



community**action**inc.
creating pathways out of poverty

NEWS RELEASE

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Community Action's Weatherization Assistance Program Receives Environment Leadership Award

BELOIT 6 Tuesday, March 2nd, Community Action, Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties Weatherization Assistance Program was awarded "The Environmental Leadership Award" at the 83rd Annual Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner held at the Beloit Eclipse Center. The award recognized the Weatherization Assistance Program for its accomplishments in helping to make low-to-moderate income homes more energy efficient.

The Weatherization Assistance Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and the State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient at no cost to them. The Weatherization Assistance Program installs energy-saving improvements that can help reduce a home's energy bills. Improvements are installed free for homeowners and renters with landlords who rent to income-eligible tenants receive a substantial discount.

Professionally trained crews use advanced diagnostic equipment and computerized energy audits tools to determine the most cost-effective improvements. Weatherization improvements commonly installed through the program include: insulation, water-saving devices, draft reduction improvements, replacement or repair of heating systems, water heaters, refrigerators, and energy-efficient lighting.

Since its inception, Community Action's weatherization program has weatherized over 8,000 low-income households in Rock and Walworth Counties including over 3,000 in the Beloit area. Energy-bill savings to Beloit area residents are estimated at \$500,000 - \$750,000 annually. In 2010, the program expects to spend over \$1M to weatherize an additional 150 Beloit-area households.

Beyond reducing environmental impact, the weatherization program also serves to spur economic growth. While most money spent on utilities leaves the state to pay for natural gas or coal, a significantly larger portion of the money saved on utilities remains in the local economy. Several Beloit-based companies share in the over \$2M of work done by local contractors. Lastly, the program provides living-wage jobs with benefits to 9 Beloit-area residents representing 45% of Community Action's weatherization staff (9 of 20).

Community Action would like to thank the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce for this award and recognition of the work being done to help individuals and families in the Beloit community.



Several awards were presented at the 83rd Annual Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce Dinner Tuesday at the Eclipse Center. Accepting awards were, seated from left; Julie Cropp, accepting the Ken Hendricks Spirit of the Community Award for her mother Martha Mitchell, Nancy Heidt, who receive the Ambassador's Gavel Award as outgoing Ambassadors chair, Aileen Maeltzer, Ambassador of the Year, and Cheryl Caldwell accepting the Headliner Award for her husband Coach Jim Caldwell. Back row from left are, Dave Siekierski owner of Bagels and More for Business of the Year - Retail, John Ramstad of Community Action who accepted the Environmental Leadership Award, Mike Vonderhaar, plant manager of Genencor, with the Business of the Year - Manufacturer Award, and Bill Barth who received the Chairperson's Award.



Community Action is a 100% local, not-for-profit organization, operating a broad spectrum of community programs aimed at preventing and reducing local poverty in Rock and Walworth counties. It operates the Fresh Start program, offers child care, at-risk youth programming, teen parent support, women's health care, senior benefits counseling, homeownership programs, affordable housing units, home weatherization and rehab, assistance in dealing with a housing crisis, food for area pantries, and shelter for the homeless.

For more information, visit
www.community-action.org