

MEDIA RELEASE

2/3/09

Source: Community Action Partnership
Sally Green, Community Outreach Specialist
816.324.3473
sgreen@endpov.com

Community Action Partnership seeks to help families keep their furnaces working (Feb. 3, 2009)

(2/3/09– St. Joseph, Mo.) Community Action Partnership (CAP) is announcing a pilot furnace repair program that will help families stay warm during these cold months. As part of its utility assistance program, Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the agency has additional funds to help repair clients' furnaces.

“We are so excited about this opportunity,” said Delphia Shanks, director of community development for CAP. “This is ideal for families whose furnace is broken and so they’re using electric space heaters, or another method, to stay warm this winter. A broken furnace can be scary and expensive, as well as a health hazard.”

In order to qualify, a family must be below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines (\$2385 per month for a family of four). Eligible families can apply to the LIHEAP program through CAP's office and a furnace inspection is conducted to determine the cost of repairing or replacing the furnace. If the furnace is eligible for repair or replacement, the family can look forward to having a warm and safe home again. In addition, the family will be enrolled in the Weatherization program, which provides a full energy audit and weatherizing services.

“This program is something that is new to CAP. In the past, if a family's furnace was broken, their heating bills became quite high because they were using an alternative heating method. It can be really hard to come up with the money to do a repair on your furnace when you're living from paycheck to paycheck,” Said Delphia Shanks, CAP director of community development.

The furnace repair program is part of the LIHEAP program and is provided through CAP's Andrew County office. Families with incomes below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible to apply for the LIHEAP program.

For more information, contact Sally Green at (816) 324-3473 or by email at sgreen@endpov.com.

Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph is one of 19 Community Action Agencies in Missouri and one of 900 Community Action Agencies in the U.S. working to fight poverty at the local level. Services offered by Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph to low-income individuals in

Buchanan, Clinton, Andrew and DeKalb counties include Head Start, offering comprehensive educational, nutritional and emotional support for children ages birth to five; housing and rent assistance; energy crisis and utility assistance; leadership and life skills training; assistance with college entrance; and employment and workforce training programs through the Missouri Career Center.