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Subject/Headline: Take a walk, make an impact

Grab your cold weather gear and get ready to walk a wintry mile to help local energy assistance programs. Registration is open for the Second Annual Heartland Walk for Warmth, Friday, February 20, at 6 p.m., at the Heartland of America Park. Join your co-workers, friends and family for this fun event. Walking teams are welcome and encouraged.

The event raises funds and awareness for energy assistance programs to help customers of Black Hills Energy, Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.) and Omaha Public Power District (OPPD). The Salvation Army, the Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross and the United Way of the Midlands administer the programs.

Register on-line at: <http://www.heartlandwalkforwarmth.org> or download the form and mail with your \$20 per person fee. People who register by February 13 are eligible for more than 30 raffle prizes! On-line registration closes February 18. Sponsors will give away free items and information at the walk.

Free parking will be available at the Gallup Organization, 1001 Gallup Dr., beginning at 5 p.m., and in the City of Omaha's parking lot west of Rick's Boatyard Cafe, 345 Riverfront Dr. Look for shuttle bus signs. A courtesy shuttle service will take you and your family to the walk site. After the walk, the shuttle will return you to your vehicle. Visit the website at www.heartlandwalkforwarmth.org for details.

For the safety of walkers, please no pets, bicycles, strollers, skateboards, roller blades or roller skates are allowed on the course.

Major event sponsors include: Black Hills Energy, M.U.D., OPPD, Pinnacle Bank, Northern Border Pipeline Co., Northern Natural Gas, Tenaska Marketing Ventures, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska and Lozier. See the website for a complete list of sponsors. The 2008 Heartland Walk for Warmth drew 700 walkers and raised \$30,000 for energy assistance programs.

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Caption for 2008 walk photo (high-resolution color jpg file provided):

Walkers prepare to start the one-mile Heartland Walk for Warmth, February 1, 2008, around the Heartland of America Park.

The event drew 700 walkers and raised \$30,000 for local energy assistance programs operated by Black Hills Energy, Metropolitan Utilities District and Omaha Public Power District.

Their programs help about 3,500 people a year and are administered by the Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the United Way of the Midlands.

Registration is open for the February 20, 2009, event at www.heartlandwalkforwarmth.org.

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