

# CHANGE will offer winter assistance

By JUSTIN CHESNIC  
Staff writer

With the help of a local non-profit organization, low-income families may find some relief to help stay warm this winter despite the soaring energy costs.

CHANGE Inc., located throughout the Northern Panhandle, has a Weatherization Assistance Program that weatherizes homes.

According to Judy Raveaux, executive director for CHANGE, Inc., the main purpose of the program is to reduce air infiltration into homes.

"We do a series of blower door testing on homes," Raveaux said. "It tells us what has to be done."

The test reveals how much air is getting into people's homes, then a number of different projects can be done to improve the air infiltration.

CHANGE's Weatherization Assistance Program includes the insulation of sidewalls and attics, minor repairs to air leaks and insulation of undercarriage of trailers, duct sealing and repairing and weather stripping.

"The average home in West Virginia saves about \$453 per year," Raveaux said.

Other things that can be done in a home for the Weatherization Assistance Program include, repairing safety measures such as carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, energy-saving measures such as pipe insulation, low flow shower heads and aerators. Window repair also can be performed, but window replacement is not included in the program.

Raveaux added that once the project is finished with a home, another blower door test is done to make sure the air filtration has been reduced.

CHANGE, Inc. also is an outreach site for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), which assists low-income families with their energy bills. The requirements for this program are determined by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

These programs serve the counties of Hancock, Brooke, Ohio and Marshall. Anyone interested in applying for the programs should contact CHANGE Inc., at 797-7733.

Justin Chesnic can be contacted at [jchesnic@weirtondaily-times.com](mailto:jchesnic@weirtondaily-times.com)