

VOLUNTEERS MAKING WEATHERIZATION WORK

THE DUBUQUE WEATHERIZATION CHALLENGE

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THE DUBUQUE WEATHERIZATION CHALLENGE

- ◉ A community-wide service project.
- ◉ A one-day blitz to perform energy-savings measures on homes of low-income, elderly and disabled residents.
- ◉ Completed by volunteers:
 - 6-member teams (each team does 2 homes)
 - Led by a “Team Captain” (with expertise)
 - From all walks of life
 - Varied expertise
 - All volunteers wear an event t-shirt
- ◉ 2007 Results: 343 volunteers, 53 teams, 96 homes weatherized
- ◉ 2008 Results: 377 volunteers, 55 teams, 106 homes weatherized

THE GOALS

- ◉ “Keep The Weather Outside”
 - Perform simple weatherization measures for households that really could use the help.
- ◉ Reduce home energy consumption
- ◉ Save money on winter heating bills
- ◉ Provide educational materials on lowering home energy costs
- ◉ Provide help with health and safety issues
- ◉ Intangibles - “Caulk and Talk”
- ◉ Promote community spirit and volunteerism

IDENTIFICATION OF TARGETED HOMES

- ◉ Qualifications (No income guidelines):
 - Can't do it (physical limitations, age, disability)
 - Don't know how to do it (lack of expertise)
 - Can't afford to do it
- ◉ Use of LIHEAP Data Base:
 - Qualification for LIHEAP equals low-income
 - Non-qualifiers are also prospects
 - Identify elderly, disabled, homeowners, etc.
- ◉ Referrals:
 - Social service agencies
 - Churches
 - Neighborhood associations
 - Utility providers
 - Outreach to special populations
 - Word of mouth
- ◉ All weatherization homes are selected well in advance.

ENROLLMENT OF TARGETED HOMES

- The enrollment process:

- Prospects are called to explain the program, answer questions and determine if interested. If yes, a home inspection is scheduled.
- A home inspection is completed to determine weatherization needs and to build a list of needed supplies customized for that home. Each home signs a waiver for the work.
- During the week before Weatherization Day, homes are sent a post card and/or given a phone call to remind them of the day and time.
- Weatherization measures are completed on the home on Weatherization Day. The weatherization team completes a report card on work completed and supplies used.

WEATHERIZATION MEASURES

- ◉ Based on pre-inspection of each home, weatherization measures are completed as needed:
 - New furnace filter
 - Caulking of windows, doors, foundation cracks and other air leaks
 - Weather-stripping
 - Door sweeps
 - Window plastic
 - Pipe insulation
 - Water heater blanket
 - Energy Wise Kit: compact florescent bulbs, low-flow shower head, faucet aerators, furnace filter change alarm and other items.
- ◉ Energy saving educational materials are provided and discussed.
- ◉ Also, “above and beyond” projects are completed.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

- The entire success of the project is totally dependent on the volunteers who serve.
- This huge community-wide project is the result of caring people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty by doing something good for someone else.
- Expertise is not required, just a willingness to help. Training is provided.
- Volunteers sign up as members of a team, not as individuals. Teams represent community groups and lend credibility.
- Teams have come from:
 - Churches
 - Service clubs
 - Civic and fraternal groups
 - Businesses (including energy providers)
 - Employee groups
 - School groups
 - AmeriCorps
 - College and seminary students
 - Neighborhood associations
 - Outreach groups

VOLUNTEER TEAMS

- ◉ Each team consists of 6 volunteers. This number can vary.
- ◉ Teams sign up via website, mail or phone. Individual sign ups are not accepted.
- ◉ One person is named as “Team Captain.” All communication with the team goes to this person.
- ◉ A training session is held for team captains a few weeks before Weatherization Day.
- ◉ Each team commits to weatherizing 2 homes. All supplies and materials are provided. The team provides their own tools (caulking guns, simple hand tools, etc.)
- ◉ Every volunteer is provided with an event t-shirt. They must wear it on Weatherization Day as identification and to provide credibility.
- ◉ Each volunteer must sign a waiver to participate.
- ◉ Teams complete a report card on each home they weatherize.
- ◉ Each team receives a certificate and all volunteers receive recognition items.

WEATHERIZATION DAY

- ◉ Volunteers arrive by 8:00 a.m. at central location (large meeting area with ample parking).
- ◉ Team captain checks in to receive 2 assigned homes and pick up materials for those homes. Materials are customized for each home and packaged before hand.
- ◉ Team captain joins rest of team members for breakfast and planning.
- ◉ All volunteers receive final instructions for the day along with thanks and inspiration.
- ◉ Volunteer teams spread out across the community to weatherize their 2 homes. Each team captain has cell phone numbers to call should they have questions or need more materials.
- ◉ Teams report back to the central location to turn in their report cards on each home and return unused supplies. Comments are received from volunteers and team photos are taken.
- ◉ Lunch is provided to the volunteers. Most teams are finished and report back by 1:00 p.m.

FINANCE FOR THE PROJECT

- ◉ Donations in the form of cash sponsorships or in-kind services are needed for the success of the project. Costs to be covered include:
 - Marketing (website, printed materials, print advertising, postage ,etc.).
 - Weatherization supplies (our average expense is around \$50.00 per home).
 - T-shirts for volunteers.
 - Breakfast and lunch for volunteers on Weatherization Day.
 - Rentals of facilities for meetings and central location for Weatherization Day.
 - Recognition of teams and volunteers.
 - Staff time of organizations involved with planning the event.
- ◉ During the past two years, we have done the project with around \$7,500 in cash sponsorships to cover weatherization supplies and t-shirts. Everything else has been provided through in-kind sponsorships.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- ◉ The Dubuque Weatherization Challenge is the result of a strong community partnership of diverse volunteers who serve on the planning committee. Members represent various businesses, nonprofit organizations and city government.
- ◉ Leadership is provided by:
 - Operation: New View Community Action Agency (LIHEAP)
 - Black Hills Energy (natural gas provider)
 - Alliant Energy (electric provider)
 - City of Dubuque (Mayor and City Council Member)
 - Dubuque Telegraph Herald (newspaper)
 - Dubuque Area Congregations United (faith community)
 - Dubuque Bank and Trust Company
 - Diamond Jo Casino
 - Theisen's (provider of weatherization supplies)
 - Rentech Energy Midwest

CONTACT INFORMATION

- ◉ To learn about the 2009 Dubuque Weatherization Challenge, go to our website: www.thonline.com/weatherization

- ◉ For more information on conducting a Weatherization Challenge, including fact sheets, forms, proclamations, etc., contact:
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