

December 21, 2008 - Winter Solstice

Dear Friends:

It's time once again to ask for your support in meeting community energy needs.

In 2008, we completed the second full year of HELP--our Home Energy Link Program—for households needing assistance to stop expensive, unnecessary energy leaks. As of June 30, a total of 140 qualifying homes were weatherized in Willits as a result of HELP. The City's investment of \$150,000 returned over \$1.3 million in value over the life of the retrofits.



*On location at Fort Bragg's city annex, Program Rep Brittany Rubio helps a client apply for a free fridge.*

By now we've served more than 300 households countywide. We gave away 180 free refrigerators to qualified applicants, taking that many old, polluting fridges out of circulation. We also facilitated "energy assist" funds to people unable to pay their energy bill, while putting them in line for weatherization to ensure they won't incur such high utility bills in future. HELP was provided in partnership with North Coast Energy Services, City of Willits, and this year PG&E.

In November, we held an Open House here at the REDI Haus, showing off 13 new Energy Star certified windows, expertly installed by Willits Round Tree Glass, and a beautiful new front walkway built by Gary Martinez, as part of the water-conserving landscape. People attending enjoyed a lot of great networking and delicious locally grown food prepared by Marie Blancas. We will have more such events as we make progress on this demonstration dwelling, so stay tuned!

This year will be a pivotal growth year for us. We are working on a water conservation program with the City of Willits, and on expansion of HELP countywide, and perhaps developing a statewide model. We are hoping to fill a \$25,000 funding gap. Your financial support during this growth period would be greatly appreciated.

I have hope that, with a renewed commitment by the nation to build a more sustainable world, our time has finally come. All that we've been working for is beginning to come true, and renewables will be within reach for everyone.

With this letter you will find our Annual Report in brief, and more information is available on our website or by contacting me via email: janet@redinet.org. Our thanks, as always, for supporting renewable energy and sustainability.

With our warmest wishes for a peaceful and prosperous New Year,

Janet Orth, President & ED

P.S. We will appreciate a gift from you, to be able to continue expanding HELP to serve more people who would otherwise not be able to afford the essential comforts of home.

***REDI is a charitable, nonprofit educational and scientific 501c3 organization. Your check to REDI is tax deductible. To dedicate all or part of your contribution to a particular program, please make a note on your check. We welcome your comments. Thank you!***