

MEDIA RELEASE

Dec. 5, 2008

Source: Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph

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KCP&L teaches low-income families about saving energy and heat Offers free energy-saving lightbulbs to Head Start families at Family Fun Night (Dec. 8, 2008)

(St. Joseph, Mo.) From shiny, homemade light bulb reminders to energy-saving compact fluorescent lights (CFL), there are many ways to light up the dark winter months.

On Monday, Dec. 8, KCP&L will work with low-income families in St. Joseph to save energy -- and money -- as the utilities company hosts a Family Fun Night for parents and children at the Head Start Center at 9th and Sacramento.

Energy-themed crafts for parents and children will be featured, and information to help low-income families enrolled in Head Start save money and conserve resources this winter. Hands-on activities at the event will also teach early-learners in the Head Start program (serving children ages 3-5) about the ways recycling, energy and our natural environment are all connected.

Each family will receive compact fluorescent lights, which can add up to savings of \$30 per light bulb as compared to traditional bulbs. The CFL bulbs can also burn up to 10 times longer, helping the environment and the budget. Representatives will also talk about KCP&L's new program for installing free programmable thermostats, which can result in savings of 20% or more on a monthly heat bill. Families will learn about *Change a Light*, which allows KCP&L Missouri customers to receive \$2 cash-back rebates on the purchase of compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) at Westlake Ace and HyVee in St. Joseph through Dec. 31.

Since kicking off its energy assistance program on Oct. 1, Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph has seen nearly 2,000 applications for utilities assistance. The agency, with administrative offices located at 817 Monterey, St. Joseph, Mo., provides utilities assistance and weatherization kits to community members who meet income guidelines.

“Working with families to learn about saving energy lines up with our mission to be environmental stewards and create safe, thriving communities,” says Jami Lewis, customer relations advisor, KCP&L. “We hope the kids will be inspired and have a great time learning about the energy they use every day.”

Head Start is a child and family development program for families that meet poverty guidelines, and is a program of Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph. The center-based service offers school-ready curriculum, nutritional meals, immunizations and physical and dental evaluations for children ages 3 to 5 years. Weekly home visits, goal-setting, parenting tips and family self-sufficiency skills are key elements of the program – along with opportunities to build social connections, such as monthly Family Fun Nights. – **more-**

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“Making the most of the heat and energy you use is part of ending the chaos and hopelessness of poverty,” says Carmen Lankford, center director, S. 9th Head Start Center. “Any information we can provide to our Head Start families, especially in a fun setting where parents and children can interact, is a great tool.”

Head Start family social events and Family Fun Nights are offered to the families at no cost, and are made possible with help from corporate and private contributions.

Family Fun Night at Head Start with KCP&L is 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 8, and is open to families enrolled in the S. 9th center-based Head Start program. The center is located at 9th and Sacramento, next to the Community Action Partnership administrative building. For more information about Head Start, contact Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph at (816) 233-8281. Learn more about KCP&L at www.kcpl.com.

Headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., Great Plains Energy Incorporated (NYSE: GXP) is the holding company of Kansas City Power & Light Company and KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company, two of the leading regulated providers of electricity in the Midwest. For more information, visit www.kcpl.com

Community Action Partnership has provided programs to move low-income families out of poverty since 1964, serving nearly 16,000 people in poverty in Northwest Missouri. Head Start is one of the core programs managed by the agency, with 12 Head Start centers available to low-income families. Additional services provided by Community Action Partnership to low-income families include utilities assistance, affordable housing, financial literacy and home ownership classes, life skills and workforce training.

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