



## Summer Cooling Program Begins May 1

Although winter officially ended just a few weeks ago, EnergyCare is beginning to help Low-income St. Louis residents prepare for the summer weather. Service providers are visiting eligible individuals to determine their need for air conditioning to prevent serious health complications owing to the heat.

“During the Spring, we may have a break from the extreme weather, but EnergyCare can’t take a break from its work because we know there will be such a great demand for our help once the temperatures start to climb,” said Dennis Kelley, EnergyCare executive director.

Last summer, although a bit cooler than normal, was still a busy time for EnergyCare. Service providers installed 201 air conditioner units in the homes of the medically at risk. Another 77 households were visited to service or replace previously installed air conditioners. Nearly 800 individ-

uals experienced relief from the heat and humidity last year thanks to services provided by EnergyCare.

While these numbers are impressive, the need for services was far greater than what we could provide to the elderly, poor, and medically at-risk residents of St. Louis. Last year, EnergyCare

received more than 3,500 calls during our Summer Cooling Program from people looking for assistance.

We anticipate that, especially in this time of economic uncertainty, we will be receiving more appeals for help. To provide the vital services required by

needy clients to survive summer’s heat and humidity, EnergyCare will need the support of many individuals, businesses, foundations and community groups. Help EnergyCare continue to help those who will suffer the most from the heat and humidity. Your support will truly improve lives by degrees!



Service providers install an air conditioner in the home of an EnergyCare client.

## Plans For Cool Club Heat Up

Plans are being made for the 8th annual **Cool Club**, an exciting fund raising event that brings together EnergyCare, Papa John’s Pizza, KMOV-TV Channel 4, and pizza lovers from around the St. Louis area.

On Wednesday, June 17th, just order pizza from any of the area’s 38 Papa John’s locations. Papa John’s will donate \$1 from every pizza they sell to EnergyCare’s Summer Cooling Program, which provides new and refurbished air conditioning units to low-income, medically at-risk St. Louis area residents.

Watch KMOV Channel 4 for more details beginning in June. Or, you can click on EnergyCare’s website ([www.energycare.org](http://www.energycare.org)) to check on the latest news about the **Cool Club**.

## EnergyCare Air Conditioner Drive

Do you have a used, but working, air conditioner (8,000 btu’s or smaller) that you no longer need? Donate it to EnergyCare! It will be used to help keep a medically at-risk person safe from the effects of the heat and humidity this summer.

Drop off your used air conditioner (or even a new one) on Saturday, June 20th, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church parking lot (45 W. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, 63119). EnergyCare staff will be there to receive the units and issue you a receipt for tax purposes.

## EnergyCare Receives Energy Assistance Funding

Funding from several sources has been received by EnergyCare to assist qualifying low-income households with their energy bills.

Grants from the Missouri Housing Trust Fund, the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund of the City of St. Louis

make funding available to EnergyCare to assist qualifying residents of St. Louis City and County in the payment of delinquent electric and gas bills.

These grants increase our ability to be of service to our low-income St. Louis area neighbors over and above our regular donor-funded programs.

## 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.



For over 10 years, EnergyCare has been fortunate to host volunteers from **Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill School** during the fall and winter quarters of their school year. Their interaction with EnergyCare and its clients is one component of the school's Service Learning program, a goal of which is to instill "a social awareness which impels to action."

Through their work with EnergyCare, these young women have discovered what it means to serve the poor and the reward that comes from giving of oneself.

This past winter, five young women faithfully assisted EnergyCare service providers with the weatherization of the homes of low-income elderly persons in the St. Louis area. By their service, they helped to ensure that the individuals they served would remain

## Spotlight On Our Volunteers

safely warm and in their own homes during winter's often dangerous cold.

At the conclusion of their project, this past March, EnergyCare gratefully presented certificates of appreciation to **Clarke Brennan, Mary Hager, Kyle Johnson, Lizzie Marx** and **Anne Oeflein**, our 2008-2009 "Villa Ladies."

EnergyCare is grateful to Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill School and its Service Learning Coordinator, Mrs. Krista Richardson, for the partnership that has been forged between us over the past ten years. We look forward to continuing our relationship in the future.

**Volunteers  
expand the  
possibilities**

## The People We Serve

*Ms. Betty 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, Jana Lakebrink describes her experience working with Ms. Betty.*

My co-workers and I have been blessed to meet and help Ms. Betty over this past winter. Ms. Betty, 75, lives in south St. Louis city and deals with several health problems. She has asthma and COPD, which require her to use oxygen and a nebulizer. She needs a cane to get around. Despite her health problems, Ms. Betty has a positive outlook and does the best she can.

Ms. Betty called EnergyCare in early September, seeking help with a utility bill. Being on a fixed income, she did not have the extra money to pay her high natural gas bill. At that time, we weren't able to help her. However, we told her about our weatherization program. She was very interested in this, owing to the drafts coming through her windows and doors.

In October, when the winter program started, we went to see Ms. Betty and measure her windows prior to the installation of vinyl window coverings (*to prevent cold air infiltration and to conserve heat*). We made

two trips to complete the work, so as to accommodate Ms. Betty's medical appointments. She was grateful that we were able to accommodate her schedule, and very happy that we were helping keep her home warmer and control her gas bill.

Recently, we were able to go see Ms. Betty again to collect some financial information about her income to assist with her winter gas bill. It was good sitting down and talking with Ms. Betty, knowing we were helping a truly good person. She shared funny stories and made us feel welcomed in her home. While we were there, her nurse came to check on her as well. I was happy to know that, although she lives alone, she has caring people who check in on her. Ms. Betty's pleasant, positive attitude makes it a joy to help her in any way we can. Serving individuals like Ms. Betty, reinforces for me how important and gratifying are both my job and EnergyCare's mission.

## Blanket St. Louis Warms Hearts and Homes

The Fifth Annual Blanket St. Louis blanket Drive concluded on March 31st. Unfortunately, the drive didn't achieve its goal of 900 new and gently used blankets. We did, however, receive a total of **680** blankets for distribution to needy individuals and families!

EnergyCare would like to thank everyone who participated, either as a drop off point or as a donor. In particular, we extend our thanks to:

Incarate Word Academy  
Our Lady of Providence Church  
Dover Place Christian Church  
Webster Groves Presbyterian and  
Elliot Chapel Presbyterian Church.

In addition, our gratitude also goes out to:

First Bank (Mr. Ed Furman),  
The Meadows at Lake St. Louis,  
and the  
St. Vincent De Paul Society  
of St. Martin de Porres Church.  
Your concern and care have warmed the hearts and homes of many needy individuals. We at EnergyCare thank you!



## Calling All Angels (In Action) Winter 2008-09

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. We call these special friends our "Angels in Action."

We want to take the opportunity to acknowledge those who made a special effort to help our low-income neighbors this past winter. Earning their wings were the following first time **Angels in Action**: Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Ritter, Francesca DiRollo, Mrs. Marylyn J. Harster, Dr. Edwin L. Anderson, M.D., John and Sheryl O'Shaughnessy, Vantage Credit Union (*Bridgeton*), and the Dominican Community of St. Louis.

"Re-gilding their halos" (2 to 5 repeat gifts) this winter were: William and Judith Becker, Donald & Joyce Lamkin, Richard and Kathleen Gund, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Schorr, Bob and Marcia Leonard, Joseph and Mary Catanzaro, Janice and Bill Forsyth, Susan Poirot Kapetonovic, Connie Deschamps, Al and Marsha Rheinacker, Joan Slay, Mr. and Mrs. George Holway, Frank and Jackie Friedlein, and the Members of Amalgamated Transit Union, Division #788.

Bringing the angelic choir to full complement (6 or more repeat gifts) were: David Scrivner, Dr. Blanca Perez, M.D., Joanna May, Eileen Witterschein, Larry and Sandi Cramberg, Mrs. Lynne Johnson, John and Maryfrances Lang, Carole Ann and Fred Brown, Marilyn Wobeking, Ellen Barrios, Mike and Carol Wolken, Elizabeth Carver, Fr. Donald Koch, Susan Barrett, Jane R. Horner, Edward Bramman and Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Van Der Tuin.

Thanks to all of our **Angels in Action** for their concern for our low-income neighbors!

## Wrapping Up Winter 2008-09

With the economic down-turn our country has been experiencing, EnergyCare service providers found themselves extra busy this past winter. Between October 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, over 7,500 calls for assistance, or referrals, were answered by EnergyCare staff.

In response, EnergyCare service providers made 601 home visits to determine eligibility and need. With the help of 70 volunteers, they also performed 101 home weatherizations and distributed an additional 198 weatherization kits to homes with an able-bodied person in residence.

EnergyCare also made arrangements for the minor repair of malfunctioning furnaces for 17 low-income elderly homeowners.

One hundred seventy-four portable electric heaters were distributed to clients whose main heating source had been turned off in addition to hundreds of blankets. In

human terms, EnergyCare service providers touched the lives of more than 1,400 low-income individuals in St. Louis City and County this past winter.

None of this would have been possible if not for the support of our donors and corporations who partially underwrote the Winter Warming Program. We are grateful to:

**Laclede Gas Company**  
**AmerenUE**  
**BSI Constructors**  
**Haberberger, Inc.**  
**First Bank**  
**Emerson and**

**our generous individual donors** whose support made our winter services available to so many needy individuals in our area.

Other program expenses were underwritten with support of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, through the Neighborhood Assistance Program.

## Views From The Executive Director

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your gift to EnergyCare during this past winter. I think your concern and generosity have been exceptional given the uncertain times in which we live.

Your most recent gift allows us to continue to assist those who are among the poorest of the poor in our community. Many of these families walk a financial tightrope. When the cost of food, gasoline and utilities fluctuate, they, in turn, teeter on the brink of disaster.

Some of the families we assist are comprised of working parents with school aged children. Some are extended families that include not only dependent children, but older adults who can no longer live independently. By contrast, some families are headed by grandmothers raising another generation and forgoing their leisure years.

Many young moms and dads labor daily at low wage service jobs to put food on the table. Some have learned the lesson that the last one hired is often the first one fired—that is, laid off because of a sluggish regional economy.

Some individuals we assist are out of the job market due to advanced age or physical disability. They subsist on low, fixed incomes in the form of their monthly social security or disability check.

Your generous gift, delivered to these families as weatherization materials, blankets, heaters or home heating bill payments, is a beacon of hope for a recipient family. Your concern, conveyed by an empathetic EnergyCare service provider or an eager, young volunteer, is a reassuring message for an over-burdened older adult.

I know they would thank you personally if they could. That's why I'm doing it for them. Thank you for your continued concern and generosity.



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 Saint Louis, MO 63118-2313  
[www.energycare.org](http://www.energycare.org)

*Improving lives by degrees*

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

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

## Memorials

Aloisia Bartolowits  
 Thomas and Pearl Bill  
 Raymond W. Bliss  
 Arthur Campbell  
 Tom and Betty Ann Clancy  
 Sarah Elizabeth Coleman  
 Roy and Rita Dreiling  
 Mrs. Cornelia Favier  
 Harmon L. Feigenbutz  
 Charles & Marie Goodhart  
 Joe Grams, Jr.  
 Richard & Rosemary Hagerty  
 Mary Lin Hein

Dorothy Hoffman  
 Robert Kaiser, Jr.  
 John & Arline Keefe  
 Sr. Pat Kelley, CCVI  
 Tom Kelley  
 Bernadette Knebel  
 Joseph & Frances Laramie  
 Jean Leigh  
 Nan and George Lieser  
 Sr. Ailene Marie, CSJ  
 Robert & Virginia May  
 Elmer A. Meyer  
 John O'Connor  
 Paul Quante  
 John and Bertha Quinlan

Jack & Karen Ann Richards  
 Margaret Roseman  
 Margaret Sheldon  
 John, Jim, Lou & Lenora Solari  
 Eugene W. Staehle  
 Golide Thacker  
 Jean M. Toombs  
 Leo Wilhelm  
 Tim Yates  
 Genevieve Zengerling

## Tributes

### General Tributes:

Bob and Phoebe Burbridge  
*"Just Because"*

### Birthdays:

Mary and Roy Bohley  
 Sr. Mary Ann Hilgeman  
 Mrs. Lois Holland

### Individual Tributes:

Pres. Barack Obama  
*Inauguration*  
 Fr. Edmond Fitzgibbon  
*50th Ordination Anniversary*