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WEATHERIZATION AWARENESS DAY – NOVEMBER 17, 2009
Weatherizing a Home Increases Warmth and Decreases Energy Bills

RALEIGH, NC: A chill in the night air. Frost on car windows in the morning. There's no doubt about it. Winter is getting closer. Heaters are being turned on in homes across North Carolina and families are starting to think about the impact of higher energy prices on their monthly budgets. According to recent data by the Energy Information Administration, natural gas prices are forecast to decline nationally by 12% and fuel oil by 8% this year, but in an economic year where income in many families has been adversely affected, it still does not help.

The hardest-hit will be our low-income families. The lowest-income households pay 17% or more of their annual incomes for energy compared with 6% for other households. This could cause more families to make the difficult choice between heat and other basic necessities.

On November 17, Weatherization Awareness Day in Wake County, our community is reminded of the federal program that addresses these daily energy concerns. The Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program, working with its state and local partners like Resources for Seniors in Wake County, helps to reduce the energy burden on low-income families by installing cost-effective, energy efficiency measures.

In Wake County, Resources for Seniors will weatherize over 900 of homes by March 2012. To participate, homeowners must have a maximum income of 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, and can use up to \$4,000 for energy efficiency upgrades to their home. These households save an average of \$413 annually on their heating bills after the weatherization work has been completed. The dollar savings alone make a big difference for the families. Weatherization makes the home warmer in the winter, cooler in the summer and safer to live in.

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Resources for Seniors' weatherization work makes a daily impact on low-income families. Weatherization also benefits the community by preventing the "export" of energy dollars, employing trained weatherization crews and contractors, reducing power plant emissions, and improving the local environment.

Weatherization technicians use computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic technologies, such as blower doors and duct blasters, to determine the most cost-effective measures for each home. They also assess related health and safety conditions.

Dave Cottengim, President of Resources for Seniors, offered these comments about Weatherization Day – "Crew members and contractors are hard at work in the homes of truly needy families in Wake County making a real difference in their lives. After our crews provide services, these families experience an average energy use reduction \$413/year. Money is put back in their pockets to buy groceries, visit a doctor, buy medicine, or improve some standard of living during a time when every penny counts."

Serving as the nation's core program for delivering energy efficiency services to low-income households, the Weatherization Assistance Program prioritizes the elderly, persons with disabilities, and households with children. Households experience energy efficiency, financial, and health and safety gains as a result of weatherization measures. The Weatherization Program serves every county in the nation through its network of state and local agencies. For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program in Wake County, please call state (919) 713-1570 or visit the local web site at [Wake County Weatherization Program](#)

RELATED LINKS:

- [Wake County Weatherization Program](#)
- [North Carolina Energy Office](#)
- [North Carolina Office of Economic Recovery and Investment](#)
- [National Weatherization Day Message from Senior Advisor Matt Rogers by U.S. Dept of Energy](#)
- [Weatherization Assistance Program Technical Assistance Center](#)
- [U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program](#)

STATISTICS:

- Wake County Weatherization Awareness Day is Tuesday, November 17, 2009.
- Natural gas prices are forecast to decline nationally by 12% and fuel oil by 8% this year.
- The lowest-income households pay 17% or more of their annual incomes for energy compared with 6% for other households.
- In Wake County, Resources for Seniors will weatherize over 900 of homes by March 2012.
- To participate, homeowners must have a maximum income of 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, and can use up to \$6,500 for energy efficiency upgrades to their home.
- Weatherized homes save an average of \$413 annually on their heating bills after the weatherization work has been completed.

QUOTES:

- Dave Cottengim, President of Resources for Seniors, offered these comments about Weatherization Day – “Crew members and contractors are hard at work in the homes of truly needy families in Wake County making a real difference in their lives. After our crews provide services, these families experience an average energy use reduction \$413/year. Money is put back in their pockets to buy groceries, visit a doctor, buy medicine, or improve some standard of living during a time when every penny counts.”

About Wake County Weatherization Program

The Wake County Weatherization Program delivers energy efficiency services to low-income households and prioritizes service to the elderly, persons with disabilities, and households with children, first. Families and individuals eligible to receive weatherization services are those with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level. Weatherization Assistance services are delivered to single-family homes, multi-family dwellings and mobile homes. Those receiving services do not have to own their home. Those renting property can also apply. Services provided include: addressing carbon monoxide levels and combustion safety, Sealing air leaks, installing insulation in attics, walls and floors, sealing and insulating ducts, installing a smart thermostat, installing energy efficient light bulbs, installing low-flow shower heads, and performing tune-ups and repairs to heating and cooling systems.

Call 919/713.1570 or Visit on the Web: [Wake County Weatherization Program](#)

About Resources for Seniors

Resources for Seniors is a Wake County based non-profit organization founded in 1973. Resources for Seniors serves senior and disabled adults in Wake County, NC by providing home and community based services and information so that they can maximize their choices for comfort, safety, security and well-being. Services include direct care, support services, care management, consulting and information outreach.

Call 919/872.7933 or Visit on the Web: [Resources for Seniors](#)

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