



Wrapping Up An Unusual Summer

The summer of 2009 will go down as one of the mildest summers in recent memory, if not in history! St. Louis marked only one prolonged summer heat spell this year, during the last week of June. Other than that, the temperature and humidity were relatively pleasant.

Even with the milder than usual weather, a true need remained among our low-income elderly, disabled, or seriously ill neighbors and families with young children. This need is shown by the fact that over 7,100 individuals contacted EnergyCare through its telephone "Helpline," requesting services, energy assistance and/or information. Among the calls received, in excess of 600 households requested an air conditioner.

Between the beginning of May and the end of August, EnergyCare's service provider staff made 465 home visits to assess needs and deliver services. Through their efforts, air conditioners were installed in 179 qualifying households. An additional 51 previously installed units were inspected and service. Using funding from several sources, 216 households received

energy assistance pledges to help pay down past due utility bills. Translating these numbers into human terms, 1,083 people received direct services from EnergyCare during the summer of 2009.

To help meet the needs of our low-income St. Louis neighbors, numerous individuals and businesses donated more than 100 new and used air conditioners. Most of these units were picked up and delivered to EnergyCare by staff and volunteers.

The Summer Cooling Program, as well as all of EnergyCare's programs and services, was funded through the generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations and religious and civic groups. In addition, the Missouri Department of Economic Development partially underwrote Summer Cooling Program costs by means of tax credits, issued to qualifying donors, through the Neighborhood Assistance Program.

The staff and Board of Directors of EnergyCare are very grateful to all of our friends who helped to keep medically at-risk, low-income residents of St. Louis safely cool this summer. Thank you for your concern!

Winter Warming Program Begins

October 1st marked the beginning of the annual **Winter Warming Program**, EnergyCare's annual project designed to protect qualifying households from the effects of the extremes of winter weather.

This year, EnergyCare hopes to provide at least 100 households with a weatherization service designed to prevent the escape of heat from, and the infiltration of cold outside air into, the home, using effective, proven low-cost methods. In addition, 200 weatherization kits will be distributed to households with individuals who are able to do the installation themselves. For households who are in need, 150 portable electric heaters will be distributed, in addition to hundred of blankets.

In cooperation with Laclede Gas, EnergyCare will arrange for the minor furnace repair for 15 low-income elderly homeowners in St. Louis City and County.

The Winter Warming Program will run through the end of March 2010.

EnergyCare Approved For Missouri Tax Credits

In mid-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 2010 fiscal year (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010). 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 participate in this wonderful program admin-

istered 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. Pauline 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 Providers, Jana Lakebrink and Claire Ewersmann describe their experience working with her.

We first met Ms. Pauline last winter, when she called EnergyCare about getting her home weatherized. Ms. Pauline is elderly, completely blind, suffers from diabetes and heart disease. She is essentially homebound. Although her daughter and young grandchildren live upstairs, and a home health aide comes in for a few hours a day to help, she spends a lot of her time alone.

Her home is old and the windows are large and in poor repair, so the weatherization we performed and the blanket we gave her really helped to keep her warm over the winter. Our excellent volunteers from Villa Duchesne High School helped us to weatherize her home. Ms. Pauline was very welcoming to the volunteers and enjoyed talking with them while they worked. She told us that she could feel the house getting warmer as we finished working.

Earlier this summer, we learned that Ms. Pauline's home does not have any air conditioning, and that she was unable to

open the windows by herself. We scheduled a visit so that we could measure the room and determine the appropriate size air conditioner to install.

The day that we visited, her home was very warm. We had the right sized unit for her bedroom, where she spends most of her time, and installed it. We were able to pledge some money on her electric bill so that she could afford to keep her new air conditioner running, and keep her safely cool. Ms. Pauline was very grateful for the help that EnergyCare was able to give her, and also grateful to have sympathetic people with whom to talk. Both Claire and I enjoyed working with Ms. Pauline, and we were glad that EnergyCare, thanks to the generosity of our friends and benefactors, was able to make her home more comfortable for her and a safer environment in which to live.



Spotlight On Our Volunteers

How do you ordinarily spend a warm August afternoon? Sitting outside in the sun, working on your tan? At the lake? Maybe in your garden?

For two groups of people this past August, they spent their afternoon in the basement of EnergyCare's offices, working on preparations for...WINTER!

EnergyCare was pleased to welcome a group of three staff members from our regular winter partner school, Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill School and a group of 14 incoming freshmen from Washington University this past August. Both groups help EnergyCare staff start to prepare for the annual Winter Warming Program by assembling home weatherization kits. Together, these two groups assembled more than 100 weatherization kits!

These kits will be distributed to low-income households which have an able-bodied person living in them. EnergyCare service providers will instruct these individuals in how to weatherize their homes, and help to keep their energy bills lower this winter.

We are very grateful to both of these

groups for the big help they provided us in our preparations to assist our low-income clients this year!



Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill School staff members measuring vinyl for home weatherization kits.



Washington University "Leadership Through Service" participants at EnergyCare.

1st Annual EnergyCare Trivia Night

Mark your calendars and join us on Saturday, November 14th, 7:00 p.m., at Incarnate Word Academy, 2788 Normandy Drive, Bel Nor, MO 63121.

Admission is \$20 per person, or \$160 for a table of 8

Register to win a 42" LCD television set.

See the flyer attached to this newsletter for more details.

All proceeds benefit EnergyCare and its programs.

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 YOU 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 (*8,000 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. Thanks for your support and consideration!

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

Francis of Assisi

Share Your Email Address With EnergyCare

More and more, people are on the internet with great regularity. Do you communicate by email? It is a fast, convenient way to drop a note or to share news with friends and family.

We here at EnergyCare find ourselves communicating with a large number of people via email. In fact, this newsletter was sent to our printer using email! We would like to be able to stay in contact with our friends and benefactors with greater regularity. Unfortunately, we have never collected email addresses prior to this year. As a result, we do not have a large mailing list at present. This is

where you can help us yet again: please share your email address with us.

We promise you the same confidentiality with this piece of personal information as you have come to expect from us with other personal information you share. **We will not sell, rent or otherwise share this information with any other agency.** Your confidentiality is a sacred trust for us.

If you are willing to share your email address with us, simply fill out the information block below and place it with your donation in the enclosed return envelope and send it to us. Thank you!

ID # _____ (Found in upper right hand corner of mailing label)

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

(Please Print)

Views From The Executive Director

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

This phrase is often heard throughout not for profit organizations. Volunteers are the lifeblood of many volunteer based organizations that have few professional staff to provide the information and services that are crucial to the community. Volunteers also comprise most not for profit boards of directors. Volunteers play a variety of roles in raising the funds necessary to empower the agency in the accomplishment of its mission.

At EnergyCare, the majority of volunteers supplement our paid service provider staff. Admittedly, EnergyCare can only afford a few paid staff members. As a result, EnergyCare relies on groups of volunteers from local churches, universities and high schools to expand our impact in the community. With proper training and supervision by our professional staff, groups of volunteers on Saturday mornings help us manufacture home weatherization kits or go with us to weatherize the homes of older adults or other medically needy households.

A select few individual volunteers comprise our board of directors. Other individual volunteers participate in committees related to the work of the board of directors, contributing their time and expertise in needed areas. For example, our all-volunteer Trivia Night Committee is hosting that event on November 14th.

Periodically, college level interns join us to gain hands-on experience in their field of study, while providing EnergyCare with their time and talents. Individual high school students join us to accumulate the service hours that are necessary to meet graduation requirements.

Skilled volunteers sometime inspect and prepare air conditioners for medically needy households during St. Louis summers. Other individual volunteers help us prepare direct mail campaigns or perform a variety of administrative tasks whenever their busy schedules permit.

If you are or have been an EnergyCare volunteer, thank you for your service to the community. If you are thinking of volunteering your time or talents, please give us a call so we can discuss current volunteer opportunities. Similarly, if you belong to a service related group that is considering participation, please give us a call so we can add you to our upcoming schedule.



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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**: Laura L. Ray, Mrs. Alice Sgroi, Dr. & Mrs. Vincent Proskey, MD, and James R. Sumner.

"Re-gilding their halos" (2 to 5 repeat gifts) this summer were: the Dominican Community of St. Louis, Sara Jean Glickert, John & Olivia Rasp, Mary C. Mulligan, Jim & Michelle Heizer, Ruth L. Siteman, Marilyn G. Trentman, Francesca Di Rollo, and Connie Deschamps.

Bringing the angelic choir to full complement (6 or more repeat gifts) were: John & Maryfrances Lang, Joanna May, Joan & Gene Slay, Richard & Kathleen Gund, Anita E. Maddox, Eileen Witterschein, Dr. & Mrs Victor G. Clever, Marilyn A. Woebeking, Steven & Jacqueline Rouff, Joan M. Stepzinski, Edward O. Bramman, David & Roberta Imig, Michael Lowell, Nancy F. Kalishman, Blanca Perez, MD, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Schorr, Pat & Peggy Sly, Ellen V. Barrios, William & Mary Coxe, Ken & Nancy Winkler, Susan M. Barrett, Deacon & Mrs. Richard H. Schellhase, Elizabeth Carver, Joseph & Mary Catanzaro, Mary L. Hagerty, Don & Joyce Lamkin, Mike & Carol Wolken, David Scrivner, Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Van Der Tuin, and Harold & Ruth Sher. The Board of Directors and staff of EnergyCare extend their thanks to all of our **Angels in Action** for their active concern for our low-income neighbors!

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

Sixth Annual Blanket St. Louis Drive Set

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

Memorials

Virginia B. Bramman
Paula Collier
Carolyn B. Ditchburn
Ben Downs
Louise Foehrweiser
Carol Mash Fridley
Roger L. Hantak
John and Arline Keefe
Sr. Patricia A. Kelley, CCVI
Bernadette Knebel
Timothy P. Korobey
Joseph and Frances Laramie
Parents and Siblings of
Robert and Mary Jane McElroy
Leo and Ida Meyer
Harvey Milk
Deceased Parents of
George Mockler, III

Patricia M. Mohs
Paul H. Quante
Bob, Jack and Karen Ann Richards
Deceased Members of
Catherine Schaffer's Family

Tributes

In Honor of:

Paul and Debbie Schaefer
25th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. Vinsel Scrivner
97th Birthday

Sr. Mary Ann Nestel, CSJ
Golden Jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph

Poor Souls

The **Sixth Annual Blanket St. Louis** blanket drive has been scheduled for November 17 through February 26th. 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 or 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.