



Walk for Warmth to help low-income residents struggling to pay bills

By **Tarryl Jackson** | tjackso1@mlive.com on February 19, 2014

JACKSON, MI – **Consumers Energy** employees are taking to the streets across Michigan to help low-income residents keep their homes warm this winter. The Jackson-based utility is donating \$2 for every dollar that employees, family members and friends raise by volunteering in Walk for Warmth events this year. Last year, the company and employees raised \$112,000.

Hundreds of Consumers Energy employees will participate in Community Action Agency's Walk for Warmth event Friday, Feb. 21 in Jackson. Employees will participate in 34 walks this year, and the funds will go to those who cannot afford to pay their bills, including the elderly and those with disabilities.

"This is the coldest winter in a generation, and people are using more natural gas to stay warm," Pattie Poppe, vice president of customer experience, rates and regulations, said in a statement. "In response, we've launched our 'Beat the Freeze' campaign to help people use less energy and to provide resources to manage their bills. We encourage anyone in the communities we serve to join us at Walk for Warmth events and help their neighbors."

Consumers Energy is partnering with local Community Action Agencies statewide to sponsor Walk for Warmth events. The money that participants raise will provide energy assistance for Michigan residents – a priority for Consumers Energy in this extremely cold winter.

The Jackson walk will start inside the company's headquarters at One Energy Plaza and extend through downtown. Registration will start at 11 a.m., with the walk to follow at noon.

All Walk for Warmth events are open to the public. For a list of events, visit www.consumersenergy.com/walkforwarmth.