#### **PRESENTATION TO** Community Advisory Panel





Our Vision

KUB exists to serve its customers, improving their quality of life by providing utility services that are safe, reliable, and affordable.



### Customer Service Professionals Here to Serve

- 100+ employees to directly serve customers
  - o One local contact center
  - Asheville Highway and Western Avenue walk-in centers
  - Field customer support specialists
  - Social service professionals
- Professional, pleasant and results-focused interactions
- Answering calls/questions, accepting payments, conducting on-site visits or connecting those in crisis to assistance

## KUB Was First Southeast Utility to Hire Social Workers

- Partner with local social service organizations to support customers in crisis
- Administer special assistance programs
- Educate customers on how to manage utility costs
- Receive and process financial aid from local and federal agencies

#### Customer Counselors Connect with Many Community Partners





Emergency Heating Assistance







#### Long-Standing, Emergency Energy Bill Assistance Program

- Established in 1983 by KUB and CAC
- Provides one-time financial support to lowincome individuals and families
- Funded through community donations
- Governed by community board of directors
- Nearly 500 individuals and families were assisted with over \$230K in 2020

## Home Weatherization Offers Long-Term Solution for High Energy Use

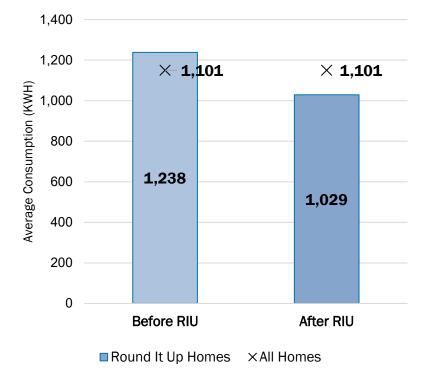
- \$15M invested in energy efficiency upgrades for 1,278 homes
- \$4.3M contributed by KUB customers through Round It Up to improve 500+ additional homes
- TVA Home Uplift and TDEC offer support grants
- KUB adds \$1M annual investment beginning July 2020
- Continued investments from KUB, TVA, and TDEC total nearly \$2.3M annually





#### 78% Experienced Reduced Energy Use and Bill Savings from Weatherization

#### Average Electric Consumption Comparison



Average Monthly Bill Amount

Before RIU

After RIU

\$152

\$133

Average Annual Bill Savings
\$225

#### New Low-Income Water Efficiency Program

- Began in July 2020
- Funded by KUB with \$500K annual investment and administered by CAC
- Replaces older, higher-flow toilets with free installed 1.3-gallon toilets
- TVA providing additional direct-install energy savings measures



# **Energy and Water Conservation Education and Free Savings Measures**

- Workshops provide energy and water savings tips
- Interactive displays and free take-home kits aid customers
- Provided education to more than 1,300 individuals
- Curriculum for school-aged children





#### Pandemic Made Additional Customer Support Necessary

- Continued to provide safe and reliable utilities
- Reduced home and business entry to protect customers and employees
- Seven-month service disconnection moratorium
- Waived late and payment transaction fees
- Increased communication about pandemic-response efforts and community assistance funding









Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee



#### Funded Assistance Efforts and Delayed Projects to Save Customer Dollars

- Secured \$160K in grants for local nonprofits assisting with pandemic relief
- Matched grants with \$80K investment to four nonprofits
- Deferred or eliminated planned rate increases in all four systems
- Postponed infrastructure upgrades

### Additional Steps Taken as Normal Operations Resumed

- Automatically enrolled nearly 20,000 customers in extended payment plans
- Internal credit rating not impacted by late payments in 2020
- Eliminated \$8 door notice fee
- Waived \$300 deposit as one-time courtesy if last resort disconnection occurred

### **Pandemic Support by the Numbers**

Support measure	Total saved by customers
Waived late fees	\$1,484,600
Payment transaction fees (credit/debit card, CheckFree Pay & kiosk)	\$653,500
Door notice fees	\$111,400
Total	\$2,252,200

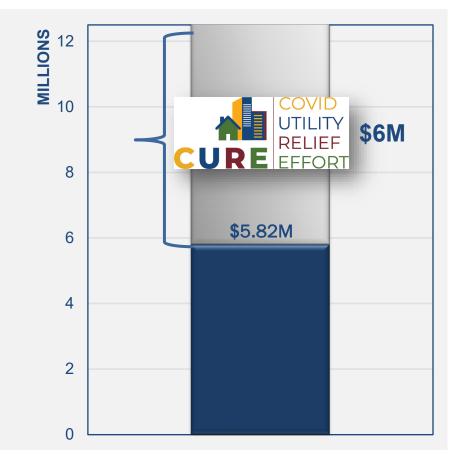
# Door notice and credit/debit card fees will not resume post-pandemic

### **Over \$12M in Customer Payments Deferred with Payment Plans**

Account Balance As of 8/31/2020	Installment Months	Number of Accounts	Total Past Due Balances
\$100-\$249.99	3 months	6,126	\$1,046,201
\$250-\$499.99	6 months	5,553	\$1,996,561
\$500-\$749.99	9 months	2,890	\$1,774,364
\$750-\$999.99	12 months	1,750	\$1,516,924
\$1000+	15 months	3,488	\$6,089,480
Totals		19,807	\$12,423,530

## Community Assistance and CARES Funding Fill Significant Need

Source	Assistance paid
Federal funds	\$4,729,000
Other nonprofits	\$606,210
Project Help	\$86,166
Faith-based	\$402,558
То	tal
	\$5,823,934



#### COVID Utility Relief Effort (CURE) to Assist with Past-Due Customer Bills



- \$6M in assistance for customers through TVA's Pandemic Relief Credit
  - Residential customers can receive up to \$1,000 payment on past-due bill
  - Business customers can receive up to \$3,000 payment on past-due bill
- Applying is simple
  - There are no income limits
  - Must be KUB electric customer
  - Provide photo ID and copy of bill
  - Complete and submit application