



## Winter at Mid-Point: EnergyCare Responds to the Need

EnergyCare's annual Winter Warming Program began on October 1st. This Program has, as its aim, the protection of low-income elderly, homebound disabled/ill individuals, and families with very young children, from the effects of hypothermia. This is accomplished by weatherizing the home, using proven, low cost materials. It is an easy way to not only eliminate the potential for cold air infiltration into the living space, but is also a way to help conserve energy and cut utility bills.

In the process of weatherizing the client's home, medium weight vinyl sheeting is fastened into self-adhering channels around windows. If necessary a door sweep is attached to the bottom of the main door and the spaces around windows and doors are caulked to prevent the potentially dangerous infiltration of old air. Once the sources of infiltration have been eliminated, the weatherized room becomes noticeably warmer.

Already in September of last year, service providers had begun contacting potential clients to see if they wished to take advantage of EnergyCare's services, and scheduling home visits. A total of 467 home visits were made to the end of January.

In addition, between September and the end of December, 193 households had contacted EnergyCare to inquire about the Weatherization Program. With the assistance of several groups of volunteers, EnergyCare service providers had weatherized 42 homes in addition to distributing nearly 193 weatherization kits to households with members who were able to do the installation by themselves, following a brief, on-site, training session.

With the colder than normal temperatures that persisted from late fall through the end of January, service providers made an effort to assist low-income elderly home owners who were having furnace problems. Through the furnace repair component of the Winter Warming Program, EnergyCare made



Service provider, Kenneth Cattage, weatherizes a client's home.

arrangements for the minor repair of 16 non-functioning furnaces.

Additionally, for 169 households that had lost their primary heating utility, small portable electric heaters were distributed. Many places were simply cold even if they had not lost their heating utility. In order to help keep the household members warm, service providers distributed more than 800 blankets (including electric blankets) to over 210 households.

In human terms, all of these efforts on the part of EnergyCare have touched the lives of over 1,000 individuals who will remain safely warm for the remainder of the winter.

While the effort and dedication of EnergyCare service providers and volunteers has been important in reaching the above described outcomes, none of it would have been possible without the financial assistance of many generous donors - private individuals, corporations and foundations. EnergyCare is grateful for your confidence in us to be of service to our low-income neighbors, and for your generosity in giving us the means to do so. Thank you to all who have contributed this winter to EnergyCare! We hope that we can continue counting on your support.

## 2009-10 Blanket Saint Louis Update

The **Sixth Annual Blanket St. Louis** drive began on November 17th. We have been very pleased with the response to our need this year, especially with the colder than normal weather which St. Louis experienced. Between the beginning of the drive and January 31st, a total of **845** new and gently used blankets had been collected, which is more than 93% of the goal of 900 blankets.

We were especially grateful for the donation of a number of new electric blankets. These donated electric blankets proved to be especially beneficial as EnergyCare's supply of electric heaters began to dwindle, drastically, fairly early

in the season.

We are especially grateful to Mr. Ed Furman and our friends at **First Bank**, who once again generously responded to



our need by donating a total of 154 new electric blankets! Also active in the collection of blankets

were: **Incarnate Word Academy, Webster Groves Presbyterian Church**, the Youth Group of **Mary Mother of the Church**, and the **First Unitarian Church of St. Louis**.

Additional contributors to the Blanket St. Louis drive include: **Our Lady of Providence Church, Energizer, Ms. Cathy Horneyer, the Central Reform Congregation**, and the **St. Vincent De Paul Society** of St. Martin de Porres Church in Hazelwood.

To everyone who participated, we are most grateful, and extend our heartfelt thanks! Thank you for sharing the gift of warmth!

## 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

**Mildred 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.**

Mildred is an 88 year-old woman who lives in the Central West End of St. Louis with a faithful companion, her paralyzed dog. Owing to cataracts, Mildred is virtually blind. The boiler furnace, original to her century old home, needs to be replaced. However, since she is on an extremely limited income, she cannot afford to have this done. Most of her time is spent in the kitchen with her dog, keeping warm by the stove.

Her home had been weatherized by another agency a few years ago, but was beginning to fail. Mildred called EnergyCare to see if we could repair the failing weatherization. As we talked with Mildred, both on the phone and during our initial visit, we began to realize the extent of her predicament.

We were able to re-weatherize her home using newer, more durable materials. We also arranged to have her furnace inspected but, unfortunately, the extent of the needed repairs exceeded what EnergyCare's furnace repair program is able

to address.

To ensure that she was able to remain safely warm and in her own home, we brought her an electric space heater as well as an electric blanket. We showed her how to operate both the space heater and the electric blanket by touch, since she cannot see well enough to read the controls.

We have kept in touch with Mildred throughout the winter. Especially during the January cold snap, we contacted her to make sure that she was doing alright. We also did some checking and we were able to inform her of other programs and agencies which would be able to provide her with additional help.

Although some of Mildred's needs were beyond our ability to address, we were able to help keep her warm and safe during the extreme cold. We are glad that we could refer her to appropriate agencies for further assistance. Mildred was very grateful for the assistance that we were able to provide, and said that EnergyCare helped her to feel "less trapped" by her situation.

## EnergyCare Trivia Night Enjoyable Event For All

It was an overcast, but mild, evening last November 14th, as nearly 200 individuals came together for an evening of fun and games at the EnergyCare Trivia Night.

The setting for the Trivia Night Event was Incarnate Word Academy, in Bel Nor. Everyone was gathered to test their individual and collective mental stores of trivia, and

**Q: What Apollo 11 astronaut minded the store while Armstrong and Aldrin made history?**

**A: Michael Collins**

help in supporting EnergyCare's services to low-income St. Louis and St. Louis County residents.

The doors opened at 6:30 p.m., and even before the official opening, people were lining up with picnic baskets, pizza, and all sorts of favorite foods. A true party spirit prevailed and the rich variety of food and smells couldn't be matched!



Participants enjoying a bite to eat.

Thanks to the generosity of more than 45 local businesses, there was over \$1,000 worth of prizes - ranging from a night's stay at Lumiere Hotel to gift certificates for oil changes - awarded to participants, in addition to cash prizes.



Prize Table at EnergyCare Trivia Night.

The Trivia contest, presided over by the Emcee, Mr. Terry Bax, consisted of eight rounds of ten questions each, in a variety of categories ranging from "Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader?" to "Alex Trebek Meets Ben Stein." A good number of very tricky questions were included in the mix.

**Q: "Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia" is the fear of what?**

**A: Long Words**

In conjunction with Trivia Night, EnergyCare raffled a new 42" LCD televi-

sion, which was won by **Marc Groppee** of Columbia, IL..

As with any type of event, there is the need for an involvement of many, many people. EnergyCare's Trivia Night was no different. We were blessed to have a host of volunteers who took care of all the large and small details of the event. While we cannot

**Q: Who was the inventor of the dry copying process xerography?**

**A: Chester Carlton (in 1937)**

fit all of our volunteers' names in this small article, we do thank them for their service! They were the true force that brought this event together. We also want to thank everyone who participated in the Trivia Night! The event netted in excess of \$5,000 to assist EnergyCare in achieving its goals this winter. THANK YOU!!



Charles Beach, Volunteer Coordinator and two High School Volunteers



## Spotlight On Our Volunteers

With a small service staff, EnergyCare depends a great deal on its volunteers to help in bringing needed summer and winter services to those who need them. We have always been blessed with an eager supply of men and women, both young and “not so young,” who have been a great support to us.

Between August of last year and the end of January, 2010, EnergyCare has hosted nine groups from a variety of places totaling 77 individuals. Assisting EnergyCare were groups of students from **Christian Brothers College Preparatory High School, Villa Duchesne High School, John Burroughs School, Washington University Leadership Through Service and Alpha Phi Omega of Washington University.**

We also welcomed a group of **Staff Members from Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill School**, a group from the **First Unitarian Church of St. Louis**, and the **Scott Air**

**Force Base NCO Council**, who volunteered on two separate occasions during the winter season.

These volunteers donated a combined total of nearly 251 hours of their time to assist in both the assembly of weatherization kits and the direct weatherization of clients homes.

With the chill weather which the St. Louis area experienced from the end of December through the beginning of February, we know that EnergyCare clients appreciated the efforts of all our volunteers, which helped to warm not only our clients homes, but their hearts as well.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and the clients of EnergyCare, we want to extend our deepest appreciation to those who gave of themselves to help others in need. It is true: “Volunteers extend the possibilities!” Thank you to all who reached out to those in need!

---

## How You Can Help EnergyCare Help Others

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, the services provided to the low-income community continue throughout the year.

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

**1. Put a stamp on your return envelope.** Although we include a donation envelope in each of our mailings, the charge to EnergyCare is **52 cents** for each donation received in our return envelopes. We are not charged if there is a first class stamp on the envelope, however. In truth, [your stamp is an additional gift to EnergyCare!](#)

**2. Consider becoming a Monthly Donor to EnergyCare.** We will send you a supply of return envelopes. Once a month, write your check - or note your **credit card number and expiration date** in the space indicated on the return 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 or savings 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.

**3. Become an EnergyCare volunteer.** With a small staff, there are always a variety of activities, ranging from office assistance to direct service to clients, for which volunteers provide valuable and needed help. Check our website ([www.energycare.org](http://www.energycare.org)) for a full listing of opportunities.

**4. Make an on-line donation to assist EnergyCare's efforts.** While you are reading the latest news from EnergyCare on our website (*see web address above*), you can make a donation using the secure PayPal option, or your credit card. All donations are acknowledged by mail.

**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 ensure that EnergyCare and its programs will be available to those in need for years to come! (*Our full legal name is: Missouri EnergyCare, Inc.*)

If you have any questions, or for additional information, please contact EnergyCare's Director of Development, Tom Gardner, at (314) 773-5968 x 23, or email him at:

[tom@energycare.org](mailto:tom@energycare.org)

## Views From The Executive Director

As the new year gets underway, I feel that I'd be remiss in my duties if I did not thank everyone that contributed their time, talents and hard earned money to EnergyCare during 2009.

2009 was a challenging year in many ways. EnergyCare, of course, was not immune to the difficulties stemming from the recent recession. Like hundreds of other local nonprofit organizations, EnergyCare was challenged to help more families in need but with less resources available than in prior years. Like many others in the community, including countless families, businesses and organizations, we knew from experience that “hard times” do occur from time to time. Sometimes you just have to persevere and do the best you can with what you have.

There were some bright spots in 2009. Our very loyal and generous donors continued to support EnergyCare as best they could afford. People of Faith, namely congregations and religious groups from varying beliefs and denominations stepped up once again to assist us in warming both the homes and hearts of families in need.

EnergyCare relies on groups of volunteers from local churches, universities, high schools, civic organizations and service clubs to supplement our small paid staff. We are thankful to the groups—new and returning— who offered their time and talents during 2009. Many of these good spirited volunteers weatherized a home of an older adult on a Saturday morning. Others assembled weatherization kits for distribution to poor, but healthy families.

I also want to thank the all-volunteer Trivia Night Committee for the many hours that they devoted to the planning and implementation of the EnergyCare First Annual Trivia Night in November. It was a very entertaining evening and was appreciated by our guests. Hopefully we can replicate this event next fall. Please stay tuned!

To everyone reading this message, please accept my heartfelt appreciation for your contributions, financial and otherwise, during 2009. Thanks to you, we were able to continue to provide information and services to the many families who struggled throughout the year.



2758 Wyoming St.  
Saint Louis, MO 63118  
www.energycare.org

*Improving lives by degrees*

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ST LOUIS MO  
PERMIT NO. 5313

**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

Elva and Eugene Anderson  
Louis Balk  
Warren Barrios  
Aloisia Bartolowits  
Margaret Batten  
Paul R. Bear  
Theresa Becker  
Audrey M. Bothe  
Virginia B. Bramman  
Harry and Ruth Briscoe  
Robert J. Buelt  
Teresa Butz  
Arthur Campbell  
Marvin "Duck" Cawvey  
Tom and Betty Ann Clancy  
Mary Cronin  
Larry L. Dolan, Sr.  
Roy and Rita Dreiling  
Selwyn D'Souza  
Floyd and Anna Ellis  
Charles and Emma Falk  
Cornelia Favier  
Sister Jean Fontbonne, CSJ  
Wayne Fuchs  
Gilbert A Gennari  
Humbert and Mary Ghio  
Deceased of the  
Katherine and Edward Gibbons Family  
Fred and Mary Guilbault  
Sister Tobia Hagan  
Richard and Rosemary Hagerty  
Dick Hammer  
Emil Harster  
U. Joseph Hecker, Jr.  
Dr. and Mrs. A.J. Helm & Marilyn  
Harvey Henricks, Jr.  
Jim Herlihy  
Joseph Hickey  
Charles and Mae Hutsell  
Michael W. Jacobs

Lucille Kaiser  
Robert Kaiser, Sr.  
Robert Kaiser, Jr.  
Margie Kehoe  
Tom Kelley  
Deceased of the  
Kelley, Rose and Herlihy Families  
Sr. Patricia Ann Kelley, CCVI  
Edward Kessell  
Ronald Peter Knebel  
Glenn E. Koenen  
Edward and Stella Koziatek  
Blanche Lamkin  
Joseph and Frances Laramie  
Ben Lubecki  
Robert and Virginia May  
Sister Dolores McGhee, DC  
Dr. and Mrs. William A. McGuire  
Clifford M. McNames  
Robert G. Meiners  
Joseph James Mestres  
Elmer A. Meyer  
Leo and Ida Meyer  
Stephan J.. Meyer  
Hugo and Albertina Meyer  
Deceased of the  
Leo and Ida Meyer Family  
Betty Moeller  
Joe Musial  
Gertrude Nighbor  
Marilyn Nitzsche  
John O'Connor  
Don Ottersbach  
Leanna Pate  
Anthony, Joseph and Sam Perricone  
Esther Poirot  
Hermine Postol  
Paul H. Quante  
John and Bertha Quinlan  
Bob, Jack and Karen Ann Richards  
Vernon J. Roden, MD

John Michael Roehm  
Margaret Roseman  
Diane Rothermel  
Christmas memories with Sue & Jim Shelton  
John A. Solari  
Bud Speis  
Jane and Mary Jo Sumner  
Donald Sutter  
Tom Timme  
Jean Marie Toombs  
Arthur Wick  
Robert Woodside  
Walter Wuertz  
Jack E. Wyatt  
Ruth Zettel

## Tributes

### Holiday Greetings:

Sr. Mary Geraldine William K. Hill, MD  
Luke and Charlotte Meatte Edna Nimmons  
Lorraine Thompson Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wolff

### Birthday Greetings:

Phyllis & Thomas Hilgeman  
Marilyn Klostermeyer Ina Landsbaum  
Steve Sherman Michael J. Young

### Special Tributes:

All Catholic Priests  
Marcia and Gene Bender  
Rich Hanks  
Cheryl Herman ~ *Get Well Wishes*  
Tony and Marcy Siemer ~ *Health*  
Children, Grandchildren & Great, Great Grandson  
of Teresa B. Sweney  
Patti Vasterling  
Mrs. Loverta M. Barnes & Mr. Nicholas M.  
Petruzzelli ~ *75 years combined service to the  
U.S. Government with the Dept. of Commerce*  
Our Service People  
Those who work for EnergyCare