

## The Power to Help, the Power to Care: The Power of CARIE

By Mary Mammarella

Bette Mae Zimmerman's once active husband had a stroke and fell while walking. Mr. Zimmerman got the care he needed, first at the hospital and then at a rehabilitation center. But then Bette's problems began with a bill from the rehabilitation center for \$2,500. For two years, no matter how many times she called to discuss the bill, no one ever called her back.

At first, when a neighbor told Lucy Crawford that her name was on a summons posted on the door of her apartment, she didn't believe it. But it was her name—her Section 8 voucher had been cancelled without notice. Lucy had been paying her share of the rent regularly, but now she would have to pay the full rent. She called CARIE for help.

Eugene Stackhouse and his wife took Jamal in to live with them when he was 12 years old, despite his drug addiction. By 17 he was jailed; after his release he began beating the mother of his child who had been given shelter in a house owned by the Stackhouses. One day, reacting to terrible screams, Eugene tried to stop the beating the only way he thought possible—he shot Jamal. The police arrived and Jamal was taken to a hospital; Eugene was taken to police headquarters. He had not yet heard of CARIE.



Eugene at home with his family.  
(photo by Mark Garvin)

### The Power to Help

"One day my neighbor Diane asked me how I was doing" Bette recalled. "I said I would be fine if I could just settle this bill." By 11:00 that morning, a representative from CARIE called to discuss her problem and offer help. "I probably would have just paid the bill, but CARIE got the amount reduced by \$1,700. That's what I call beautiful!"

It took a long time, but Lucy got her Section 8 voucher restored with CARIE's help. "I didn't know where to turn. I called CARIE and it was like a godsend. You know, there are a lot of Senior Citizens and CARIE can't do it all. If other people could step in and help, that would be beautiful."

### Please Listen to Me

"What we do really does help the individual" says Karen Chenworth, a member of CARIE's staff. "But we don't stop with the individual. We try to learn from what we do and use that information to change systems, so that other people don't have the same problems."

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CARIE's Donor Option #: 1885

### The Power to Care

"My case was constantly continued so it took two years to resolve. I wish I had known about CARIE while I was in jail because I would have called them then," said Eugene. "I met Mr. McNeill at my preliminary hearing and he gave me CARIE's literature. All during my case CARIE provided me with transportation to and from the Justice Center. They also have access to an office at the Justice Center which I was able to use. And every time after that I had to appear in court, Mr. McNeill was with me. Anyway, I felt safe."

### The Power of CARIE

"Thank you for listening—that's probably the thing I hear most often from clients who call CARIE" says Karen. CARIE listened to Eugene Stackhouse and provided transportation and a companion until he felt safe during his ordeal and saw him through the legal system until his case was resolved. CARIE listened to Lucy Crawford and acting as her advocate, helped restore her Section 8 voucher and keep her apartment.

And CARIE listened to Bette Mae Zimmerman and heard her frustration because no one would call her back—so CARIE called on her behalf and got action. "We thank you CARIE" Bette says, "for your heart, for your brains, and for your muscle!"

These stories were featured in a new film about CARIE that debuted at a fundraising breakfast in April. We want to thank Scott Witham and Shooters for their valuable contribution of time and talent to produce this wonderful film. The event was successful in bringing nearly 300 people out to learn about CARIE

and raised more than \$70,000 for CARIE's important work.

If you did not get a chance to see the film, we are pleased to schedule a showing, just call us at 215-545-5728.



Karen Chenoweth, CARIE LINE Counselor

(photo by Mark Garvin)

## Donor Event at the CIRA Centre

CARIE thanked donors for their generous support at the Cira Centre on the evening of June 14. Several dozen donors, board members and staff celebrated the success of CARIE's fundraising breakfast at the Cira Centre. Hosted by SCA Americas, Inc. in its offices on the 26th floor, guests enjoyed conversation, great food provided by chef Daniel Stern (proprietor of the Gayle), classical guitar music, and a fabulous view of Philadelphia. Executive Director, Diane Menio and Board Chair, Donna Hill were among those representing CARIE at the event.

## Support CARIE

It's workplace campaign time again. CARIE's United Way Donor Option number is:1885, Combined Federal Campaign: 8028. Call 215-545-5728 or check our website [www.carie.org](http://www.carie.org) for the State Employee Campaign Number.

## Volunteer Opportunities

CARIE offers challenging and rewarding opportunities to contribute to the wellbeing of older persons in our community. Extensive training and ongoing support is offered. Current openings exist to:

- Accompany older crime victims to court at the Criminal Justice Center in center city with the PAVE program. Contact Deborah Sterne.
- Visit long term care facilities and their residents in Philadelphia as a long term care ombudsman. Contact Carol Rosenblum. A minimum of one full-day training is required; travel is reimbursed.
- Educate Medicare Beneficiaries about how to recognize fraud and abuse, how to protect themselves, and how to report abuse as part of the Pennsylvania Health Care Fraud Education project. A stipend is available, and volunteers are needed throughout Pennsylvania. Contact Rebecca Nurick.
- Support administrative staff by assisting with telephone, clerical, and computer tasks in our downtown office. Contact Martha O'Connor.
- Offer your professional skills in fundraising, marketing, public relations, accounting, etc. Contact Cathy Schiman.

To reach any of the staff mentioned above, call 215-545-5728 or email at [lastname@carie.org](mailto:lastname@carie.org).

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