



HISTORIC CHICAGO
BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION

energy\$avers



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Takes Control of Energy Costs with New energy\$avers Blocks Program

Block Leaders Organize Neighbors, Improve Energy-Efficiency

CHICAGO (September 9th, 2008) – With homeowners across the country in the midst of record breaking heating and cooling costs, one group of motivated Chicago residents is taking matters into their own hands, and creating a stronger neighborhood in doing so. The Historic Chicago Bungalow Association (HCBA) and the Lowe's Home Improvement "Heroes" program joined residents from the West Chatham neighborhood Saturday to announce the HCBA's new energy\$avers Blocks program, a program targeting energy-efficiency and housing preservation.

Using the HCBA's Green Bungalow Blocks as a model, the new energy\$avers Blocks program will work with dedicated residents, community organizations and block clubs to bring the financial incentives of the energy\$avers program, an expansion of the HCBA's original Energy Savers 1 and Energy Savers 2 Grants, to more owners of Historic Chicago Bungalows. Organized by the 79th and LaSalle Block Club and dedicated residents, the first energy\$avers Block features eight participating bungalows to date.

"Owners of Historic Chicago Bungalows have always taken pride in their homes and neighborhoods and our expanded energy\$avers program and energy\$avers Blocks celebrate this passion," said Annette Conti, Executive Director of the HCBA. "The inclusion of new insulation and an energy-efficient heating unit in these homes can bring an average savings of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 off of utility bills each year."

Under the expanded Bungalow energy\$avers Blocks Program, a group of homeowners can apply for grants to cover most of their energy-efficiency needs including insulation, new heating systems, as well as hot water heaters, the replacement of doors and windows, and installation of water-saving devices such as low flow faucets and shower heads, and dual flush toilets.

To be eligible for the grant, the homes 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 proof of ownership is required. There are no income restrictions on the grant; rather there is a sliding scale for the match. Those at or above 80% of median income will receive a 75% reimbursement up to \$6,000 while those below 50% of median income will receive a 100% reimbursement up to \$6,000.

“I have learned that community development is an ongoing and ever evolving process. I have learned that a neighborhood is more than the buildings, but also the people inside and outside of the community,” said West Chatham Chicago Bungalow owner and community organizer Karen Williams. “I feel it is important to remember that you live in your home but you thrive in your community.”

Joining the HCBA on the 7900 Block of South LaSalle Street were volunteers from The Lowe’s Heroes program to provide five homes on the block with gardening tips, design blueprints, products and native plants to beautify their home. Each year Lowe’s Heroes volunteer program helps to improve the communities where Lowe’s employees work and live. Together, each store team identifies a community improvement project that will make a difference in their community, such as working with the HCBA and 79th and LaSalle Block Club.

As a final honor for the neighborhood, the 79th and LaSalle Block Club is working directly with the HCBA, neighborhood residents and more to finalize an application for designation on the National Register of Historic Places. Attaining placement on the National Register of Historic Places is a three step process that includes city, state and national review – steps through which every applicant must pass, with the help of the HCBA. The first neighborhoods to be designated were the Schorsch Irving Park Garden District, the South Park Manor District, and the Wrightwood Boulevard District as well as Rogers Park Manor, Falconer and North Mayfair Districts.

“My overall goal for the community is to gain admittance to the National Register of Historic Places,” Williams concluded.

Grant applications for the energy**\$avers** Program are available by contacting the HCBA at (312) 642-9900 or bungalow@chicagobungalow.org. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call the HCBA at (312) 642-9900 or visit www.chicagobungalow.org.

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For Editors: Photos of the event are available at the following websites.

Photo #1: [http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/hcbaenergy\\$aversblock1a.jpg](http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/hcbaenergy$aversblock1a.jpg)

Suggested Caption: “The 7900 Block of South LaSalle Street – the first block of motivated residents taking control of their energy costs with the HCBA’s new energy\$avers** Block Program.”**

Photo #2: [http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/hcbaenergy\\$aversblock1b.jpg](http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/hcbaenergy$aversblock1b.jpg)

Suggested Caption: “Lowe’s Home Improvement provided gardening tips and products for several homeowners on the 7900 Block of South LaSalle street – complimenting the HCBA’s energy\$avers** Block Program.”**

Photo #3: [http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/hcbaenergy\\$aversblock1c.jpg](http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/hcbaenergy$aversblock1c.jpg)

Suggested Caption: “One of Historic Chicago Bungalows that has benefitted from both the HCBA’s energy\$avers** Block Program and the gardening assistance provided by Lowe’s Home Improvement.”**

Photos are courtesy of the HCBA.