

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Damaris Moné  
**Email:** [dmone@aeanyc.org](mailto:dmone@aeanyc.org)  
**Office:** 718.292.6733 ext. 8027  
**Cell:** 917.664.6879

## **AEA celebrates Weatherization Day on October 30<sup>th</sup> with Weatherization Building Tour in the South Bronx**

**(Oct. 30, 2013 – Bronx)** The Association for Energy Affordability (AEA) led a tour of a 59-unit building in the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx that recently benefitted from the weatherization assistance program located at 916-918 Faile Street. Attendees included representatives from the offices of Congressman José E. Serrano, Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz and others.

By helping low-income families in small homes and apartment buildings conserve energy, Weatherization helps them save money and improve their living conditions. Weatherization work includes important health and safety measures that can save lives. “Despite sharply reduced funding this year, the Weatherization Assistance Program continues to provide one of the most accountable, cost-effective and valuable resources to reduce the energy burden and overall costs of housing for low-income New Yorkers,” said AEA Executive Director David Hepinstall.

The tour was organized as part of National Weatherization Day observances across the country. On Weatherization Day, the local organizations that deliver the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) focus public attention on the broad benefits it provides in low income communities. Weatherization Day on October 30<sup>th</sup> is also the culmination of Energy Awareness Month, observed annually by the US Department of Energy.

AEA’s Weatherization team oversaw the installation of a wide range of energy efficiency measures at 916 – 918 Faile Street. The building replaced the heating system and domestic hot water boilers, and installed an Energy Management System and thermostatic radiator valves to improve heat distribution throughout the building. Also installed were roof and pipe insulation, energy efficient lighting in the apartments and public hallways, high-efficiency showerheads and faucet aerators, and new CO and smoke detectors. Units with inefficient refrigerators eligible for replacement were upgraded with Energy Star refrigerators. The Bronx Borough President was instrumental in stimulating building’s heating fuel conversion from #6 heating oil to natural gas as part of an initiative to reduce the incidence of asthma in the South Bronx.

In addition to the owner’s substantial contribution and federal WAP funds, the building has earned incentives from Con Edison’s Multifamily Energy Efficiency Program for efficient lighting and will receive additional funds in support of the project from the utility and the City of New York Department of Housing Preservation and Development once the switchover to gas heating, expected in November, takes place.

The owner, Jorge Bolanos, has a family-run real estate business with multiple properties in New York City. After weatherizing its first property, the company is committed to making energy upgrades throughout its portfolio.

“This building is a microcosm of all the good things that Weatherization can provide – a responsible building owner received a detailed technical assessment, with a biddable work scope and specifications. Comprehensive energy-saving improvements were installed by capable contractors selected through a competitive bid process,” said Francis Rodriguez, Weatherization Director at AEA. “Central building systems

and tenant apartments received upgrades, increasing comfort and saving tenants money. The owner is committed to maintaining the building, and made a substantial contribution, while AEA helped to leverage other government and utility resources to multiply the impact of each federal dollar spent.”

916-918 Faile Street exemplifies how the Weatherization Assistance Program works to:

- Improve the health, safety, and comfort for low-income residents in their homes
- Encourage owners to invest in their buildings
- Achieve goals cost effectively by utilizing time-tested methods:
  - Services are delivered by experienced community based nonprofits, supporting the local economy.
  - The Program identifies resources available from other programs for which properties are and leverages them to complete the most comprehensive possible scope of work in the building.
  - Owners see the value of Weatherization and are stimulated to bring the benefits of energy efficiency to their other properties.

**About Weatherization.** The Weatherization Assistance Program began shortly after the oil embargo of the 1970’s, in 1976. Since that time, over 7.4 million families live in homes made healthier, safer, and more energy efficient by Weatherization. In New York State alone, well over 500,000 units of housing have been weatherized. This has helped to reduce energy costs by an average of 20%, by conserving gas, oil and other resources. Priority for weatherization assistance is given to households with children, the elderly and residents with disabilities. Funds are also used to weatherize the homes of homeowners and renters with high fuel costs in relation to their household income. Funds are targeted to the most cost-effective conservation measures, determined from an on-site energy audit of the building.

#### **National Statistics\* about the Weatherization Assistance Program:**

- Weatherization saves an average of 32% in gas space heating. This comprises a total fuel consumption reduction of 23%. Net savings for each home weatherized average 30.5 MBtu/year.
- Reducing energy demand decreases the environmental impacts of energy production. Weatherization mitigates approximately 2.65 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. Over the life of the measures, weatherization saves 53 metric tons of CO2 per house. Weatherization also reduces emissions of methane and nitrous oxide.
- Weatherization creates non-energy benefits as well, including increased property value, reduced incidence of fire, reduced utility arrearages and bad debt, federal taxes generated from employment, income generated from indirect employment, avoided costs of unemployment benefits, and reduced pollution.
- Additional benefits that are more difficult to quantify include improved health and safety conditions, increased comfort for occupants, a reduction in homelessness and mobility, and extended lifetime of affordable housing.

*\*The information above is from "Short and Long-Term Perspectives: The Impact on Low-Income Consumers of Forecasted Energy Price Increases in 2008 and a Cap-and-Trade Carbon Policy in 2030" [ORNL/CON-503](#), Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, December - 2007; [January MIDWINTER UPDATE](#), "Estimating the National Effects of the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program with State-Level Data: A Metaevaluation Using Studies from 1993 to 2005", [ORNL/CON-493](#), Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, September, 2005; and the [EIA ORNL/TM-2010/66](#), EIA February 2010 Short Term Energy Outlook.*

For additional information about the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) please visit [www.WapTac.org](http://www.WapTac.org)