

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Couleecap Celebrates National Energy Awareness Month and Weatherization Day

Westby, WI – Each year, October 30 is recognized as Weatherization Day. This day marks an annual opportunity to bring attention to the fact that low income households spend a disproportionate percentage of their annual incomes on home energy bills. The National Network of Weatherization Assistance Programs, of which Couleecap is a member, provide cost-effective, permanent solutions for reducing the heavy energy burden these families endure. These weatherization programs not only save energy through advanced technologies to improve the energy affordability for low-income families, but also save lives and improve the health and safety of families by identifying carbon monoxide hazards, poor indoor air quality, mold, and other health threats.



This year the Couleecap Weatherization Program and Vernon County Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), decided to kick off the heating season by participating in the Vernon County Fair. Informational brochures and energy saving tips were distributed. Visitors watched a slideshow of the Weatherization process. The slideshow covered the initial energy audit, crew work, and before and after pictures of homes. Couleecap staff were on hand to explain the weatherization process and field questions from visitors.

With support from the US Department of Energy, more than 6.7 million homes have been weatherized across the nation since 1976. In 2013, Couleecap weatherized 326 homes in our area alone! Below are some statistics supporting the benefits of home weatherization practices;

- For every \$1 invested, weatherization returns \$2.51 to the household and society
- \$437 or more in annual utility bill savings year after year at current energy prices
- Energy savings average 35% for the typical low-income home's pre-weatherization consumption
- Weatherization decreases national energy consumption by the equivalent of 24.1 million barrels of oil annually
- Reduces residential and power plant emissions of carbon dioxide by 2.65 metric ton per year per home
- Over the life of the corrective measures, saves 53 metric tons of CO₂ emissions per house



Couleecap's Weatherization Assistance Program serves Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon counties and provides free, grant funded weatherization services including energy efficient

home improvements such as insulation, air sealing, and replacement of inefficient appliances. To apply for the Weatherization Assistance Program, contact the Energy Assistance Program for your county to see if you are income eligible for energy assistance and weatherization. Income limits do apply. For more information on the Couleecap Weatherization Program please go to www.couleecap.org/wx.html or call toll free 1-866-904-4508 and leave a message.

Couleecap, Inc. is a private non-profit 501c3 charitable organization. Couleecap helps people in need with housing, food, transportation, and more. Created in 1966, we are a community action program that fights poverty and promotes self-sufficiency in Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon counties. To learn more about Couleecap please visit www.couleecap.org.

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