

April 16, 2011

John Walsh
Executive Director, Community Action
420 Golf Club Rd SE
Lacey, Washington 98503

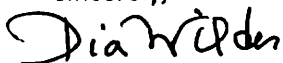
Dear Mr. Walsh,

The team of Community Action workers and hired contractors completed their work yesterday on my house. I wanted to express my thankfulness for the gift of having many problems fixed and improved, which I would never have been able to do on my own. I have not had the finances to hire a repairman for anything broken or inadequate in my 13 years in this little house. Although I am 67, I have continued to work part time when I can find it over the last few years, working from my home on the phone and computer, but the earnings were never sufficient combined with social security, for anything other than my monthly living expenses. Imagine working sitting for many hours, with only an electric blanket for warmth, feet freezing on an uncarpeted floor, not earning enough to buy sufficient wood for more than 4 hours a day, and even then the house did not hold heat. I have been living with no heaters working for several years, needing to carry wood into my house every day, up several stairs with great pain and difficulty, to build a fire every day for 7 months a year. Even so, my very small house remained too cold to be comfortable. With the work done by your department, my house will be able to utilize the heat I can afford more efficiently. Now, I can turn on a heater in my bedroom, bath or living room whenever I am cold, with the option to skip fire building. Your team sealed my doors and other places where cold air comes in and heat leaks out, repaired the house vents so they carry air not into the attic, but now to the outside, insulated under my house and in the attic space. So many other tasks were completed that the list is too long for this letter. All will make a big difference. Although I have lived independently without asking for help in the past, this year was particularly hard due to lack of work for many months. How fortunate I was to find your agency which not only gave me wood, but also repaired my home for better use of energy. Without it I would have had no heat for several months.

I feel very privileged to have been selected for this program, and eternally grateful. I no longer will look forward with dread to the long months of very cold weather here in Tahuya. I have heard the President say it Community Action was his pet project, but he would need to cut back on it, in addition to media discussion that Community Action throughout the US may not be funded in the future. I cannot imagine how many low income, disabled and seniors throughout the US will have to suffer without sufficient heat due to lack of money for wood or heaters, or homes that do not work properly even with a heat source. I believe most of us in my situation put in long years of work, paid our taxes, only to find ourselves without enough income to survive at this time.

Again, my heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,



Dia Wilder
Tahuya, Washington