

BRACING for High Energy Costs

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ization to society's widespread realization that it could reduce garbage-hauling costs by recycling,

Bell says, "It can be 30, 40 or 50 dollars a month depending on how your house is built."

Staff member Chaun MacQueen cautions, however, that most people think upgraded windows will solve the problem, but forget that most homes lose more energy through ducts, fireplaces, and poorly insulated walls, floors and ceilings.

Many people can't physically make it to workshops or install materials, so the Community Energy Project has an outreach effort for that population as well.

For 20 years now, the organization and its volunteers have installed energy-saving materials in more than 2,500 homes of low-income people who are over the age of 55 or have a disability.

"It's a really helpful thing, especially for the seniors and people who are going through a tragedy, and they're learning how to save money because they're on a fixed income, and they really need someone to come out and help," says Bell. Rees estimates that 428,000 Oregonians lie on the brink of personal energy crises.

The Community Energy Project's year-round effort goes into the neighborhoods to implement draft-stopping measures like

Chief's Forum Awards



Nominate your
community heroes



The Chief's Forum, a policy advisory group to the Portland Police Bureau's chief of police, honors community and Police Bureau members who, through their exceptional performance of community policing activities, have distinguished themselves above and beyond the call of duty in the year 2006.

Award Categories

Nathan Thomas Award • Community Policing Problem Solving Award
Youth Recognition Certificate • Certificate of Appreciation

Deadline for nominations

Monday, Nov. 19, 2007

Awards Ceremony

Monday, Dec. 10, 2007
9 a.m., Portland Building Auditorium

Award category descriptions and nomination forms are available at www.portlandpolice.com. For more information, call 503-823-0264.



PHOTOS BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Lennetta Bell shows seniors the cost-saving benefits of window-weatherization techniques while volunteering for the Community Energy Project, an organization with headquarters on Northeast Alberta Street that provides free workshops and materials to low-income residents throughout the Portland-metro area.

reusable, internally-mounted vinyl storm-window kits that can roll up for the summer, outlet and light-switch gaskets, door weather stripping and caulking to help people lower heating bills, stay warm and conserve energy.

"There are only four staff weatherizing 300 homes, so we definitely rely on hundreds of volunteers to help us every year, whether they're helping us in the office or helping us out weatherizing, at community tabling events or assembling these kits," MacQueen says. "Of course we're always trying to fundraise because the government grants that come from the city cover only that, but they don't cover anything else like a copier or stuff like that, which we desperately need for fi-

ers and outreach."

This struggle to survive reflects the "typical nonprofit," according to MacQueen, who is grateful for the help this year from a partnership with the Oregon Environmental Council to fund free oil-furnace tune-ups.

Communityenergyproject.org lists regular weatherization workshops. This week workshops will take place Thursday, Nov. 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Woodlawn Elementary School, 7200 N.E. 11th Ave., and Saturday, Nov. 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the East Portland Community Center, 740 S.E. 106th Ave. To register, call 503-284-6827, extension 108.

For emergency heating assistance, call 2-1-1.



Community Energy Project staff organizer Chaun MacQueen demonstrates how simple devices to insulate electrical outlets can significantly reduce heating costs.

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Homeless Refuge

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uge, it was a springboard," he said.

A host of other volunteers working a Homeless Feeding night at Calvary, held Tuesdays and Thursdays, echoed those sentiments.

The church also finds homes for people needing to get off the streets and helps with job placement. Other services include a clothes closet, warm delectable meals cooked in

the Mallory Activity Community Enrichment center's kitchen by proven chef's Tracy and Michelle Bell, shelter in the MACE center dining hall and gymnasium use.

Perhaps most significant though is the church's caring heart, listening ear and careful eye in the number of volunteers that contribute to make this community service a success and perhaps a place where a new start can begin.