



HISTORIC CHICAGO
BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

HCBA Helps Keep Chicago Affordable, “Green” *Energy Savers Grants 1 and 2 Offer Matching Grants for Energy Efficient Home Rehab Projects*

CHICAGO (February 25th, 2008) – Owners of Chicago homes without proper insulation and air sealing might as well leave their windows open – bringing Chicago’s harsh winter winds and cold temperatures directly into the home, driving heating costs through the roof. Luckily for owners of Historic Chicago Bungalows, these ‘windows’ can easily be shut, and their historic homes can be sealed and insulated affordably and affectively.

As winter’s ruthless chill continues to grip Chicago, homeowners and renters from Jefferson Park to Avalon Park will be faced with increased monthly energy costs, an especially debilitating financial woe following the holidays. Contrasting these woes, hundreds of Historic Chicago Bungalow owners have benefited from the HCBA’s Energy Savers Grant 2, a matching grant of up to \$2000 to install insulation or seal other ‘air leaks’ in the home.

One such bungalow owner is Tony Richardson. After moving to Chicago in 1960 from Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. Richardson purchased his brick bungalow in 1970 when he was just 20 years old. “I looked at a lot of houses when I moved here,” Richardson said. “I told the real estate agent to give me a sturdy brick home. That’s why I bought this bungalow.”

Working with the HCBA, and other residents across Chicago is Paul Knight, an energy expert and principal with Domus Plus, an energy-efficiency consulting firm. Knight conducted a “Blower Door Test” on the home and quickly determined the problem areas – problems that were costing Richardson precious energy and dollars. Forty years after the home was purchased, Knight’s report showed that 200% more air was entering Mr. Richardson’s bungalow compared to that of the average Chicago home.

“The blower door test tells us two things about the house,” said Knight. “They measure how tight the house is – a house that has leaks wastes energy while a house that is too tight lends itself to air quality issues – and they tell us exactly where the air is coming into the house.

“Most people think that windows and doors are the only places where energy is lost. However, unless they’re in really bad shape, windows and doors only represent a small percentage of air leaks in the average home.”

With the insulation installed by DNR Construction, Richardson has noticed the difference and is ready to tackle other projects in the home as well: “Its much nicer, my heating bill went down and I don’t have to turn my thermostat up as high,” he said. “I appreciate what they’ve done. I’m looking forward to finishing the whole house up.”

In 2007, 99 Historic Chicago Bungalow owners used the Energy Savers 2 Grant for a new furnace or boiler while 26 homeowners installed insulation in their homes. With either of these projects, bungalow owners can expect to save around \$500 a year off their energy costs. At this rate, the HCBA's Energy Savers Grant 2 alone helped Chicago families save more than \$62,000 last year.

Also, the **Energy Savers 1 Grant** is available and provides a matching grant of up to **\$1,000** to homeowners of certified Historic Chicago Bungalows for restoration or replacement of approved windows and doors. Further increasing energy efficiency in the home, residents can restore their original wood windows or stained glass windows, "cap" exterior windows, replace storm windows and doors or the inclusion of double-paned glass windows.

"Families are on tight budgets, and the opportunity to save thousands of dollars can make all of the difference," said Annette Conti, Executive Director of the HCBA. "Our Energy Savers Grants are designed to help people stay in their homes and neighborhoods while enabling residents to do their part for the global climate as well – a real win-win situation for everyone."

To be eligible for either grant, the home must be **certified** as a Historic Chicago Bungalow with the HCBA. Certification is free and simple – only a picture of the front and back of the home and an accompanying form is required. When applying for an energy grant, be sure to include the member name and address of the home, along with a picture, a letter detailing the project, contractor details and quotes.

The Bungalow Initiative was launched in 2000 as an effort to preserve the City's architecturally significant bungalows, which comprise nearly one-third of the single-family housing in Chicago. Since then, over 8,500 bungalows have been certified and more than 2,000 families have received grants and vouchers assisting them with restoration.

The Chicago bungalow is the 1 ½-story single-family brick home that dominates many of the City's distinct neighborhoods, called the Bungalow Belt. Built more than 75 years ago, these historic homes can be preserved and modernized for today's lifestyles and energy needs. The Bungalow Initiative ensures that bungalow owners have the tools and resources necessary to restore their historic homes.

If you have any questions or want more information, please call the HCBA at 312-642-9900 or visit www.chicagobungalow.org.

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Note for Editors: Photos to accompany your story can be found at these websites.

Photo #1: <http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/bungalowinsulation.jpg>

Suggested Caption: "Insulating the home is the single most effective way to lower heating and cooling costs. Eco-friendly options include insulation made from recycled denim products, seen here."

Photo #2: <http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/bungalowblock2.jpg>

Suggested Caption: "Historic Chicago Bungalows, although built strong with brick construction are aging – new energy-efficiency techniques can be installed in the home thanks to grants from the HCBA."

Photos are courtesy of the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association.