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News Memo

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COLD WEATHER AND WARM NEIGHBORS GO HAND IN HAND

Athens, Tenn.—Want to make a heart warming difference in a child’s life right now? Consider the Warm Neighbors program at Athens Utilities Board.

Unexpected medical bills, extreme weather, and other tough circumstances in life can leave a family short of funds. Working with Coordinated Charities of McMinn County, AUB provides a way to help families when winter bills climb as temperatures fall.

“The Warm Neighbors program is an easy and effective way to lend a hand to a community neighbor in need,” said AUB’s Wayne Scarbrough.

“AUB matches community donations dollar for dollar up to \$5,000.00 per calendar year,” Scarbrough said.

With bone-chilling temperatures predicted in the coming days, every dollar makes a difference.

According to AUB, total customer contributions so far in 2006 are \$7,146.00. Therefore, the total for 2006 including AUB’s match is \$12,146.00.

“The need is real and it is persistent,” Scarbrough said. “There is never money left to spare. I’ve seen first hand how kids get a warm house on cold nights directly from this program.”

Coordinated Charities Director Luke Sewell echoes that sentiment.

“AUB’s Warm Neighbors Fund is an invaluable aid to Coordinated Charities. Without this fund we cannot assure that families in the AUB service area will be able to keep their homes warm. I personally thank all of those who participate in this worthwhile program,” Sewell said.

There are several ways a person can help.

1. Each AUB bill has a small box at the upper right-hand corner that says ‘Check to add \$1 for Warm Neighbors.’ To go this route, just add a dollar to your payment and check the box. AUB will forward the extra dollar to Coordinated Charities,

which administers the program and distributes funds to those who need it most. You can use this method any month.

2. Go to the AUB offices or the AUB website at www.aub.org. At the office or online you can obtain a Warm Neighbors Participation Agreement. This will authorize AUB to automatically add \$1 to your bill each month, and that dollar will be earmarked for the program.
3. Simply contact AUB and make a donation of any amount designated for the Warm Neighbors program.

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