



News Release

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BLACK HILLS ENERGY RECEIVES DONATION FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE

St Paul's Lutheran Church initiates collection to raise funds for area residents

POSTVILLE, Iowa, Aug. 5, 2009 – A program to provide energy assistance to local residents has grown by more than \$800. Black Hills Energy has matched \$408 in funds going to Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation in Decorah, the state's local community action agency, to help qualified customers pay for energy-related expenses.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Postville initiated an energy assistance collection, which was matched by the Church to distribute \$408 to NICAC. The distribution was fully matched today by Black Hills *Cares* – the energy assistance program offered by Black Hills Energy – resulting in \$816 available for energy assistance. Black Hills *Cares* is an ongoing program that matches customer and employee contributions, dollar-for-dollar, to provide assistance to local Black Hills Energy natural gas customers.

“The contribution to Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation is a collaborative effort between the Church and its parishioners that are dedicated to helping others in the community,” said Sandy Koenig, Black Hills Energy operations supervisor in Decorah. “On behalf of Black Hills Energy, we're excited to play a role in this contribution and appreciate the partnership with those involved in making this collection happen,” continued Koenig.

“Contributions enable us to provide ongoing quality customer service to our customers,” said Mary Ann Humpal, executive director for NICAC. “We are grateful for the support.”

Contributions made to the Black Hills *Cares* program are matched dollar-for-dollar by Black Hills Energy. Customers interested in making donations to Black Hills *Cares* can

indicate on their monthly natural gas bill the amount they want to contribute. In Iowa, Black Hills *Cares* funds are distributed by Iowa Community Action Partnership.

Black Hills Energy serves 149,500 natural gas customers in 130 Iowa communities. Black Hills Energy is part of Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) — a diversified energy company with a tradition of exemplary service and a vision to be the energy partner of choice — is based in Rapid City, S.D., with corporate offices in Golden, Colo., and Omaha, Neb. The company serves 759,000 utility customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The company's non-regulated businesses generate wholesale electricity, produce natural gas, oil and coal, and market energy. Black Hills employees partner to produce results that improve life with energy. More information is available at www.blackhillscorp.com.

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