



**Energy Outreach Colorado**  
*Helping all Coloradans afford home energy.*

# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Reference: Partnership Helps Organizations that Care for Families in Crisis**

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**DENVER** – Several Denver-area nonprofit agencies, responsible for the care and wellbeing of our community’s poorest and least secure residents, will receive help themselves this winter, thanks to the new Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Project.

The project is a partnership between Energy Outreach Colorado, The Denver Foundation, Xcel Energy Foundation, Daniels Fund, Governor’s Office of Energy Management and Conservation and Mile High United Way. The organizations are working together to identify non-profit agencies that could reduce their energy bills through weatherization, and then fund and manage the improvement projects.

Family Tree in Jefferson County manages three shelters for women and children in crisis, along with two transitional housing apartment units for the homeless. The Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Project (NEEP) will provide all five of its properties with energy efficiency measures this winter.

“The project’s energy experts reviewed our properties and energy costs, and showed us which efficiency improvements they will make in order to generate the biggest savings for us. We’ll then be able to re-invest those savings back into our programs for the people who rely on us,” said Scott Shields, chief financial officer for Family Tree.

Shields also explained that investing in efficiency upgrades for the properties generates a benefit beyond savings. “By giving our residents a place to live that keeps them warm with new appliances that work well, we’re saying to them that they deserve a better life. They start respecting the property and they start respecting themselves. You can’t put a price on that, and we wouldn’t have been able to do it without NEEP.”

The first Family Tree facility to receive upgrades is a transitional housing apartment unit in Lakewood. Crews installed four energy efficient furnaces and refrigerators, as well as wall insulation. They also sealed and fixed numerous vents inside and outside the units. The total cost of the

upgrades was about \$23,000. This Family Tree facility can expect to see energy savings of up to 20 percent.

“This new partnership gives Energy Outreach Colorado the opportunity to provide much-needed help to the agencies that act as a safety net for the thousands of Colorado residents who otherwise would spend the holidays and most days cold and hungry with nowhere to go,” said Shelly Wallace, director of long-term energy solutions for Energy Outreach. “We hope this project can continue to grow and reach as many agencies as possible.”

Nonprofit organizations that could benefit from this program should call Energy Outreach Colorado at 303-825-8750 ext.230 and speak to Wallace about applying. Other agencies scheduled to receive energy efficiency upgrades through NEEP include Volunteers of America, SafeHouse Denver, Urban Peak, Gateway Battered Womens Services and Boulder County AIDS Project.

Those interested in making a tax-deductible donation to Energy Outreach Colorado to help the organization continue to provide programs like this are encouraged to visit its website at [www.EnergyOutreach.org](http://www.EnergyOutreach.org).

### **About Energy Outreach Colorado**

Energy Outreach Colorado is the only non-profit organization in the state that raises money for energy assistance. Its programs include energy bill payment assistance for income-limited households, energy efficiency upgrades for affordable housing and energy efficiency education. Since it was founded through the Colorado Governor’s office in 1989, the organization has distributed more than \$102 million to fund these programs. Energy Outreach Colorado is an independent, non-profit organization that relies on private donations, corporate contributions and foundation grants. More information is available at [www.EnergyOutreach.org](http://www.EnergyOutreach.org).

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