

Helping Neighbors Year-Round in Nevada

For **Nevada Power**, the spirit of goodwill doesn't end during the holidays. It continues year-round through help to people like Pearlle Joe, a senior citizen who faced power bills of up to \$500 a month.

Through its partnership with Rebuild America and Christmas in April*Greater Las Vegas, Nevada Power lowered her bill by 60 percent. The utility fixed the home's problems of inadequate insulation, an ineffective heating unit and solid-brick construction, while vendors donated new windows, doors, cabinets and roofing.

Barry Vinik, a Nevada Power employee and Las Vegas chapter board member, explained why the utility participates in both Rebuild America and Christmas in April: "They share a common mission – to improve [the] quality of life in our communities by rehabilitating existing buildings."

Volunteers At Work

Las Vegas is one of nearly 50 Rebuild America communities where Christmas in April chapters also exist. Christmas in April is a national volunteer organization that works with communities to rehabilitate housing, particularly for low-income elderly or disabled homeowners who are unable to make necessary home repairs.

Since Christmas in April was launched as a national program in 1988, over one million volunteers and thousands of corporations and organizations have donated time, labor and funding to build better neighborhoods. Today, more than 600 communities participate in Christmas in April activities, typically held on "National Rebuilding Day" (the last Saturday in April).

Volunteers with Christmas in April*Greater Las Vegas have renovated 110 homes and several non-profit facilities since forming the chapter in 1993. Last year

the Las Vegas chapter joined Rebuild America because it offers much-needed building knowledge and energy resources, according to Beth Gayler, the chapter's executive director.

Saving Power and Money

Nevada Power is one of the Las Vegas chapter's premier sponsors. The utility conducts an energy audit of each home scheduled for renovations and makes various energy-efficiency improvements. These include electrical upgrades and weatherization of windows and doors. The utility also installs security lighting.

Homeowners typically save at least 15 to 20 percent of their electricity consumption, plus gas and water savings.

Christmas in April*Greater Las Vegas and Nevada Power expect to rehabilitate about 35 homes this year. Both the chapter and the utility are proud of their efforts and have vowed to keep their neighbors living in warmth, safety and independence.

*For more information, contact Reed Dewey of Christmas in April*USA at (202) 483-9592.*



Volunteers with Christmas In April*Greater Las Vegas help rebuild the community.