

Community Weatherization Coalition
c/o Jason Fults
Rebuilding Together North Central FL
4550 SW 41st Blvd Suite 2
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352)450-4965
cwc@communityweatherization.net

October 2nd, 2016

Dear Trustees:

We are writing to thank you for your important contribution to another successful year for the Community Weatherization Coalition (CWC). We have expanded our Board and community partnerships and have already exceeded some of our goals for 2016. Our Executive Director Marianne Schmink has led our Board and is also overseeing our two-year research project funded by the American Public Power Association (APPA). Our lone staff-person, Alane Humrich, has done a fantastic job growing and developing our volunteer base and increasing our public visibility. We have been successful in broadening our funding base this year, and have gained new sponsors from the business and faith communities as well as a significant increase in funding from our municipally-owned utility GRU. In addition to institutional funding sources, we have sought more individual donors, reaching out via an online giving campaign in April and our first direct mail solicitation. In short, we are expanding the organization in a sustainable manner and providing high-quality services to our community.

Since we last reported to you in the autumn of 2015, we have hosted two volunteer trainings and are gearing up for a third in just a few weeks. These trainings and follow-up by Alane and our seasoned volunteers have resulted in 33 new “energy detectives” over the past twelve months. In keeping with Alane's early success, nearly 90% of our new trainees have gone on to complete audits. With help from the University of Florida's “Change Lab,” we have continued to improve our training curriculum and have facilitated focus groups among CWC volunteers to better understand how to improve volunteer retention and engagement. Alane has also done an excellent job of engaging volunteers in other, non-audit related tasks, such as designing outreach materials, tabling at public outreach events, and even organizing “Striking Out High Utilities,” a bowling & silent auction fundraising event for the CWC.

We have already exceeded our audit goal for 2016, completing 81 energy audits, including two neighborhood blitzes. These blitzes concentrate a large number of volunteers in a single neighborhood in order to complete a dozen or more audits in the space of a few weekends. This year's blitzes have also included extensive follow-up work, including the installation of donated “Nest Learning Thermostats” in one community and more intensive second-stage retrofits in two of our clients' homes (see the attached case study for more detail on one of these homes).

Due to contract negotiations, we did not begin our APPA-funded research project until May, but it is now well underway and already resulting in some significant outcomes. Our partners in this project have been the University of Florida-based Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC) and the “Change Lab,” a research unit at the University that specializes in Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM). Two preliminary analyses by PREC of the CWC's audit impacts have found a reduction of 19-24% in electricity usage by CWC clients one year after being audited, a substantial

change. These analyses are being expanded and refined to provide more precise measures of our impact. Another research goal is to work closely with partners to learn how we can most effectively improve CWC's work using CBSM approaches. We have been developing strong relationships with the neighborhood association of the Greater Duval neighborhood of Gainesville, and have formed a Community Advisory Board of Duval residents who are providing feedback to us about barriers and benefits of home energy audits, and ways that we can improve our effectiveness in reaching out to potential audit clients. The results of these consultations will guide the incorporation of improvements to CWC's training and audit process starting in October. Follow-up analysis by PREC of the impact of these improved training/audits will allow us to measure their effectiveness compared to previous CWC audits.

As we look forward to 2017, we hope to build upon our strengths—providing at least 100 quality audits to low-income clients—while offering additional services such as:

- second-stage energy/water-saving retrofits such as weather-stripping, building envelope repair, and installation of high-efficiency appliances
- safety improvements such as carbon monoxide detectors and mobility assistance to help keep people safer in their homes

We also plan to fully digitize our audit process, creating more user-friendly reports for our clients and a database that will allow us to view larger trends and needs among our client base and better analyze our impacts. Given the strong year we've had to-date, we are confident that we will achieve these goals and will continue to develop a sustainable local funding base for the organization's work. This success would not have been possible without the support of the Foundation and we hope that we can continue to work with you moving forward. Please see enclosed some photos and other attachments that illustrate what we've been up to, and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, concerns, or feedback you might have.