifesharing is an alternative living arrangement that places individuals with intellectual disabilities in Philadelphia of all ages within a caring household designed to provide a supportive environment to facilitate community integration and individual enrichment.

Who is Lifesharing for?

- Adults and children who lose family supports
- People considering a move to live away from family but require ongoing support in daily living
- People considering a move from one residential program to another
- Individuals aging-out of the system
- Elderly individuals
- Individuals who have psychiatric or behavioral issues
- Medically frail individuals

Benefits to the consumer

- Individuals can choose where and with whom to live.
- Lifesharing creates opportunities for people to live an "everyday life" with increased

- community participation.
- Individuals can build stronger interpersonal relationships.
- Greater independence and self-determination than may be achieved through traditional residential programs

Benefits to the Lifesharer

- Enriching their own lives through the maintenance of a loving household with close, family-style relationships
- Community involvement
- Support from IDS through training
- TA stipend that is non-taxable under the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002
- 30 days of funded respite care per year

For more information about about Lifesharing, please contact:

- Cheryl Armbrister (215) 665-4631 or by email: Cherly.armbrister@phila.gov

Persons interested in becoming a Lifesharer should contact:

- Barber 215-871-0731
- BARC 215-536-2097
- Catholic Social Services 484-908-6583
- Elwyn 610-891-7095
- Horizon House 215-386-3838
- JEVS 267-350-8669
- KenCrest 610-487-1582
- PA MENTOR 215-612-8200
- SPIN 267-446-4386
- NHS/TAIG 267-295-9004



Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention Intake Referral Unit - Call 215-685-4646

Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services (IDS) coordinates the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program in Philadelphia! The Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program serves children from birth to three years of age who have a developmental delay. This program is a state and federal entitlement for eligible children and is provided at no cost to families in Pennsylvania.

Referrals come directly from parents or family members, and from hospitals, doctors' offices and clinics, and other agencies serving children. Once a child is referred, an IDS Early Intervention Intake Coordinator contacts the family to complete the intake application. The Coordinator then assigns the child and family to service coordination. ChildLink, the service coordination organization, works closely with the family and the Early Intervention Provider Agencies to identify and deliver the needed services. See Sections II-D and V of the 2014 IDS Directory of Services and Supports for more detailed information.

<http://dbhids.org/divisions/ids/ids-service-directory-2014/>

Congratulations and Happy Retirement



Larry Pace and Kathy Sykes surprised Frank Orr with a beautiful plaque and a Liberty Bell in honor of his 27 years of service!

photo by Bonnie Squires



Elliot Glickman paid tribute to his friend Frank Orr.

photo by Bonnie Squires



Larry Pace read a tribute letter from Dr. Arthur C. Evans, Jr., Ph.D., saluting Frank for his loyal work for decades.

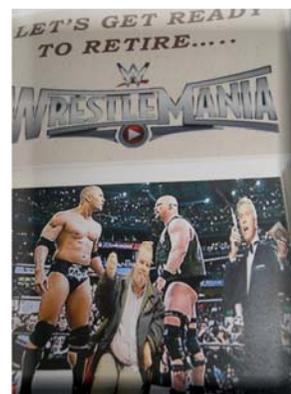
photo by Bonnie Squires

For those who missed it - Frank Orr was thrilled - more than 35 friends and colleagues showed up to pay tribute to him and his longevity at DBHIDS, and Jobie Treegoob created a wonderful tribute video.

Frank will truly be missed at DBHIDS and everyone wished him a fond farewell and happy retirement!

Dave and Buster's was the setting for the Tribute Luncheon on July 18 in honor of Frank Orr and his retirement. The creative program pictured Frank with his favorite World Wrestling champions!

photo by Bonnie Squires



DBH Transformation Decade Awards - Call for Nominations



The City of Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbility Services and the DBHIDS Quality of Work Life Committee are calling for Nominations for the DBHIDS Transformation Decade Awards.

Nominations are being accepted for individuals, provider agencies, organizations and/or groups whose practices have made a difference in the areas of addiction services, intellectual disability services, mental health, and recovery/resilience advocacy. They are seeking nominations for those who exemplify the DBHIDS transformation principles, directed at creating supporting communities, resilience and self-determination.

Nominations can also be completed online. The link for the online form: <http://goo.gl/forms/QVruJiJr3U>

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: OCTOBER 1, 2015

RESOURCES

New PCHC Resources for Families

Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care (PCHC) www.pchc.org has two new items to share with families, individuals and support staff. First, we have a new online training for families and individuals titled “How To Be Safe When Using Social Media”. The training provides information on how to ensure online safety, protect personal information and provides examples of the pros and cons when using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The training provides a multitude of guidelines and recommendations to ensure that everyone has a positive social media experience.



Second, we have our “Hospital Admission and Discharge Planning” booklet which looks at planned or unplanned hospitalizations and provides comfort during a stressful time for the patient and their family. This booklet will provide tools to ensure proper hospital admission protocol is followed and safe informed discharges are provided. The “Hospital Admission and Discharge Planning” booklet will cover the following:

- Information for planned or unplanned hospital admission
- The importance of communication for safe discharge and continuity of care
- Strategies to ensure a safe transition through effective discharge planning
- Process to secure placement in a short or long term facility

In order to obtain this booklet, please contact PCHC’s Outreach Department via email at bdowns@pmhcc.org or call us at 215-546-0300. We hope you will find the booklet to be a valuable tool and resource for anyone requiring a hospitalization.

STATE-WIDE ODP LISTENING TOURS ON WAIVER RENEWALS

Mark your Calendar! The Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs will hold Listening Tours around the state on the Consolidated and Person Family Directed Support Waiver renewals. ODP is seeking input into the next Waiver Renewal Application from all interested parties. These sessions will be a great opportunity for a broad group of people to present their comments and ideas. ODP would like to know what is working now and what changes you recommend.

October 15, 2015	1 - 3:00 pm 6 - 8:00 pm	Sheraton Erie Bayfront 55 West Bay Drive, Erie, PA 16507
October 16, 2015	1 - 3:00 pm 6 - 8:00 pm	Pine Community Center 100 Pine Park Drive, Wexford, PA 15090
November 4, 2015	1 - 3:00 pm 6 - 8:00 pm	Central Penn Conference Center 600 Valley Road, PO Box 309, Summerdale, PA 17093
November 16, 2015	1 - 3:00 pm	Quality Inn - Wilkes Barre 800 Kidder Street, Wilkes Barre, PA 18702
December 7, 2015	1 - 3:00 pm 6 - 8:00 pm	801 Market Street, 11th Floor (Room 11f4A), Phila, PA Church on the Mall, Plymouth Meeting Mall 500 West Germantown Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA

Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care Special Needs Unit Meetings



Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care (PCHC) hosts a quarterly Special Needs Unit (SNU) Meeting every year during the months of October, January, April and July. This meeting acts as a venue for advocates, families, support staff and clinical health providers to share information about health insurance and discuss issues relevant to the special needs population. Representatives from Keystone First, United Healthcare Community Plan, Aetna Better Health, Health Partners and The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services regularly attend the meeting. The Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations are routinely invited as well.

We have had presentations ranging from a Behavioral Health Panel discussion on self-care to prevent burn out for caregivers, to information on how to obtain genetic testing to help doctors prescribe medication that would best serve an individual. There was also a discussion on the difficulty of receiving dental care and obtaining services for the special needs population.

By attending this meeting there is the opportunity to ask specific questions and receive resources for all 5 counties in the Southeastern Region of PA. If you would like to attend or have any questions, please contact Briana Downs at bdowns@pmhcc.org to be added to the listserve in order to receive notifications about upcoming meetings. Also, check out our website at www.pchc.org for notifications on the Special Needs Unit Meetings and to see the agenda.

Conferencia Proyecto Autismo Philadelphia: Conocimiento a la Acción



Viernes 16 de octubre del 2015
9:00 am - 3:30 pm
Biblioteca Pública de Philadelphia
1901 Vine Street, Piso #4
Philadelphia, PA 19103

El Proyecto Autismo de Philadelphia, el cual es la primera iniciativa a nivel municipal para mejorar las vidas de las personas que viven con autismo, auspiciara una conferencia de un día para; Defensores propios, miembros de las familias y profesionales. Esta conferencia brindará materiales específicos, estrategias innovadoras y recursos vitales para las personas de Philadelphia impactadas por el autismo a través del espectro y toda la vida. Los asistentes tendrán contacto directo con líderes en educación, clínico, pólizas, y en las áreas de investigación. Los participantes aprenderán acerca de los emocionantes nuevos esfuerzos de participación comunitaria del proyecto y cómo el proyecto puede apoyar a las personas con autismo y sus familias. Esta conferencia mejorará las habilidades de abogacía a nivel individual y fortalecerá y unificará el movimiento de abogacía en Philadelphia para influir en el cambio.

Para registrarse, por favor visite: <http://www.phillyautismproject.org/conference>

SAVE THE DATE



Bob PANTANO Dance Party
Friday, October 2, 2015
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm @ Cannstatter Volksfest Verein
Visit: www.visionforequality.org
or call Jill 215-923-3349 x108
email: Jlong@visionforequality.org

98.1 WOGL
CANNSTATTER VOLKSFEST VEREIN
PHILADELPHIA, PENN.

Come join us for a night of dancing to the best songs from the 60's, 70's, 80's, delicious food, salads, beer and soda, raffle baskets and exciting silent auction items

Tickets: \$35 per person/ Table of 10 - \$300

For more information visit:

www.visionforequality.org

or call Jill (215) 923-3349 x 108

email: Jlong@visionforequality.org



EASI
FOUNDATION

Ending Aggression and Self-Injury in the Developmentally Disabled

and



Families
CCAN

Creating
Communities
for Adults with
Special Needs

present a full-day conference

SOLVING THE HOUSING CRISIS FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND INNOVATION

More than 14,000 adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities are on waiting lists for residential services in Pennsylvania. Where will they live as they and their families get older?

Join us to explore the following topics:

- the regulatory climate in Pennsylvania including housing availability, waiting lists, waivers and other funding streams
- provider sponsored housing models
- grassroots sponsored housing models
- innovative projects from around the nation and
- public and private partnerships to develop housing

This is a unique opportunity to network with families, service providers, advocacy organizations, housing developers, government officials, special needs attorneys and other stakeholders.

Register online at: <http://housingcrisis.eventbrite.com>

Wednesday, October 15, 2015 - 9:00 am - 5:00 PM

Houston Hall at Perelman Quadrangle, University of Pennsylvania, 3417 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA

Limited financial assistance is available. If you have questions or require special accommodations, please contact Amy Lutz (610) 308-5548; amy@easifoundation.org or Sara Crimm (215) 280-2758; saracrimm.familiesccan@gmail.com

Philadelphia Autism Project Conference: Awareness to Action



Philadelphia
AUTISM PROJECT

October 16, 2015 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
Parkway Central Library, 1901 Vine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Philadelphia Autism Project, which is the first municipal-level initiative to improve the lives of individuals living with autism, will host a one-day conference for self-advocates, family members, and professionals. This conference will provide concrete tools, innovative strategies, and vital resources for Philadelphians impacted by autism across the spectrum and lifespan. Attendees will directly connect with leaders in the education, clinical, policy, and research fields. Participants will learn about the project's exciting new community engagement efforts and how the project can support individuals with autism and their families. This conference will also enhance individual-level advocacy skills and strengthen and unify Philadelphia's grassroots advocacy movement to affect change.

Go to: <http://www.phillyautismproject.org/conference> to register for this conference



The Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities Cordially
invites you to attend the
Nineteenth Annual Access Achievement Awards Brunch Ceremony

Date: Friday, October 20, 2015

Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Marriott Courtyard Juniper Room, 21 N. Juniper Street, Philadelphia, PA

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jay Basch, Scientist, Education and Deaf Associate

RSVP by October 17th to Fannie Skelton Fannie.Skelton@phila.gov

Telephone: 215-686-2798 Fax: 215-686-4555

Co-Sponsor **GATEWAY Health**

SAVE THE DATE



GIVE KIDS SIGHT DAY

Free Eye Care and Free Eyeglasses

Saturday, October 24, 2015 at Wills Eye Hospital

9th & Walnut, Philadelphia

No appointment Necessary

For more information: Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY)

at 215-563-5848 or email: gksd@pccy.org.

Cuidado de la vista y anteojos GRATIS

Sábado, el 24 de octubre de 2015 - Wills Eye Hospital

9th & Walnut, Philadelphia

¡No necesita una cita!

Para más información: Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY)

a 215-563-5848 o correo electrónico: gksd@pccy.org.

RESERVA LA FECHA



GIVE KIDS SIGHT DAY

Community of Practice: Supporting Families Through Their Lifespan

Southeast Region Session will be held on November 2, 2015 at the Church on the Mall, Plymouth Meeting, PA from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

The Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs will be hosting sessions on The Community of Practice, a national movement on Supporting Families Through their Lifespan. Presently 5 states across the country are in the midst of developing this concept. The Morning Session will consist of a presentation by representatives from the states engaged in this process and what their findings have been thus far. The Afternoon Session will consist of information gathering from participants about what we presently have in the community now that supports families and what we need to develop in the future to be successful in supporting families throughout their sons and daughters lives.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for families and those who support families and their sons and daughters to come out to hear about **The Community of Practice** and also it will be a great opportunity to let ODP know what families need to strengthen their lives.

We will post Information on Vision for Equality's website as soon as it is available about other sessions that will be held around the state.

Save the Date!

Brighter Futures Awards 2016

Friday, March 18, 2016

Philadelphia Downtown Sheraton Hotel

210 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA

Theme: "Who Knew? Inclusive Programs and Projects: A Citywide Showcase"

For more information contact:

Wendy Williams (215) 685-4680 Wendy.Williams@phila.gov

The PA Office of Developmental Programs Futures Report

By Dolores Franz, Quality Management Director, PA Office of Developmental Programs

Futures Planning Update

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) thanks all stakeholders who participate in Futures Planning activities and workgroups over time for your invaluable input and contributions!

ODP and stakeholders continue to work on eight Futures Planning Objectives chosen by the Futures Planning Extended Team with input from the field in 2013. Workgroups are coming down the home stretch of the research and planning phase and are compiling their Final Recommendations for action. These Final Recommendations will be presented to ODP's Information Sharing and Advisory Committee (ISAC) on November 5 and November 6, 2015. The ISAC will be discussing the results and selecting priorities for all of us to pursue in 2016.

<i>Futures Planning Near-Term Objectives</i>	
<i>1. Budgets Based on Assessed Need</i>	<i>5. Making the System Simpler and Better</i>
<i>2. Qualified Staff</i>	<i>6. Measuring Quality</i>
<i>3. Innovation to Support Families</i>	<i>7. Integrated, Coordinated Care</i>
<i>4. Meeting Changing Needs (Behavioral and Physical)</i>	<i>8. Employment First</i>

Each Future Planning Objective was chosen because of the impact the work will have on achieving Futures Planning Long-Range Goals. These goals are person-centered; their purpose is to improve quality of life for individuals and families.

<i>Futures Planning Long-Range Goals</i> <i>Each person is supported to:</i>
<i>1. Live and lead a productive, self-determined and safe life.</i>
<i>2. Make informed choices.</i>
<i>3. Enjoy real opportunities for a variety of relationships in which they are accepted, valued, and included.</i>
<i>4. Access services and supports throughout life that are creative and flexible.</i>
<i>5. Have their family and/or circles of support respected and assisted as needed with the understanding that the needs of the individual come first.</i>
<i>6. Receive well-coordinated quality supports and services from natural, public and private sectors.</i>
<i>7. Receive high quality services and supports in inclusive community settings.</i>
<i>8. Choose to self-direct paid services and supports within a defined budget based on assessed need.</i>
<i>9. Access the full range of technology to promote independence, inclusion, productivity and self-determination.</i>
<i>10. Experience seamless transitions throughout the life span.</i>
<i>11. Have the services and supports for their desired work, vocation and/or education.</i>
<i>12. Access unique, innovative, non-traditional services and supports.</i>

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To further establish a strong foundation for our future work, ODP and the Futures Planning Extended Team also took time to review and update our values during 2015. A Values Subgroup of internal and external stakeholders, with self-advocates taking the lead, reviewed Everyday Lives Values, Autism Services Values, and ODP's Quality Management Bulletin, then drafted an updated version. After comments from the field were received and incorporated, a Proposed Final Draft was completed on June 19, 2015. In response to additional input, this Proposed Final Draft will be revised once again by this subgroup of internal and external stakeholders to include language on community integrated employment. At the same time, Futures Planning Workgroup #3, Innovation to Support Families, will take the lead to develop a companion set of values for families.

Look for more exciting updates on ODP's priorities, workgroups, and values in the near future!

Disability Funding Rally - June 16, 2015



There was a great turnout at the Disability Funding Rally in Harrisburg on June 16, 2015. The mission, as always, was to increase funding for needed lifespan services for people with intellectual disability and people with autism. While we must focus on those individuals who are waiting for services, we cannot forget the critical issue of supporting funding to strengthen the current service delivery system. The backbone of that system is Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

Judy Dotzman, SPIN's Executive Director spoke at the rally by highlighting the story of Gina Coccia and Natasha Wallace who were by her side as she spoke. Gina experiences a life of possibilities thanks to the dedication and performance excellence Natasha, her DSP, devotes to Gina's life. In recognizing the immeasurable value and critical role of Direct Support Professionals in supporting people with autism and people with intellectual disability to live meaningful lives as part of their community, Judy informed the audience why the 35,000 Direct Support Professionals across Pennsylvania need support in this state budget for a \$0.50 an hour wage increase.

DSPs fulfill the specialized healthcare, communication, recreational, emotional, physical, and personal needs of people with a disability. Beyond this, a DSP with training and longevity knows what people are thinking, dreaming, wanting and needing. They share their gifts, talents, skills, competencies and heart while meeting the extensive DSP requirements and demands.

Private providers of services to people with intellectual disability have not been able to provide meaningful wage increases for DSPs for too many years due to reduced or stagnant rates for services from the state. The inability to compete with the wages of other businesses and public institutions results in a loss of even the most committed workforce members because they need a living wage; a family sustaining wage. By increasing wages by \$0.50 an hour, the ability to attract and retain quality employees will improve so that people in service and on the waiting list are able to be supported with high quality direct supports.

The ability of the system to provide quality services rests on a stable and qualified workforce. Gina and the other people counting on lifespan services Are Worth It....Natasha and the other 34,999 incredible Direct Support Professionals Are Worth It and deserve a living wage!



The Homeowners Energy Efficiency Loan Program (HEELP) offers loans between \$1,000 and \$10,000 for specific energy efficiency repairs at a fixed-rate of one percent (1%) for ten years with no prepayment penalties.

HEELP loans are more affordable than you may think: \$44 per month for a \$5,000 loan or \$88 per month for a \$10,000 loan. With such affordable payments, now you can make those much needed energy efficiency repairs.

The specific uses for the HEELP funds are:

- Air sealing, insulation and ductwork
- Energy efficient windows and doors
- Energy efficient heating or cooling system repairs or replacements
- Roof replacements

For more information about HEELP, please visit www.PHFA.org,
<http://www.phfa.org/consumers/homeowners/heelp.aspx>

Please contact PHFA at 1.800.822.1174 for more information.

To include an event or submit an article for publication in the Family Forum,
please email familyforum@visionforequality.org