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**Communities unite to raise over \$33,000 to help keep families warm**

Communities across mid-Michigan united to Walk for Warmth, raising nearly \$34,000 that will be used to help heat the homes of individuals and families in need.

Mid Michigan Community Action's Walk for Warmth, now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, was held in each of the agency's six counties: Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Mecosta, Midland and Osceola. Over 430 people from across mid-Michigan participated in this year's walk.

The Walk for Warmth heating fund has become increasingly important due to rapidly increasing home heating costs and the declining availability of state and federal funds.

"The Walk for Warmth fund allows us to help so many families that might not be eligible for other forms of heat assistance," Sharon Wainman, Mid Michigan Community Action Outreach Director, said.

Despite the economic recession, the Walk for Warmth maintained the level of donations from last year.

"Our communities are incredible," Wainman said. "It is inspiring to see people pull together, even when times are tough, to help those who are struggling. To raise over \$33,000 in one morning, in this economy, is a tribute to the generosity of our communities," she added.

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## **Walk for Warmth raises over \$33,000, 2**

One hundred percent of the money raised will remain in the county it was raised to be used to help families stay warm.

Wainman said she hopes to meet the overall goal of \$82,000. Mid Michigan Community Action fundraises for the Walk for Warmth fund throughout the year.

The Walk for Warmth fund is primarily used to help individuals and families that are in need, but do not qualify for other funding sources. Because the fund is all donations, there is more flexibility to help people who would not otherwise be eligible.

“We will continue to work hard at raising money for the Walk for Warmth fund,” Wainman said. “Our communities continue to be responsive, and we are grateful,” she added.

Those interested in donating to Walk for Warmth should contact their county Mid Michigan Community Action Outreach office, or for more information, visit [www.mmcaa.org](http://www.mmcaa.org).

*Walk for Warmth 2010 would not be possible without support from our sponsors from across mid-Michigan: Accu-Air Heating and Cooling, Chemical Bank, Chrisman’s Country Café, Isabella Bank, DTE Energy, Endless Journey Internet, Jay Trucks & Associates, ProGas Propane, Martin Heating & Cooling, Stanford LP Gas, Mid Michigan Tree Service, Michael Oil, Consumers Energy, Van Andel Propane, Kehoe Realty, the Wooden Shoe Big Boys Club, Jim’s Body Shop and Great Lakes Diving and Salvage.*

*Mid Michigan Community Action Agency is a non-profit, human services agency serving Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Mecosta, Midland and Osceola Counties since 1966.*

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