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The Actors' Fund of America's Mission:

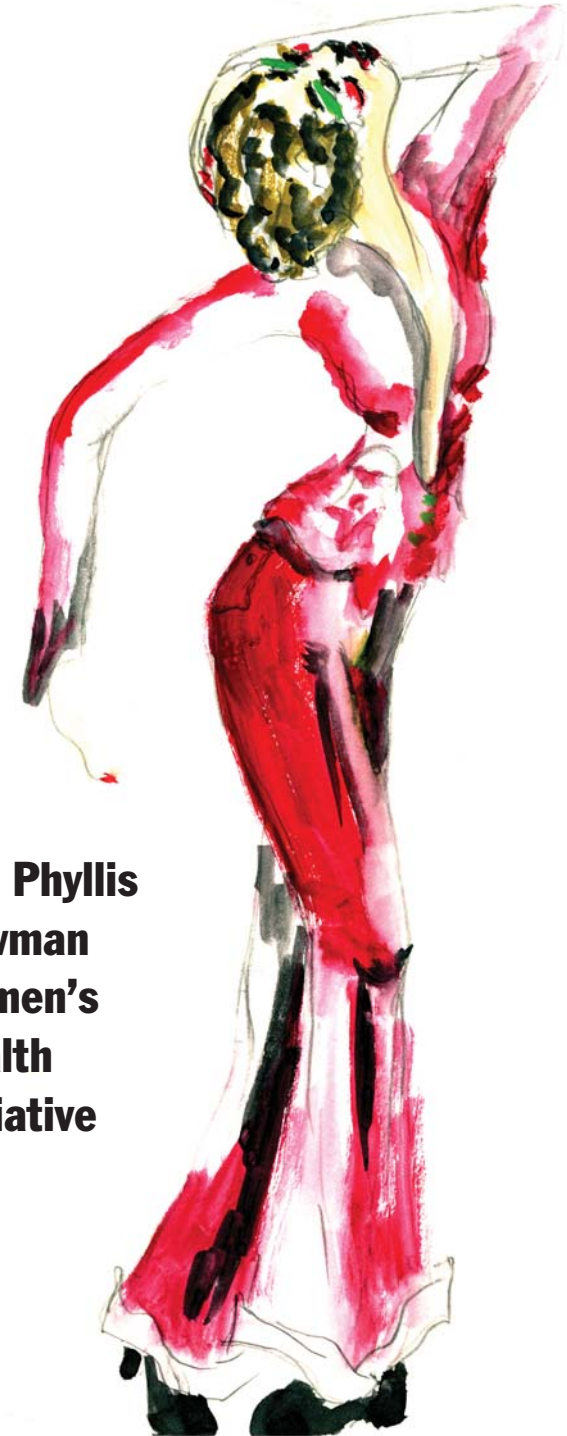
"To advance, foster and benefit the welfare of all professionals in the entertainment community who are in need of help, ensuring that these efforts are accomplished with compassion, confidentiality and preservation of dignity for the individuals concerned."

Major annual support of the
Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative is provided by
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
The Shubert Foundation
Ford Motor Company
and all the talented people who appear in the spectacular
Nothing Like a Dame event

The Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative
is proud to be a beneficiary of the
Revlon Run/Walk for Women, New York
administered by the Entertainment Industry Foundation

For more information, visit our website at:
www.actorsfund.org

For All
Entertainment
Professionals
The ACTORS' FUND
OF AMERICA



**The Phyllis
Newman
Women's
Health
Initiative**

Design by Christine Zamora; Artwork by Carol Ingram

Each year, the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative (PNWHI) helps hundreds of women in health crisis – many whose treatment is compromised by lack of health insurance. PNWHI provides women in the entertainment profession with access to health care, diagnostic, preventive, and mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and meaningful assistance when they are confronted with traumatic illness, injury or a violent situation. The goal of the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative is to provide women in the entertainment community with the resources and support they need to attain optimum health and independence.

The Actors' Fund of America's Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative

When women come to The Actors' Fund after a medical diagnosis, they are seeking assistance on many levels. They are concerned about their ability to work, to continue their careers and to earn a living; about child care and family issues; about quality medical care and managing medical bills; and coping (physically and mentally) with a difficult medical condition.

The social workers in the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative have developed a system for walking women through the steps that follow a serious medical diagnosis. The Actors' Fund helps women get the support they need, to feel nurtured during a period of upheaval, and to secure available financial resources and avoid potentially crushing debt. In administering this innovative program, The Actors' Fund serves as the vanguard of a remarkable community of volunteers, contributors and committed supporters.

Doris is an opera singer who was diagnosed with breast cancer. While recovering from lumpectomy surgery, Doris was in an accident and sustained a fractured pelvis. A social worker from the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative provided intensive weekly counseling for four months, not only for financial assistance to help with health insurance premiums and other living expenses, but also to help Doris process her feelings. Six months later Doris was back singing Violetta in "La Traviata."

Service components of the Women's Health Initiative include:

- **Individual case management** to assist women through each step of treatment and recovery.
- **Individual counseling** to help women and their families cope with physical illness or mental health issues (including referrals to psychotherapists who are experienced in working with women in the entertainment industry).
- **Support groups** where women can offer and receive support around issues ranging from aging in the industry to family issues.
- **Educational seminars** on topics such as navigating the health care system, managing personal finances, acquiring affordable health insurance, and housing issues.
- **Linkage to community supports** to promote access to public and private resources that offer support, education or financial assistance.
- **Short-term financial assistance** for health-related costs such as treatment, medication, insurance and co-payments, as well as assistance with essential living expenses.

Michelle is a 36-year-old prop designer who went to see an ophthalmologist for her sudden vision problems. He told her that her double vision could indicate something serious, and sent her to a specialist who discovered a brain tumor which, thankfully, proved benign. During her surgical recovery, a PNWHI social worker visited her at home, assessed her needs, arranged financial assistance to help with living expenses, and provided weekly phone counseling for three months for emotional support. Michelle is now back at work.

The services of the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative are strengthened by the following ancillary supports:

- The Actors' Fund's **Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic** provides free health care to uninsured and underinsured entertainment professionals in the New York City area, in collaboration with the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.
- The Actors' Fund's **Artists' Health Insurance Resource Center** provides information on health insurance options as well as medical care resources such as low-cost and sliding scale health clinics.
- Working with Better Wellness And You (BWAY) and the Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic, PNWHI sponsors annual **Women's Health Fairs**, where industry women receive mammograms, flu shots, information, and other diagnostic and screening services.

Elizabeth is a 53-year-old actress who was diagnosed with a rare Stage 3 endometrial sarcoma. After a complete hysterectomy and appendectomy, she was advised by her physician to seek a second opinion from Sloan Kettering. Elizabeth's HMO refused to pay for a second opinion or any out-of-network treatment. PNWHI provided financial assistance for the cost of a second opinion, and arranged for a meeting with an insurance counselor in The Actors' Fund's office. Happily, at Sloan Kettering, Elizabeth learned that, contrary to her initial prognosis, she had an excellent chance for a complete recovery. Her PNWHI social worker continues to follow up throughout her treatment process.
