

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Marcia Siegal
215-765-9000 ext. 5091
215-287-1237 (cell)

Suzanne F. Roberts to Receive PCA's 2009 M. Powell Lawton "Quality of Life" Award at November 12 Event

One of Philadelphia's most prominent citizens, Suzanne F. Roberts, will receive Philadelphia Corporation for Aging's M. Powell Lawton Quality of Life Award at a dinner in her honor on Thursday, November 12. Creator and host of the Emmy Award-winning show, *Seeking Solutions with Suzanne*, Roberts is known for her pioneering achievements in media, psychology and the arts that have impacted the lives of people of all ages.

The award will be presented during PCA's annual M. Powell Lawton award dinner, to be held at The Union League, 140 South Broad Street in Center City, at 6:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Willis HRH, with support from Philadelphia Insurance Companies.

Named in honor of the late M. Powell Lawton, Ph.D., a behavioral psychologist and international authority on aging, the Lawton award "honors an individual who is nationally recognized for professional accomplishments in his or her field, demonstrates commitment to improving the quality of life for others, and who continues an active lifestyle," said Rodney D. Williams, PCA president. "Suzanne F. Roberts exemplifies those achievements."

Past Lawton Award honorees include former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop; broadcast journalist Hugh Downs; former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania Harris Wofford; medical sociologist Dr. Renee Fox; international human rights advocate Jerome J. Shestack, Esq.; broadcast and print journalist Marciarose Shestack; and broadcast and print journalists Acel Moore and Claude A. Lewis.

The November 12 award reception and dinner follows PCA's annual M. Powell Lawton Conference on Urban Aging, which will be held at The Union League from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. that day. The theme of this year's conference is "Evaluating Neighborhood Programs: Measuring Outcomes, Determining Effectiveness."

Tickets to the Lawton Award reception and dinner cost \$95; advance reservations are required. Program book ads and sponsorship opportunities are available. Registration for the conference is \$25. For more information, call: 215-765-9000 ext. 5055; email events@pcaphl.org; or visit www.pcaCares.org/lawton.

Once again this year, 100% of the proceeds generated from the M. Powell Lawton award dinner and conference will be used to assist low-income Philadelphia residents with critical needs, through the Emergency Fund. The fund fills an important gap in services, aiding those who have exhausted all other resources by providing one-time emergency assistance with basic needs including home heating oil, food, and medical supplies. Philadelphia Corporation for Aging administers the Emergency Fund which is guided by a coalition of 20 community-based organizations and service providers.

Biography of Suzanne F. Roberts follows:

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Quality of Life 2009 Awardee: Suzanne F. Roberts

Suzanne F. Roberts has spent her life finding innovative solutions to improve conditions around her. Creator and host of the Emmy Award-winning show, "Seeking Solutions with Suzanne," she is known for her pioneering achievements in media, psychology and the arts that have impacted the lives of people of all ages.

"Seeking Solutions with Suzanne" broke new ground when it launched in 2000 as the only nationally televised daily and weekly seniors-focused show with a senior host. Now broadcast to 20 million viewers via The Comcast Network and CNN Headline News, the show has helped change the landscape of informational television with ideas, tips and insight on topics that impact older adult viewers' lives— all within the context of a guide map to making the most out of life, regardless of age. "Seeking Solutions with Suzanne" has received the Beacon Award for Best Public Affairs Series, two Mid-Atlantic Emmys for Outstanding Host, two Telly Awards for excellence in television, and four Emmy nominations.

Ms. Roberts' extensive acting experience has served as a springboard for an array of public service involvement throughout her career — from USO shows to national appearances in plays dealing with racism and alcoholism, and award-winning achievements in radio and public television.

She is internationally recognized for developing landmark methods of communication with emotionally challenged children, work which she began during a family summer on a Navajo Reservation. Her unique approach is chronicled in a documentary, "Discoveries in Communication," that was presented at the International Congress of Child Psychiatry, leading to invitations from governments and medical institutions around the world to demonstrate her work. She holds a Master's degree in Human Services and Counseling from Antioch University and has served on the faculty of Hahnemann University Hospital.

Ms. Roberts' passion for the arts and philanthropy led to the establishment of the Suzanne Roberts Cultural Development Fund, a division of the Suzanne and Ralph Roberts Foundation, which helps support 29 theater and dance organizations. In 2007, she became the title sponsor for the new home of the Philadelphia Theatre Company, and Philadelphia's first new theater in a decade — the Suzanne Roberts Theatre.

642 North Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19130-3409

Main Office: (215) 765-9000 • PCA Helpline: (215) 765-9040 • Fax: (215)765-9066 • Website: www.pcaphl.org