



## A Summer Of Records For EnergyCare

While the summer of 2007 may not go down in the records as having been the hottest in history, it will go down in EnergyCare's record-book as the busiest in its 24 year history.

The annual Summer Cooling Program began on May 1st, this year. While the heat was a bit late in arriving this year, it did arrive, and with a vengeance. EnergyCare Service Providers began taking requests for cooling assistance and continued to do so throughout the summer months. By the end of the program, over 4,100 calls were received from people seeking assistance.

In addition to our two dedicated full-time Service Providers, Jana Lakebrink and Tim Stewart, EnergyCare was able to obtain the services of three summer service interns, Steve Baer, Kenneth Cattie and Anthony Adamgbo as well as an HVAC technician, Gregory Lomax, who worked on cleaning and checking donations of



*Service Providers, Tim Stewart and Jana Lakebrink, install an air conditioning unit in the home of an at-risk client.*

used units for proper functioning and which were later installed.

The service provider teams made a record of 548 home visits to determine eligibility and need. They installed a record 328 air conditioning units in medically at-risk homes and conducted service calls to adjust or replace 59 previously installed units for a total of 387 households. This number represents over 1,300 individuals who were kept safe from this summer's high heat and humidity through the efforts of EnergyCare's staff.

Owing to the continuation of the high heat going into August, the Summer Cooling Program, originally scheduled to end on August 10th, was extended through the end of August.

Naturally, none of this would have been possible if not for the generosity of our donors. We are so very grateful to those who responded so generously to our summer appeal as well as several corporations and charitable foundations whose donations made our efforts possible, in particular: the Anheuser-Busch Companies, The Employees Fund of Boeing St. Louis, Haberberger, Inc., the Harold F. and Ruth Sher Care Fund of the Greater St. Louis Community Foundation, the Jewish Fund for Human Needs, Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, LLP, the Marian Foundation, Papa John's Pizza, and the Neighborhood Assistance Program of the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

### Believe It Or Not, Winter's Coming!

With the memory of summer 2007's heat and humidity still fresh in our minds, it is hard to believe that winter is not that far away!

After wrapping up our Summer Cooling Program, EnergyCare staff have been busy planning for the **Winter Warming Program**, which will begin on **October 1st**, this year, and will run through March 31, 2008.

This annual program is designed to assist to our low-income elderly, homebound, disabled or ill neighbors in remaining safely warm and free from the potential dangers of hypothermia during the extremes of winter weather. EnergyCare's

service providers and volunteers accomplish this by using proven, low-cost means of weatherizing the living space to prevent the infiltration of cold air. If necessary, emergency survival goods (*blankets and electric heaters*) are provided to clients to keep them warm. Clients are also taught simple methods of keeping their energy use and consumption low and given tips on how to keep themselves safe from winter weather and the dangers it poses.

Volunteer groups are welcome to assist our service providers in weatherization activities. If you are interested, please give us a call!

### Fourth Annual Blanket St. Louis Set

The **Fourth Annual Blanket St. Louis** blanket drive has been scheduled for November 5 through December 21, this year, with a goal of 850 blankets (*new and gently used*) for distribution among needy low-income people in the St. Louis area.

We will be posting the details of drop-off sites, etc. on our website ([www.energycare-stl.org](http://www.energycare-stl.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.

## 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

*Denise and Freddie are real people who have received assistance from EnergyCare. They are 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 them.*

Since coming to work at EnergyCare, I have witnessed a variety of situations and living conditions. Many low-income families and individuals need assistance to stay safely cool in the hot and humid St. Louis summers. This summer, EnergyCare has helped more than 300 households - over 1,000 individuals - stay cool and healthy.

Denise and her son, Freddie, are two of the people I met this summer. Denise, a single mother in her 50's, is the primary care-giver for her son, who suffers from cerebral palsy and is bed-bound. Having taken Denise's initial phone call and completed the intake, I knew that they were good candidates for the Summer Cooling Program, and that she cared very much for her son. She spoke only about his needs and her desire for him to be as comfortable as possible remaining safe from the heat and

the humidity.

The day of the installation, the temperatures were nearing 100 degrees. My fellow Service Provider, Tim and I arrived at Denise's home and were greeted with a smile. Denise took us to Freddie's room where the air conditioning unit was to be installed. While Denise wiped the sweat off Freddie, she told him who we were and what we were doing for him. Although Freddie is not able to speak, I could feel his appreciation from the expressions he made.

As the air conditioner began to do its work, we all felt the cool air and Denise joked that she may have to sleep in Freddie's room. Tim and I finished the installation. As we were leaving, Denise urged us to stay cool and thanked us again. I am happy knowing that I helped a very deserving family remain safely cool.

## Meet EnergyCare's Newest Staff Member

EnergyCare is pleased to welcome **Angela Kora** as its newest Service Provider. Originally from Portland, OR, Angela is a 2006 graduate of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where she received her Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Angela comes to EnergyCare under the auspices of the Vincentian Service Corps (VSC), an affiliate of the AmeriCorps program. Sponsored by the Daughters of Charity, a religious community in the Roman Catholic Church, the VSC is based on the message of St. Vincent DePaul of the need for people to respond to the plight of the poor.

The VSC program places emphasis on service work, and seeks to match the volunteer with an organization which not only reflects his or her personal interests, but which also works directly with the poor providing various services and promotes social justice. The program also provides the opportunity for community living for the volunteers with an emphasis on prayer and spirituality. This year there are eight VSC volunteers in the St. Louis area providing their services to a variety of agencies including Nurses

for Newborns, Marian Middle School, St. Elizabeth's Adult Daycare as well as EnergyCare.

When asked about how she became interested in the VSC, Angela replied "Following graduation, I spent a year in Japan as an Assistant Language Teacher. Even though I was an ocean away from the US, I was



**Angela Kora**

able to keep in touch with friends from school, one of which was participating in a year-long volunteer program (the VSC) in St. Louis. My initial motivation to do a year of service with the VSC was the community aspect of the program, but I have also always had an interest in service work and helping those in need. When choosing a place-

ment, I was looking for an organization related to sustainability and energy issues, as this had been my focus during college.

"One of the past VSC volunteers, a St. Louis native, suggested the possibility of EnergyCare. EnergyCare was a perfect fit for me, with its emphasis on helping low-income people with energy services and also educating its clients about energy conservation.

"In working with EnergyCare, I have the opportunity to interact directly with the people we serve, hear their stories, and learn from them while at the same time assisting to preserve their dignity and helping to fulfill their basic human needs. Hopefully, I will also be helping them work towards a more sustainable lifestyle which will benefit both their quality of life and the environment. I am also looking forward to learning more about what goes on 'behind the scenes' at a non-profit organization, as I am interested in the possibility of future work in this type of an organization."

Angela will be with EnergyCare until mid-July of 2007. We welcome her and the contribution she will make in furthering EnergyCare's mission.

## EnergyCare Awarded State Tax Credits

On July 17th, Missouri Governor Matt Blunt, announced an award of \$24,000.00 in State tax credits to EnergyCare, through the **Neighborhood Assistance Program** (NAP).

The NAP which has been in existence for many years, is designed to help stimulate corporate charitable giving by making available a **50% tax credit** for qualified gifts to participating not-for-profit charitable agencies. (This is in addition to the charitable tax deduction on both State and Federal tax returns.) This program enables donors to redirect their Missouri tax dollars to local projects while reducing administrative and overhead costs that would have been incurred if the same program was administered by a government agency.

Donors may claim the tax credits when they file their Missouri tax return. As an incentive, the tax credit not only maximizes the amount a donor might give, but also provides an opportunity for businesses, state government and the nonprofit sector to build and sustain communities by establishing a solid partnership.

The tax credit, once approved, can be applied to a variety of State

tax burdens during the current tax 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; or individual partners in a partnership or individual shareholder in an S-Corporation.

**Eligible businesses** are Corporations; S-corporations; LLC's; Partnerships; Financial Institutions or Insurance Companies.

EnergyCare is privileged to participate in this wonderful program sponsored by the Department of Economic Development. We encourage our business and qualified individual donors to participate. 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.

EnergyCare's allocation of tax credits are available on a first come-first service basis. For more information on this program, please contact Tom Gardner, Director of Development, at (314) 773-5968, extension 23, or by email:

[devdirector@sbcglobal.net](mailto:devdirector@sbcglobal.net)

## Views From The Executive Director

The Fall season is an excellent time of year to complete some outside jobs. The high heat and humidity of summer have passed and cooler temperatures have arrived, creating a comfortable environment for yard work. Leaves will certainly need to be raked and bagged, the gutters will need to be cleaned and bulb beds prepared in anticipation of Spring blossoms.

The Fall is also an excellent time to inspect your home for areas of potential heat loss. You might give a close look to your windows and doors. They may benefit from some weather stripping or perhaps some caulking around the frames. Storm windows or multi-track windows should be inspected for broken seals that fog window panes when temperatures drop, an indication of heat loss.

If you've been putting off checking attic insulation for proper levels of protection, you may wish to do it this Fall before you start heating your home. Similarly, a Fall furnace inspection for reasons of safety and energy efficiency may be something to consider.

In addition to conserving natural resources, namely the energy used to heat your home this winter, energy experts cite the savings you can accrue by doing some of the tasks I've mentioned. Experts view home weatherization projects as good investments for home owners. In most cases, the conservation measures you do on your home will pay for themselves via the energy dollars you'll save during the winter home heating season. If you have whole house air-conditioning, the cost savings will continue year round.

The EnergyCare staff has already started weatherizing the homes of our low-income neighbors in an attempt to lower their energy consumption and make their winter heating bills more manageable. From the social service perspective, we also hope that our efforts will allow them to stay safe, warm and in their own homes this winter. Thanks to your support, we'll continue those efforts throughout the winter.

## Shopping for a Cause

Now that Fall is here, the holidays are just around the corner. Did you know that you can help support EnergyCare through online holiday shopping?

EnergyCare is registered with **4OurCause.com** a FREE and easy program designed to give supporters of nonprofit organizations the ability to shop online and at the same time generate money for their nonprofit organizations.

As a member, a predetermined percentage of each online purchase you make through the 4OurCause website will be returned to EnergyCare or the charity you designate. Most importantly, the 4OurCause program does not require you to spend any more money than you would otherwise.

Products and services offered through 4OurCause range from clothing, electronics, books, music, flowers and pet medication to airline, hotel, and rental car reservations. With over 300

name brand online merchants to choose from there is a merchant for everyone.

### Here's how to join!

1. Go to [www.4ourcause.com](http://www.4ourcause.com)
2. Click on the "Sign Up/Login" tab
3. Enter: Missouri EnergyCare, Inc. and St. Louis, MO in the fields provided

### OR

Select Missouri EnergyCare, Inc. from the listing of organizations and click "sign up"

4. Create your Member Profile; remember your login and password.

### Here's how to shop!

1. Go to [www.4ourcause.com](http://www.4ourcause.com)
2. Login to your Member Account
3. Choose a merchant and click their **Shop Now** link
4. Proceed to shop and purchase as normal.

It is such an easy and great way to help support EnergyCare!

**Join today and help to make a difference!**





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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**: Bill & Pat Warner, Helen Forster, Ron & Cathy Reuther, Jim & Michelle Heizer, and Dr. & Mrs. Edward P. Flynn.

Re-gilding their halos this summer were: Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Van Der Tuin, George Holway, Lorraine Buescher, Don & Joyce Lamkin, Dorothy Toeneboehn, Lynne Johnson, Richard & Kathleen Gund, Winifred Jeep, Victor Clever, Mike & Carol Wolken, Barbara Murray, Steve & Jacqueline Rouff, Gabrielle Mack, David Scrivner, Charles & Dorris Goodhart, Susan Barrett, Joanna May, Pat & Peggy Sly, Jeanne Martin, and Mr. & Mrs. Philip Schorr.

Our "choir of Angels" was brought to full compliment with the addition of: Hugh & Ann Bergmann, Anita Maddox, Deacon & Mrs. Richard Schellhase, Marilyn A. Woebeking, Ken & Nancy Winkler, Edward O. Bramman, Larry & Sandi Cramberg, Diane Moller, John & Maryfrances Lang, Esta Jane Meyer, David & Roberta Imig, Michael Lowell, Warren & Ellen Barrios, Eileen Witterschein, William & Mary Coxe, Nancy Kalishman, and Harold & Ruth Sher. Thanks to all of our **Angels in Action** for their concern for our low-income neighbors!

*Remembering EnergyCare in your Will helps to continue providing our services to low-income St. Louis area residents for years to come.*

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

## Memorials

Emma Alsop  
Winnie Andrews  
Ryan M. Arnold  
Aloisia Bartolowits  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Bauer  
Paul R. Bear  
M. J. and Lorraine Beckwith  
Bernard F. Benz  
Virginia B. Bramman  
Olga Brunsman  
William P. Bumberry  
The Deceased of the Cronin Family  
Mary Cecelia Cusick  
William H. Dahman  
Ben Downs  
Urban Dreiswerd  
Joyce H. Fleming  
Robert L. Fraser  
Catherine G. Fuhry  
Patrick M. Healy  
Joseph G. Hoffmann  
Robert Kaiser, Sr.  
John and Arline Keefe  
R. M. Keefe  
Sr. Pat Kelley, CCVI  
Pat Kenny

The Parents of Eleanor Kincaid  
Timothy Korobey  
Stella and Edward Koziatek  
Ruel Langendoerfer  
Nancy Leary  
Dr. and Mrs. Ira D. Martin  
Robert and Virginia May  
Deceased Family of Thomas McGowan  
Joseph Mestres  
Leo and Ida Meyer  
Patricia M. Mohs  
Elizabeth Molumby  
Tim Murphy  
Joseph J. Musial  
John J. O'Connor  
Fr. Michael Palmer  
R. Michael Powell, III  
Barbara Ann Quante  
Paul H. Quante  
Jack and Karen Ann Richards  
Margaret Ritchie  
John Michael Roehm  
Anna Schmidt  
John A. Solari  
Rosa M. Strittmatter  
Terry Warner  
Norman Williams

## Tributes

*In Honor of:*

Bill Erker  
Luke and Charlotte Meatte  
Noah James Wiltse  
*on the occasion of his Baptism*  
Elmer H. Austermann, Jr.  
*Birthday*  
Sue George  
*Birthday*  
Marilyn Klostermeyer  
*Birthday*  
Dr. and Mrs. George T. Hughes  
*Golden Wedding Anniversary*  
Barb and Steve Kavanaugh  
*Wedding Anniversary*