



News Release

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For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:
KUB Media Relations

Milestone Achievement of 400 Local Homes Weatherized *Through TVA Home Uplift and KUB Round It Up*

Today Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC), City of Knoxville (COK), and Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) marked a milestone for the Home Uplift and Round It Up Programs with a celebration of serving 400 homes. Agencies gathered at the home of Dwain and Jo Ann Covington of Knoxville, Tennessee, to tour their weatherized home and hear how the program, funded by TVA and the generosity of KUB customers, has positively impacted their lives.

Round It Up is funded by KUB customers who round up their bill to the nearest dollar, with the difference going to CAC to provide weatherization services to those in need. "When I went to the KUB payment center to pay my bill and they asked if I wanted to round it up to the next dollar to help weatherize homes, I said yes," explained Mr. Covington. "They told me my contribution was two cents, and I thought, 'they can't do anything with two cents.' But now, look what that two cents have done. I think everyone should give to Round It Up."

TVA's Home Uplift Program has provided funds to match the contributions from KUB customers, allowing CAC to double the number of homes served and reach the 400-home milestone.

"KUB is truly grateful to our customers who voluntarily contribute to Round It Up," said KUB Board Chair Kathy Hamilton. "The program is an excellent example of neighbors helping neighbors to make a difference in our community, and TVA's contributions are helping those dollars stretch even further to help more households."

Round It Up and Home Uplift have continued to build on the success of the Knoxville Extreme Energy Makeover (KEEM), initiated by the City of Knoxville's Smarter Cities Partnership and funded with \$15 million from TVA to weatherize nearly 1,300 homes from 2015 to 2017. When the KEEM program concluded, TVA announced its Home Uplift pilot, which has been funded with \$1.6 million from TVA and \$500,000 from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati's Affordable Housing Program.

"I am so proud of the way our partnership for weatherization assistance has continued to build on the success of the KEEM program," said Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero. "This 400-home milestone showcases a sustainable funding model, and the Knoxville community can celebrate our cumulative progress of serving over 1,600 local families since 2015."



The weatherization assistance programs are designed to address the root cause of high energy bills for customers living in inefficient homes and without the resources required to weatherize them. "These programs create life-changing results for the households served," said CAC Executive Director Barbara Kelly. "A more efficient home allows them to have better control of utility bills, but it also improves their quality of life and health."

Even with the progress made in serving households in need in the greater Knoxville area, there are still 3,000 people on the waiting list for weatherization assistance.

To continue work to meet the need locally and beyond, TVA recently announced plans to expand Home Uplift across its service territory. "TVA recognizes the tremendous need and is strongly committed to energy efficiency solutions for income-limited customers," said TVA President and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Lyash. "The success in the Knoxville area with the Home Uplift pilot has helped us build a broader program so we can help more families like the Covingtons."

To find out more about any of these programs, please visit the websites below.

KUB: www.kub.org/rounditup

TVA: www.tva.com

CAC: www.knoxcac.org

KUB is a municipal utility serving Knox and parts of seven adjacent counties and provides electric, gas, water, and wastewater services to more than 461,000 customers.

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