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NEWS MEDIA INVITE

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25th Annual Project Heat's On Provides Free Furnace Inspections for Low Income Seniors and Adults with Disabilities

Kaukauna, WI (September 20, 2017) – The UA 400 Pipe Trades and Mechanical Contractors Association of North Central Wisconsin (MCA) will team up for the 25th Annual Project Heat's ON to help ensure that low income homeowners who are seniors and/or adults with disabilities have a safe furnace in their home this heating season. The event will take place on Saturday, September 23rd. This project is an all-volunteer effort with members of the UA 400 and MCA inspecting and cleaning home heating systems, changing filters, checking smoke alarms and replacing either the alarm or the batteries.

With heating and electric costs on the rise, Project Heat's ON is even more valuable this year. This year's event will benefit 72 low-income and disabled homeowners in Brown, Outagamie, Winnebago and Fond du Lac counties. Materials are donated by local businesses.

Margaret Vaessen, a long time homeowner in Green Bay, has directly benefited from Project Heat's ON. Last year, Margaret's 40-year old furnace was inspected and replaced with a new furnace. "Margaret lives on social security and a small pension so any help is such a blessing and means the world to her. She has difficulty walking and numerous health issues so Heat's ON gives her peace of mind," explains Dorothy Joseph who is Margaret's sister.

The homes to be inspected are chosen by the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County, The Volunteer Center of East Central Wisconsin and the Fond du Lac Department of Senior Services.

"The biggest asset for these senior homeowners is their home," explains Laurie Ropson, Outreach Coordinator for the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Green Bay. "Many of them struggle to afford home repairs and the Heat's On Program allows them to remain in their homes. That's a win-win for everyone in our community."

According to Jeff Knaus, business manager for the UA 400 Pipe Trades in Kaukauna, volunteers have inspected more than 1500 homes over a 25-year period. Volunteers also make follow-up visits and in some cases have replaced heat exchangers, which can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. “Over the years, I believe the Heat’s On Program has helped countless homeowners. Our members take great pride in their work and want to make a positive impact in their communities,” points out Knaus.

UA 400 volunteers use trucks and tools furnished by the Mechanical Contractors Association of North Central Wisconsin, with donations from local individuals and businesses for parts, filters, and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Contractors participating in Project Heat’s ON include A&J Mechanical, Anderson HVAC, August Winters & Sons, Bassett Mechanical, J.F. Ahern, Johnson Controls, Just Service Inc., Mechanical Technologies Inc., Trane, Tweet Garot Mechanical, and VDH Mechanical.

“Project Heat’s On provides a much needed service to the community and is a great way for Labor and Management to give back to the community,” states Jeff Gaecke, vice president for Organization Management Services in Appleton.

This year’s application deadline closed in mid-August but interested homeowners should send their name and address to their county agency to get on the list to receive an application in August 2018.

News media are invited to attend the program kick off at 8 a.m. at one of the following locations or can meet up with one of our Service Techs at a home:

Green Bay Labor Temple located at 1570 Elizabeth Street, Green Bay, Ph: 920-680-1771

Local 400 Training Center located at 2700 Northridge Dr. Kaukauna, Ph: 920-419-3754

Local 400 Training Center located at 406 W. 11th St. Fond du Lac, Ph: 920-419-5657

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About UA 400 Pipe Trades – The UA 400 Pipe Trades, headquartered in Kaukauna, Wisconsin with an office in Fond du Lac, is comprised of approximately 2,300 members serving eighteen counties in Northeast Wisconsin. The organization is affiliated with the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters with an estimated 345,000 membership throughout the United States and Canada. The group’s mission is to be the preferred choice for industries, employers and workers specializing in plumbing, pipefitting, HVACR service and pipe fabrication as well as provide training for its members and qualified manpower to their 105 signatory contractors. The UA 400 takes pride in their partnerships and contributions to serve local communities with organizations such as Cerebral Palsy Telethon, Special Olympics, Rebuilding Together, Heat’s On Program and Salvation Army.