



Summer's Gone, Winter's On Its Way!

While the unusually mild summer continued to persist in the St. Louis area through the end of September, EnergyCare service providers had their minds set on the upcoming winter.

The 2008 Summer Cooling Program concluded on August 15 and while the demand for services was not as high as during the summer of 2007 (*which was an all-time record setting summer*), we were pleased with our results. Between May and the conclusion of the program, EnergyCare service providers made 358 home visits to assess need and deliver services. This included the installation of 201 air conditioning units and 77 calls to service units that had been previously installed. In human terms, 796 individuals received direct services and were able to remain safely cool and in their own homes, free from the effects of hyperthermia.

As service gears began shifting,

following the evaluation of summer efforts, planning for the 2008-09 Winter Warming Program started.

The goals established for this winter include 575 home visits to assess need and deliver direct services. In addition, a goal of 85 direct weatherization services and the distribution of 200 home weatherization kits (*to households with an able-bodied person able to do the weatherization*) has been set. In addition, a goal of assisting at least 15 low-income elderly homeowners with the repair of malfunctioning furnaces has also been established.

September saw a flurry of inventory taking and ordering of supplies needed for the preparation of weatherization kits as well as what will be needed for the direct weatherization services.

Volunteers have been recruited to assist with home weatherization as well as with the assembly of the weatherization kits which will be distributed.

EnergyCare is indebted to volunteer groups from both Washington and Maryville Universities, who assisted in the preparation of over 100 kits during August and September.

EnergyCare's Winter Warming Program began on October 1st and will run through March 31, 2008. Certain project costs are underwritten by the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Neighborhood Assistance Program.



Washington University student volunteers fold sheets of vinyl while preparing winter weatherization kits for distribution this year.

EnergyCare Approved For Missouri Tax Credits

In early August, EnergyCare was notified that it had once again been approved by the State of Missouri for participation in the **Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)** during the 2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009). EnergyCare was awarded \$25,000 in tax credits for marketing to donors who qualify under the terms of the Program.

The NAP, which has been in existence for a number of years, is designed to stimulate corporate charitable giving by making available a **50% tax credit** (applicable to several types of tax burdens) for qualified gifts. This is in addition to

the charitable tax deduction allowed on State tax returns. The tax credit, once approved, can be applied to the tax burden of the current year, or carried over through the next five tax periods.

Those eligible to claim tax credits through the NAP are: **individuals** who operate a farm; report income from royalties or rental property; report income from sole proprietorships, partnerships or limited liability corporations (LLC's). Eligible **businesses** are: corporations; S-corporations; LLC's; partnerships; financial institutions and insurance companies.

EnergyCare is privileged to par-

ticipate in this wonderful program administered by the Department of Economic Development. We encourage our donors, both business and qualified individuals, to participate as well. It is a great way to not only help those in need, but to ensure that your tax dollars are being applied in the St. Louis area.

We need to advise qualified potential donors that the tax credits awarded to EnergyCare are available on a first come, first served basis. For more information, contact Tom Gardner, Director of Development, at (314)773-5968 x 23 or by email at:

tom@energycare.org

EnergyCare Mission Statement

EnergyCare promotes healthier, safer home environments and independent living by providing year-round energy-related services in St. Louis communities for low-income households with persons who are elderly, disabled, or chronically ill, and young children.

Our vision is that EnergyCare will:

- * Continually strive to meet energy-related needs of the community it serves;
- * Empower clients through education;
- * Advocate for client's needs;
- * Draw attention to the energy-related needs of the people we serve;
- * Improve our clients' quality of life by promoting efficient use of energy in the home;
- * Promote human dignity through personal interaction with the people we serve;
- * Provide services that are a model of collaboration.

We believe that EnergyCare values:

- * All people as responsible human beings;
- * Clients' desire for self-determination and independence;
- * Social responsibility, financial accountability and good stewardship;
- * Interpersonal relationships with all stakeholders;
- * Conservation of natural resources.

The People We Serve

Ms. Shirley is a real person who has received assistance from EnergyCare. She is representative of the many low-income elderly, disabled, ill or very young people EnergyCare helps year in and year out. Service Provider, Ken Cottage describes his experience working with her.

In June, we assisted Ms. Shirley, 66, who lives on the south side of St. Louis city. Ms. Shirley is dealing with high blood pressure, arthritis, and carpal tunnel syndrome in both wrists. She still struggles with the continuing pain and difficulty of the hip replacement she underwent a few years ago.

Although she lives on a fixed income with limited health insurance, Ms. Shirley was recently awarded custody of her five grandchildren. Despite all that she is going through, physically, Ms. Shirley has sacrificed her personal needs to take care of the grandchildren and has also opened her home to her daughter and three other relatives.

With limited income with which to purchase food, medicine, and pay household bills, buying an air conditioner would have been impossible. This is where the EnergyCare community stepped in to help. Thanks to

the assistance of EnergyCare's supporters both purchasing and donating air conditioners, we were able to install a new air conditioner for Ms. Shirley and her family.

Ms Shirley's household was one of the 201 households that EnergyCare was able to install units into to help keep the residents cool this summer.

It was such a joy to see the smiles on the young grandchildren's faces when the unit was installed and turned on for the first time. They knew that it would provide them some comfort during the extremely hot days that summer would bring.

Ms. Shirley expressed her gratitude with warm hugs and a big smile that lit up the entire room. She told my partner, Service Provider Jana Lakebrink, and me that if there is anyone she can count on, it is the staff at EnergyCare.

That made both Jana and me smile!

New Staff Members Increase EnergyCare's Reach

(Ed. Note: Recent additions to EnergyCare's staff will enable the agency to be even more effective in delivering services to our clients. Intern Jessica Lin, and Service Provider Claire Ewersmann, introduce themselves to our readers:)

"During my first three years at Washington University, I have been involved in various extracurricular programs dealing with poverty. My career ambitions are to work internationally with non-profits focused on development efforts. The most significant experience was the summer I spent in Tanzania working on development projects. While I was in Tanzania, I loved every moment of what I was doing but there were times when I saw that I wanted to give back to my own community back in the States. Now, as a senior approaching graduation and knowing that my time in St. Louis will soon be up, I realize that before I leave, I want to really give back to St. Louis as it has become a home away from my Californian roots.

"EnergyCare stood out to me as an organization that I could become more deeply involved in as an intern rather than as a volunteer. It stuck me as a place where I could learn about the non-profit world inside of the office as well as doing "hands-on" home visits. In my experience with non-profits, I have

been inspired as well as frustrated and disappointed with the organization of the programs. I decided to join EnergyCare because it is a very well-run non-profit which achieves its goals every year. It is exciting to learn about how a non-profit can run as efficiently as a for-profit business while staying true to its mission of serving people. Learning how to achieve and maintain both the efficiency of businesses while keeping the compassion of community organizations has been very inspirational for me. I can only hope that the organizations I work with in the future can achieve that same balance. I am sure that the experience I gain from my time with EnergyCare will make me an asset for other organizations."



Jessica Lin and Claire Ewersmann, EnergyCare's newest staff members.

"Hi, I'm Claire, EnergyCare's newest Service Provider. I was born and raised

in the St. Louis area, near O'Fallon, MO. I have always loved this city and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. To answer "the" Saint Louis question, I went to Fort Zumwalt North High school, after which I attended the University of Notre Dame, graduating in 2007 with a degree in English. I am currently working towards a Masters of Library Science through the University of Illinois' online program.

"Last year I volunteered with the Vincentian Service Corps, working at St. Elizabeth Adult Daycare in Olivette. I loved spending time with the clients there, many of whom grew up in the city in the 1920s and '30s. It was fascinating (and sometimes sad) to compare their memories of the city with what their childhood neighborhoods are like today.

"I learned about EnergyCare from my roommate and fellow volunteer, Angela Kora, who was here last year. I was looking for a job where I could continue to make a difference in my community, and help improve the lives of St. Louisans. I am very excited to be working at EnergyCare. I think the services we provide are an important step in the process of rebuilding the thriving neighborhoods that the St. Elizabeth's clients remember so clearly."

How You Can Help EnergyCare

EnergyCare is a private, unaffiliated, non-profit agency and must rely on the generosity of its friends and benefactors, as well as the general public, in order to provide its often life-preserving services to its low-income clients.

While EnergyCare has two main seasonal programs, winter and summer, the services we provide to the low-income community continue throughout the year.

There are a number of ways that our friends and benefactors can help us to provide for the energy-related needs of the low-income community:

1. Consider becoming a Monthly Donor to EnergyCare. We will send you a supply of postage-paid envelopes and once a month, write your check - or note your **credit card number and expiration date** on the return - put it in the envelope and drop it in the mail.

An even easier way is to **become a monthly donor using our Electronic Funds Transfer program.** In this way, you determine an amount that is taken from your checking account each month, in a bank-to-bank transfer, for as long as you choose. This is perhaps the safest and easiest way of making a gift to EnergyCare.

2. Consider making a gift of

stock to EnergyCare. You can gain favorable results on your taxes at the end of the year, as well as gain a charitable deduction, and help to sustain EnergyCare's programs. Contact your financial advisor for details on how to accomplish this.

3. Donate new or used air conditioners or new or clean, gently used blankets. EnergyCare accepts donations of new or used - but working - air conditioners (9,000 BTU's or smaller), and new or gently used blankets. You can drop them off at our offices, or call to arrange a pick up.

4. Become an EnergyCare volunteer. With a small staff, there are always a variety of activities, ranging from office assistance to direct services for which volunteers can provide valuable and needed help. Check our website for a full listing of opportunities.

5. Remember EnergyCare in your Estate Planning. A final gift, through your Will, by means of an insurance policy, or through designation as a beneficiary of a Trust can help to assure that EnergyCare and its programs will be available to those in need for years to come.

For additional information, please contact the Director of Development, Tom Gardner at (314) 773-5968 x 23.

*"...for it is in
GIVING
that we
RECEIVE..."*

Francis of Assisi

Announcing a New Partnership

Are you, or someone you know, thinking of selling your/their house and moving to a new location in the St. Louis area? Would you believe that the sale of an old home or purchase of a new home could help EnergyCare fulfill its mission without cost to you? **It can!**

In early September, EnergyCare was pleased to partner with "Pinnacle Pledge." Pinnacle Pledge is a sustainable giving campaign based on the cooperation between real estate professionals, EnergyCare, and real estate clients.

While many businesses select one particular nonprofit organization to which they contribute, Pinnacle Pledge is unprecedented because the recipient charitable organization is selected by the client. The real estate industry is one of only a few that requires multiple parties to successfully complete a transaction; therefore, because each Pinnacle Pledge partner contributes a

portion of his, or her, commission, the combined donation is of significant value.

The member realtors and real estate professionals involved are proud to be a part of this exclusive network that bolsters their ability to enhance our community by donating to their client's nonprofit of choice during the real estate transaction. Each client gets a free donation in their name, EnergyCare gets 100% of the donation, and the community, as a whole, gets social and economic value.

For more information, contact Sarah Foley-Davis with Prudential Select Properties (the preferred real estate agent) at (314) 504-7698, or Scott Shafman, with Pinnacle Financial Services (the preferred mortgage lender) at (314) 313-2429.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead



Views From The Executive Director

Recently I've been hearing a lot about energy conservation and how to save money on energy costs. It seems to be a major topic of conversation, at least in the circles I frequent. A growing number of families are concerned with the rising cost of energy amid a sluggish national economy. And, for many of those families, a dollar just doesn't go as far as it did in previous years.

When Sr. Pat founded EnergyCare in the early 1980's many American families were feeling the impact of spiraling energy costs. In response, EnergyCare initiated a home weatherization service for low-income older adults and persons with a serious disease or physical disability. This service has been provided continually since 1985 by EnergyCare staff and volunteers. We were later able to include many more families in our energy conservation efforts when we began distributing home weatherization kits. The kits are provided free of charge to low-income, able-bodied individuals who can do the work for themselves. Each family also receives instructions on how to use the kit contents efficiently.

Last year our staff developed an energy education brochure to leave with each low-income family we visit. This printed brochure is also available in electronic form to everyone visiting our website, www.energycare.org, and viewing the "Conserve Energy" section. Our hope is to provide a few practical energy saving tips to families in need and to other interested parties in the community at large.

For those of you who would like more information on how to conserve energy and control your household energy costs, I would direct you to the following sources of information:

U.S. Department of Energy

www.energysavers.gov

MO Department of Natural Resources

www.dnr.mo.gov/energy

Laclede Gas Company

www.lacledegas.com

Ameren Electric Company

www.ameren.com

As always, I appreciate your concern for those we serve. Thank you.



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Calling All Angels (In Action)

We are most grateful to a special category of people who, by their special gift of \$250 or more, help to ensure that EnergyCare's package of services are available for those who are most vulnerable to the effects of seasonal extremes. Earning their wings this summer were the following first time **Angels in Action**: Catherine Frisse, Ruth L. Siteman, Miriam & Richard Schuchardt, Debbie Mannion, Fatima Ahmad and the Members of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Div. #788.

Re-gilding their halos this summer were: Mary Ellen Harrison, Gene Leonard and Constance Deschamps, Barbara A. Murray, Sara Jean Glickert, Mary C. Mulligan, Mary L. Hagerty, Mike & Carol Wolken, Joan Slay, Steve & Jacqueline Rouff, Mr. & Mrs. Philip Schorr, Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Van Der Tuin, Pat & Peggy Sly, Gabrielle M. Mack, John P. Davis, Deacon & Mrs. Richard Schellhase, Jane R. Horner, Anita E. Maddox, Nancy Kalishman, John & Maryfrances Lang, Marilyn Woebeking, Ellen V. Barrios, Victor G. Clever and Edward O. Bramman.

Our "choir of Angels" was brought to full complement with the addition of: Dr. Blanca Perez, Joanna May, Eileen Witterschein, Lynne Johnson, Ken & Nancy Winkler, Larry & Sandi Cramberg, Dolores A. Pavelka, David & Roberta Imig, and Harold & Ruth Sher. The Board of Directors and staff of EnergyCare extend their thanks to all of our **Angels in Action** for their concern for our low-income neighbors!

Remembering EnergyCare in your Will today, helps to provide our services to low-income St. Louis area residents in the future.

Fifth Annual Blanket St. Louis Drive Set

Since the last issue of **The Connection**, EnergyCare has received memorial and tribute gifts honoring the following:

Memorials

Ryan M. Arnold
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Bauer
Bernard F. Benz
Gerry and Dot Bequette
Lorraine Buescher
Helen Burke
Ray Dinkins
Marion Francis Doing
Ben Downs
Floyd E. and Anna Ellis
Mary and Fred Guilbault
Walter Hansman
Gregory S. Hellman
Joseph L. Hickey
Lucille Kaiser
Sr. Patricia A. Kelley, CCVI
Timothy P. Korobey
Joseph and Frances Laramie
Robert and Virginia May
Jackie McGann Evans

Robert G. Meiners
Hazel Merker
Leo and Ida Meyer
John O'Connor
R. Michael Powell, III
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Quinlan
Jack and Karen Ann Richards
Hulda E. Schaum
Michael and Anna Schmidt
Gladys Sofia Althoff Scrivner
Robert and Rose Silies
Larry Toenjes
Mr. Lee A. Tyson
Walter Wuertz

Tributes

In Honor of:
Liz and Garner
(Grandchildren of Richard & Starr Hermann)
Steve Sherman
Birthday

The **Fifth Annual Blanket St. Louis** blanket drive has been scheduled for November 17 through December 31. Organizers have set a goal, this year, to collect 900 new and gently used blankets for distribution among EnergyCare's low income elderly, homebound, disabled, chronically/seriously ill clients and families with very young children.

As they are firmed up, details about the location of drop-off sites, etc. will be posted on our website (www.energycare.org).

If you or a group from your church, synagogue or school would be interested in helping with the drive, please contact us at (314) 773-5900.