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Team H.E.A.T. Again Helps Chicagoans in Need Lower Heating Bills This Winter

CHICAGO – Peoples Energy volunteers will once again hit the streets to help low income residents stay warm this winter, the company announced today. On **Saturday, October 21st**, Peoples Energy's Team H.E.A.T. (Home Energy Assistance Together) volunteers from the company will be joined by volunteers from H.O.M.E. (Housing Opportunity and Maintenance for the Elderly) and the American Gas Association (AGA) to weatherize residents' homes and provide useful information on energy conservation to help lower gas bills during the upcoming winter months.

The program, now in its third year, will aid residents located in Peoples Gas (Chicago) and North Shore Gas (Lake County) service territories. The homes were pre-selected with the assistance of community leaders and elected officials. **Team H.E.A.T. volunteers will give a live demonstration of weatherization techniques at 10:00 a.m. Saturday at the home of Silvia Flores, 5145 S. Fairfield.**

Team H.E.A.T. volunteers will install weather-stripping, put plastic over windows, and caulk around doors and windows. Weatherization kits and information on financial assistance and energy conservation will also be provided to participants.

"Team H.E.A.T. provides resources to residents who need it most. The event is a collaborative effort by people who truly care and it will have a direct impact on families across the Chicago area this winter," says Rodrigo Sierra, Vice President, Communications and Government Relations, Peoples Energy.

In addition, this year First Alert® will be donating carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, which are already required in Chicago dwellings. CO alarms will be required in all single- and multi-family dwellings in Illinois as of January 1, 2007.

Saturday's project is just the beginning of help for residents in need. Team H.E.A.T. volunteers from North Shore Gas will head to Waukegan and North Chicago on November 4th to weatherize homes in those areas.

The company wants residents to do all they can to lower their energy usage this winter – thereby lowering their gas bills. Earlier this month, the utilities launched a new web site – www.keepingUwarm.com to provide residents resources and information on how they can save up to 20% on their gas bills by following these tips:

- Lower the temperature on thermostats. Each degree lowered can save between 3% - 5% on heating costs.
- Caulk and seal around plumbing pipes and around window and door frames.
- Request regular furnace and air conditioning tune-ups. Change your furnace filter regularly.
- Close fireplace flues when not in use. This can be the single biggest loss of energy in a home.
- Visit www.PeoplesEnergy.com to enroll in the Budget Payment Plan, which helps make bills more consistent year round.

Customers in Chicago who need financial assistance should contact CEDA at 800-571-CEDA (2332) for information about grants through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). In Lake County, customers can call the Community Action Partnership of Lake County at 847-249-4330. Peoples Energy offers grants through the Share the Warmth program, administered by the Salvation Army. For information, call 773-725-1100.

Peoples Energy, a member of the S&P 500, is a diversified energy company comprised of three primary business segments: Gas Delivery, Oil and Gas Production and Energy Marketing. The Gas Delivery business serves about one million retail customers in Chicago and northeastern Illinois. Visit the Peoples Energy web site at PeoplesEnergy.com.

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