



THE CONNECTION

www.energycare.org • (314) 773-5900

Founded by Sister Patricia Ann Kelley, CCVI

HOW YOU HELPED NEIGHBORS SAFELY FACE INTENSE WINTER

The 2014-2015 winter season started with a bang. By as early as the second week of November, meteorologists were using the W-word - Winter! Snow fell early, and cold winter temperatures came much sooner than we would normally expect. In January, we experienced a cold snap with lows in the single digits and highs that sometimes didn't break the freezing mark. Many vulnerable St. Louisans were left scrambling to figure out how to stay warm.

From October 1 - December 31, 2014, EnergyCare service providers made a total of 293 home visits to provide both emergency and preventative services. With your help, we delivered 93 heaters and provided 178 households with blankets. These emergency goods help vulnerable people stay safely warm in a crisis situation such as utility shutoff or a broken furnace.

Volunteers also contribute to EnergyCare's success. By the end of the year, we had already logged more volunteer hours than we did for the entire season in winter 2013-2014, with 3 months of weatherizing still left to go. Our staff also provided 91 weatherization kits to households where a member was able-bodied enough to complete the weatherization without assistance. Home weatherization is a preventative service that improves the insulation on a home, allowing the person who lives there to stay warmer while potentially using less energy. This keeps the home and its inhabitants warmer, and helps guard against the situation reaching crisis level.

In addition, our enhanced weatherization program, funded by the Lutheran Foundation, can help provide new energy-efficient windows in a home where weatherization is not enough.

Eva is one of the hundreds of people you've helped stay safely warm this winter. Being older with limited mobility and on a fixed income, it is difficult for her to maintain her home. Her house has a couple of broken windows that she couldn't afford to replace, so it was really cold inside. Luckily, because of generous EnergyCare donors like you, we were able to provide Eva with a weatherization kit and blankets to keep her safe until we could get her windows replaced. Individual donors, foundations, businesses, volunteers, the EnergyCare Board, and staff all play a vital role in the partnership that helps save the lives of our vulnerable neighbors each year.



EnergyCare services supervisor Jana with Eva, one of the people we serve

FLYING HIGHER WITH OUR ANGELS IN ACTION

Every year, *Angels in Action* provide the backbone of support for the services EnergyCare provides. We are making some changes to our Angels in Action program, in order to do more to show you the difference that your giving makes, and our gratitude for you. If you're interested in finding out more about the improved *Angels in Action Society*, please visit our website!

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Debbie 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. Development assistant Justine describes a conversation with Debbie.

Two years ago, 61 year old Debbie was homeless, living on the streets or in a shelter. Homelessness "was a once in a lifetime challenge that I don't want to go through again." When she got back on her feet, she was referred to EnergyCare. "When I got my apartment, you came right up and helped, it was fantastic."

In December, EnergyCare service providers and a group of volunteers from Incarnate Word Academy weatherized Debbie's apartment against the bitter winter cold. When I spoke with Debbie in early January, she was recovering from the flu, and was 10 weeks out of hip surgery. She was grateful for the volunteers. "I appreciate anything that's done for me; it's getting to where I can't do that stuff for myself anymore."

What would she have done without EnergyCare's help? "I would've stayed in the apartment as long as I could... then left and found shelter somewhere... I was thankful to God that I didn't have to go out in that mess... Cuz, knock on wood, I've got myself halfway situated now, and I don't ever want to lose that again."

Her plans for the future? Debbie wants to pay forward the help she received during her difficult times, helping the homeless, and older people. "They have so much to say if people would listen to them."

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I want to thank you for your concern and generosity throughout 2014. With your assistance we were able to continue to offer vital services to good people like Debbie who was featured elsewhere in this edition.

EnergyCare continually strives to help more people like Debbie every year. During 2014, however, much thought was given to also enhancing the quality of our existing services. As one of our staff phrased it, we want to not only help more people, we want to help people more.

Let me give you an example. Since 1985 EnergyCare has offered low-cost home weatherization services to help vulnerable people stay safely warm, lower energy consumption and contain home heating bills. These services are provided to seniors, the ill and disabled by our hard working services staff and good hearted volunteers. We also provide the same materials in kit form, along with step by step instructions, to able bodied poor families who can do the work for themselves.

In 2014, thanks to a grant by The Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, we enhanced our basic home weatherization efforts to include longer term conservation retrofits for low income senior homeowners. These enhancements include the replacement of energy inefficient windows and doors by professional contractors.

In 2015 we hope to provide enhancements to other core services aimed at increasing long term impact. For example, we hope to enhance our furnace repair services by replacing inefficient or dangerous furnaces that are beyond repair. We hope to enhance our summer cooling services by including central air conditioning repair/replacement for low-income medically needy homeowners.

To make these hopes into realities, we invite you to join us during 2015 to not only help more people, but help people more. Thank you!

WISH LIST

In addition to always needing donations of blankets, air conditioners, etc. EnergyCare has other needs to help us do our jobs effectively. If you would be able to help any of these wishes come true, please let us know! As with any donation to EnergyCare, whether cash or in-kind, these are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by current IRS tax code. Thanks in advance!

Rubbermaid Roughneck storage tubs, 18 gallons or bigger for storing and transporting blankets ★ 2 rolling office chairs

for our service providers ★ Working computers that run Windows 7 or newer ★ GPS unit for EnergyCare van

WHY ONE FORMER EMPLOYEE STAYS LOYAL

Steve is a volunteer, Angel in Action, and former EnergyCare staff member

In January 2007, high school student Steve Baer did his senior service project at EnergyCare, which he chose because, in his words, "it struck me as a unique organization that provided a much-needed service to people at-risk." EnergyCare's mission and the people he met touched his life.

Steve has many fond memories of installing air conditioners in summer, or weatherizing homes and delivering space heaters in winter, for example. "Seeing that much pure joy over something that many of us take for granted... showed me how much EnergyCare is needed in our community."

Why has Steve chosen to stay involved? "I witnessed firsthand the effect that EnergyCare has on the lives of people in need in our community. It is extremely important to me that EnergyCare continues... helping people in need".

Despite the fact that Steve moved on to work at another organization 3-1/2 years ago, he remains a dedicated supporter, volunteer, and *Angel in Action*. "I will continue to support EnergyCare because of the good work it does every day of the year." Thank you, Steve! Our Board, staff, and the people we serve are grateful to continue to count you among our friends.

If you'd like to read more of Steve's insights on EnergyCare, including his dreams for the organization's future, visit our website at www.energycare.org.

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

MEMORIALS

Sr. Pat Kelley, CCVI
Lt. Col. Robert D. Kelley,
USMC
Mary Ann Hess
Mitch Haas
Aloisia Bartolowits
Ken Daniels
Ed Taszarek
Mary Schriever
Deacon Paul Porterfield
Robert Kaiser, Jr.
Robert Kaiser, Sr.
Lucille Kaiser
Arthur Campbell
Echo & Austin
Thomas & Betty Ann
Clancy

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Larry & Lee Dolan
Roy & Rita Dreiling
Richard Darragh
Phillip Sgroi
Humbert & Mary Ghio
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Edward P. &
Katherine L. Gibbons
family
Ms. Glickert's husband
Warren
William W. Gough
Loretta Guidi
Richard & Rosemary
Hagerty
Mary Ann Lang &
Barbara Sudholt

Viola's family
members
Norman Bubash
Mother Marie
Mr. Tom Lamb
Pat Fontana Lueken
Esther Poirot
Jim & Tom Kelley
Laura Witte & Leonard
Kopsky
Mary Kuhnmuensch's
parents
Carl Steinbrueck
Florita & Harold Ficker
Floyd Malchow
Robert & Virginia May
Clifford M. McNames
Angie & Sam Merenda
(Continued on page 4)

NEWS AND NOTES

- We want to thank the Brothers of Mary for hosting our Board retreat in September. Strategic planning is so important to an organization like EnergyCare and we really appreciate being able to host it at such a beautiful venue. Thanks!
- Big thanks to First Bank for their continued partnership in keeping vulnerable St. Louisans safe each season! In their 15th year of supporting EnergyCare, First Bank and their generous employees donated a record-breaking 202 electric blankets! Our partnership was even featured on Fox 2 News.
- This winter, St. Louis experienced its earliest measurable snowfall since 1997.
- If you or your business would like to donate a gift certificate, gift basket, or other item for the silent auction at our upcoming trivia night, please contact Justine at 314-773-5968 x 22!

Join us at Incarnate Word Academy
for

Trivia Night 5

to benefit EnergyCare

March 14, 2015

**Doors at 6:00pm, Play begins at
7:00pm**

\$20/person, \$160/table of 8

**Free mulligan for every blanket
donated at the door**

**Visit the website or call James at
314-773-5968 x23 to register!**

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MEMORIALS

(Continued from page 2)

Phil & Hazel Merker
Leo & Ida Meyer
Hugo & Albertina Meyer
Patricia M. Mohs
Tom Mullen
Tom Moynihan
Joe Musial
Robert Farrar
Elizabeth P. Owens
Herbert Talcoff
Virginia Piontek
George Postol
Kelly Ann Proskey

Paul H. Quante
George C. Rankey, Jr.
Don Reilly
Bob, Jack, and Karen Ann Richards
John Michael Roehm
Margaret Roseman
Dr. Herb Rosenblum
Tom Slater
Maxine G. Smith
LaVerne Tharp's son
Roger
Tom Timme
Mr. Lee A. Tyson
Joseph & Frances Laramie
Matt & Emma Miller

Julia, Tom & Ruth Willard
Joanne Williams
William Bundschuh
Carol Gund Wolken
Walter Wuertz
Cosimo R. Zucchero

Tom & Phyllis Hilgeman's
birthdays
Charlotte Meatte
Frieda Karras
Barb, a treasured friend
Jeff Sporleder, with
appreciation and gratitude
Cate Dolan
Dolores Kaemmerer in honor
of Christmas
Dennis Frank's birthday
Kathleen La Peé's birthday
Austin Hoffman and Gina
Engberg for their wedding
August 29, 2014
the gift of Jesus

TRIBUTES

Joseph, Ann & Charlie Becker
Richard Shinnery & Mary
Beverly Zacher
Kathy for a successful
operation
Citizens of St. Louis
Vincent Gibbons



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Saving Lives By Degrees...

Want to know what difference your dollars have made this winter?

Read about Debbie and Eva, some of the many people served this winter

Meet Steve, and find out why he has supported
EnergyCare since high school

Find out how many people you've helped so far this season!