



Energy Outreach Colorado

ENERGYSource

Helping All Coloradans Afford Home Energy

www.EnergyOutreach.org

Donor Newsletter | **Summer 2010**

EOC Ensures Thousands Remain Warm Through Winter

Thanks to your generous donations, together we have helped thousands of Coloradans remain safe and warm in their homes this past winter. Listed here are Energy Outreach Colorado's achievements from October 2009 through April 2010. For more information please go to www.EnergyOutreach.org.

Energy Assistance – Emergency Help and Homeless Prevention

- EOC distributed \$3.43 million in utility bill payment assistance through a network of 130 Colorado emergency assistance agencies across the state, including the state Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP).
- About 123,000 of Colorado's working families, children and elderly received help paying a portion of their energy bills.
- Our average energy assistance payment of \$343 went directly to utility companies to pay a portion of recipients' overdue bills.
- About 25% of the households had someone with special health needs, 59% had at least one child and 8% included a senior citizen.

Energy Efficiency and Education – Saving Energy and Money

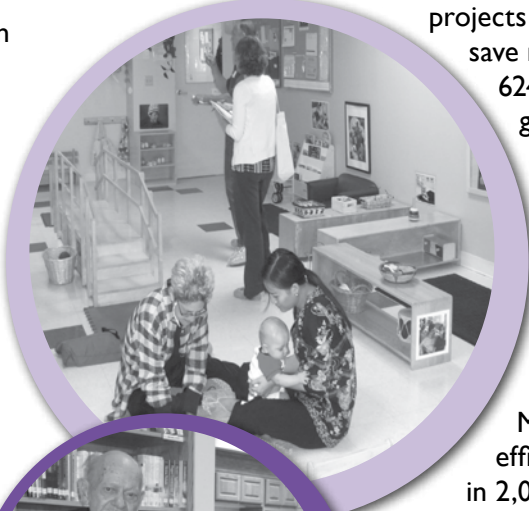
- Our Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Program, with the support of the Denver Office of

Strategic Partnerships and Xcel Energy, conducted energy audits and funded upgrades for 29 Denver-area non-profit facilities. This allows these organizations to continue providing vital community services. These

projects are projected to

save more than \$100,000 in energy costs, 624,500 kilowatt hours and 34,300 natural gas therms.

- EOC managed three energy efficiency upgrade projects funded by Xcel Energy, Atmos Energy, Source Gas, the StEPP Foundation and Noble Energy for multi-family affordable housing in Durango, Carbondale and Littleton. Xcel Energy also funded the Mile High Youth Corps' installation of efficient lighting, aerators and showerheads in 2,054 low-income homes across its service territory.



Governor's
Energy Office

- EOC is administering \$3.5 million in funding for the Governor's Energy Office Multi-Family Weatherization program, which is funded by the Department of Energy and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. To date, 15 properties across the state have been approved for upgrades.

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8th Consecutive Year



Boulder Nonprofit Provides Comprehensive Aid

Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) of Boulder has partnered with Energy Outreach Colorado to help low-income families and individuals stay warm and safe in their homes since 1994, when EOC first began providing energy assistance funds to local nonprofits.



The staff at Emergency Family Assistance Association in Boulder.

In fact, EFAA's legacy dates back to 1918, when faith organizations in Boulder joined together to assist the working poor. This partnership was incorporated in 1961 to form an organization that eventually became what EFAA is today – a comprehensive provider of life-changing services to hungry, homeless and at-risk families in Boulder and Broomfield counties.

Each year the organization helps thousands of people by providing food, furniture and financial assistance for rent, home energy, prescriptions and transportation. In the first three months of this year, its food bank distributed more than 143,000 pounds of food through 2,175 visits. EFAA also operates 43 housing units, providing emergency shelter and transitional housing. Each resident family receives case management and access to children's programming.

Executive Director Terry Benjamin said EFAA relies on funding from Energy Outreach Colorado to help families transition from crisis to self reliance. "Energy assistance is one of the big ways we can support families who are doing what they can to help themselves," he said. "If their energy bill is taken care of, they can apply their limited resources to other areas, such as rent."

A recent client, Elsa H., received food, energy assistance and rent assistance. The single mother of three teenagers and a toddler was laid off from her restaurant job and had already had her home energy disconnected once. She was grateful for the assistance and excited about an upcoming job interview.

"Right now I'll take whatever job I can get," she said. "In the future, I'd like to earn my GED and study to be a social worker or perhaps a midwife. My three oldest kids are doing well in school and are training to run in the Boulder Boulder!"

For more information about Emergency Family Assistance Association, go to www.efaa.org or call 303-442-3042.



Energy assistance helped this EFAA client through a job layoff.

Durango Homeless Benefit from Efficient Transitional Housing

Five formerly homeless families in Durango have transitioned into energy efficient homes, thanks to a \$35,000 grant awarded by Energy Outreach Colorado to Housing Solutions for the Southwest.

The grant, which was funded by Atmos Energy, paid for energy upgrades to Homeward Bound, a five-unit transitional housing complex operated by Housing Solutions for the Southwest. Upgrades included a new boiler and hot water heater, increased crawl space and attic insulation, and low-flow showerheads and aerators.

“The grant was a lifesaver for helping us better transition homeless families into a more stable situation, especially since our old boiler had failed just weeks before,” said Lora Sholes, transitional housing manager at Housing Solutions for the Southwest. “We are so incredibly grateful for the EOC grant.”

Once a family moves into Homeward Bound, they receive information on how to manage energy costs along with other intensive case management. The goal is to help them move into permanent affordable

housing after two years.

“Our whole community benefits when families can remain safe and warm in a stable home,” Sholes said, noting that the success rate for their program is about 95 percent.

Housing Solutions for the Southwest, a housing services organization founded in 1984, serves a five county area in southwest Colorado. Housing Solutions provides a wide array of housing services including emergency homeless prevention, transitional housing, homeowner rehabilitation, Section 8 rental assistance, weatherization, housing/foreclosure counseling, and housing development.



Hower Family Fund Issues \$25,000 Challenge to EOC Donors

The Hower Family Fund of Colorado is for the second year running offering a \$25,000 challenge to raise funds for Energy Outreach Colorado. The Fund will generously match all new and increased gifts to EOC up to \$25,000.

The Howers are firmly committed to energy assistance for Colorado’s most vulnerable citizens, including low-income families with children, seniors and people living with disabilities. In addition to contributing to EOC for several years, last year they began offering a Challenge Grant to encourage others to give at whatever level they are able, knowing their gift will be doubled. Specifically, the gift will

match any new contributions, and any contributions that represent an increase over the donor’s previous gift.

The Howers recognize that it takes all of the more than 18,000 individuals who contribute to Energy Outreach to make assistance possible for close to 125,000 Colorado households each year, and they are encouraged by the results of their challenge last year to extend the offer once again.

In 2009, the Hower Family Fund Matching Challenge Grant generated almost \$35,000 in donations, for a total of \$60,000 to help Coloradans stay safe and warm in their homes.



Energy Outreach Colorado

Helping all Coloradans afford home energy.

225 East 16th Avenue, Suite 200

Denver, CO 80203

303-825-8750

www.EnergyOutreach.org

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Helping all Coloradans afford home energy.

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