

## OUR VIEW



## Assist utility relief by walking for warmth

It's been cold. Lenawee County's low temperatures were expected to sink to 18 degrees below zero early this morning. Local schools are running out of planned weather days — largely due to frigid cold. Factoring windchill each day, everyone it seems understands how cold it feels.

Or do we? Do we know how cold we'd be if we didn't have money to heat our homes or to pay to reconnect service?

Inability to pay for heat and other utilities is the biggest problem this winter reported by the 211 phone service, according to the Lenawee area Community Action Agency. That gives Saturday's planned 2015 Walk for Warmth in downtown Adrian added urgency.

"We have some funds from different federal and state sources, but we're totally out of funds for utility assistance right now," said Diane Bach, community outreach manager and Lenawee deputy director for Community Action Agency. "The good thing about money from this event is it's unrestricted as far as eligibility. Every penny of this is spent to help a Lenawee County person."

Several volunteer groups including Lenawee United Way are involved. Consumers Energy, Midwest Energy, Citizens Gas, the Department of Human Services, The Salvation Army and Housing Help of Lenawee are other sponsors. Last year, Adrian's walk assisted 58 Lenawee County families by raising nearly \$30,000.

Success depends on community participation and, luckily, it's not too late to help out.

Registration begins at 9:15 a.m. tomorrow, with walking starting at 10 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 156 East Maumee St. Walkers can choose from two courses: a half-mile walk, or a 1.5-mile walk, led by the Maurice Spear Campus drum corps. Refreshments will



### Walk for Warmth

■ **When:** Saturday, signups at 9:15 a.m., walk at 10 a.m.

■ **Where:** Adrian's First Presbyterian Church, 156 East Maumee St.

■ **Why:** Raise awareness and money for local families who are struggling to keep heat and other utilities on this winter.

■ **More info:** Pledge sheets are online at [on.fb.me/1Lj58Wz](https://on.fb.me/1Lj58Wz) or contact Community Action Agency at 263-7861 or at 400 W. South St. in Adrian.

be available. In addition to helping families with expenses and to avoid shut-offs, people can also learn about weatherizing their homes to conserve energy.

We hope people take advantage of the warmer weather predicted for Saturday to show their support. That could mean collecting pledges and walking as a family or as a business. It might involve participating as an individual or donating to the utility fund to help local families get through a very hard winter. Or it might just mean walking for a few minutes to show solidarity with people who've faced the prospect of cold all winter long.

Pledge sheets are available at Community Action Agency or at the walk. Donations also are accepted at the Adrian Community Action Agency office at 400 W. South St. in Adrian.

Help show your support Saturday for making Lenawee County a warmer place.