

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Source: Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph**

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## **Community Action Partnership plans to weatherize 180 homes**

*CAP receives “stimulus” funds to make St. Joseph homes more energy efficient*

(June 21, 2010—St. Joseph, MO) It is well-documented that energy costs can be difficult for low-income families, who often cannot meet monthly payment requirements. Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph (CAP St. Joe) already provides help in the form of LIHEAP, its utilities assistance program, but now it will be able to offer a more permanent solution for residents of St. Joseph.

Beginning in July, Community Action Partnership will be receiving “stimulus” funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to weatherize about 180 homes in St. Joseph over a 2-year period. CAP St. Joe will begin weatherizing homes by the beginning of August, reaching twelve per month by the beginning of the 2011.

“The condition of many homes occupied by low-income residents in St. Joseph begs for this type of rehabilitation,” says Dave Leyland, CAP Executive Director, “We see hundreds of people coming through our doors each month asking for help to pay their utility bills, which are sometimes over \$1,000.”

Weatherization is a process that makes a home more air-tight and energy efficient. CAP St Joe’s new program will focus on underserved neighborhoods in St. Joseph, using a whole-house approach to achieve energy efficiency, health and safety for those served.

Each home is audited before and after weatherization to determine what needs to be done and whether it has been accomplished. The main focus is on insulating and sealing the home, but weatherization can also include insulating pipes and water heaters, tuning up or replacing inefficient appliances and lighting, and installing programmable thermostats. During construction, health or safety concerns are also addressed.

“Weatherization has an immediate and lasting impact for the household and the community, says Leyland. “This program will create long-term energy savings for our program participants by reducing their energy costs and will increase property values, thereby stabilizing the local tax base. Additionally, the program will create local construction and auditing jobs.”

According to studies by the US Department of Energy Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program, weatherization yields an average energy savings of \$350 or more per year and \$5,505

over the life of efficiency measures for each home weatherized. A home that has been weatherized can reduce average annual fuel consumption per dwelling by up to 13.5%—23.4% for natural gas—making it a cost-effective means to help low-income families with their energy bills.

Jason Manley begins as today as CAP's Weatherization Director. "I am very excited to be a part of this program. Home weatherization plays a vital role in reducing energy consumption and obtaining climate control more accurately and efficiently. We have an opportunity to reach out and proactively reduce utility costs in homes, while making them more comfortable at the same time." A graduate of Missouri Western State University, Manley has over 11 years of experience in construction and retail.

CAP will partner with the City of St. Joseph to provide for more extensive or emergency repairs, such as roof repairs or electric or plumbing work, as well as repair or replacement of heating sources, as necessary.

Missouri launched the Energize Missouri Housing Initiative to support innovative approaches to serving energy efficiency and housing quality needs for Missouri's lower-income families through the Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program, or LIWAP. The initiative seeks to wed traditional weatherization funds with other funding, talent and resources to amplify housing improvements and more effectively reach underserved populations.

The Energize Missouri Housing Initiative is made possible by "stimulus" funds from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The funding will help stimulate the economy and create and retain jobs. The further purposes of energy-related Recovery Act funds are to increase energy efficiency, reduce reliance on imported energy, improve the reliability of energy resources and services, and reduce the impacts of energy production and use on the environment.

For the past 20 years, CAP St. Joe has partnered with Community Services, Inc (CSI) of Maryville to provide weatherization to its four-county region. This new program will be in addition to those services already being offered through CSI.

Community Action Partnership has provided programs to move low-income families out of poverty since 1965, serving nearly 16,000 people in poverty in Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton and DeKalb Counties. Head Start is one of the core programs managed by the agency. 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. For more information, visit [www.endpov.com](http://www.endpov.com).

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