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Boys & Girls Club Site Getting Energy Smart

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DENVER - Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver is furthering its mission to inspire and enable young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, by demonstrating the benefits of energy efficiency at its J. Churchill Owen Branch in southwest Denver.

The 1960s-era, 28,000 square-foot facility recently was equipped with more than \$114,000 worth of weatherization improvements through Energy Outreach Colorado's Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Program (NEEP), which provides free energy audits and efficiency upgrades for qualifying nonprofit facilities across the state.

Energy Outreach, with funders Xcel Energy and the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships, installed a new energy efficient heating system, programmable thermostat and 25 occupancy sensors; replaced 226 lighting fixtures; and repaired 38 windows. The improvements are projected to result in energy cost savings of at least \$6,600 a year in electricity and natural gas – funds that can be used instead for art supplies, sports equipment, computers and other program needs.

“This investment will provide lifelong benefits for our organization and the kids we serve,” said John Arigoni, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver. “We are fortunate to be a recipient of energy efficiency upgrades through NEEP and appreciate all the work that Xcel Energy and the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships are doing to build a better community for us all.”

The Owen branch of Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver is a popular after-school site that serves as many as 300 youth a day. The recently-renovated facility includes a gymnasium, computer technology center, learning center, teen center, recreation area, and snack café. With nine full-time staff and volunteers, the Club offers programs in character and leadership development, education and career development, technology, health and life skills, the arts, and sports and recreation. Through its NEEP participation, it also will be implementing an energy conservation plan.

EOC established NEEP to help nonprofit facilities reduce operating costs and continue to provide vital community services. NEEP also has received funding from United Power, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Co., EnCana Oil and Gas, Noble Energy and the StePP Foundation. Since 2007, it has provided 92 nonprofit facilities owned by 53 organizations with free energy audits and efficiency upgrades.

About Energy Outreach Colorado

Energy Outreach Colorado is the only independent, non-profit organization in the state that raises money to help limited income Coloradans afford home energy. Since 1989, EOC has distributed nearly \$123 million to fund energy bill payment assistance and energy efficiency upgrades for affordable housing. Energy Outreach Colorado relies on private donations, corporate contributions and foundation grants. It has received top ratings from Charity Navigator for eight consecutive years and is an accredited charity by the Better Business Bureau. Energy Outreach Colorado, www.EnergyOutreach.org, can be reached at 303-825-8750 or at 225 E. 16th Ave. Ste. 200, Denver, CO 80203-1612.

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