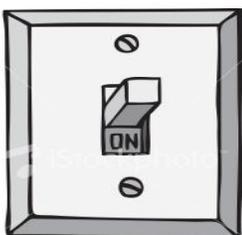
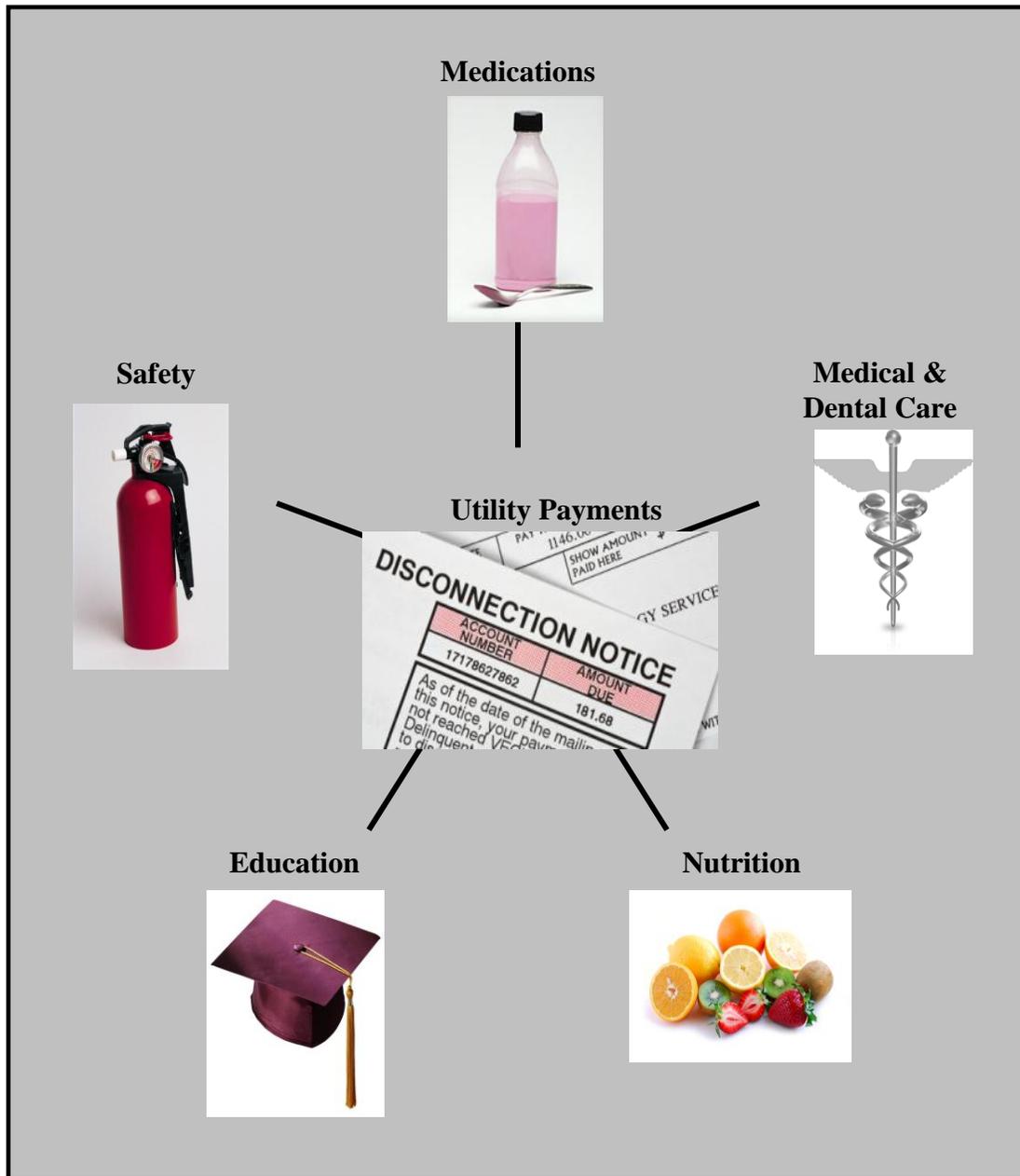


For **290,959** children in Missouri, parents should not have to choose.



## Keeping the Power On,

*A Medical-Legal Initiative*

*Maximizing utility access and increasing health and wellbeing for Missouri children.*

### The Shaws

Andrew 36; Mary 34; Dana, 12

Annual income: \$16,050      Utilities: \$350

Monthly income: \$1,088      Rent: \$475

Food Stamps: \$300

In November 2006, Mr. Shaw was laid off from his job. He occasionally works odd jobs as a painter and his wife works part-time. Even though the family receives food stamps, they often find themselves short of food by the end of the month.

Dana has severe asthma and requires a breathing treatment twice a day. Two months ago, Dana was hospitalized for treatment of an upper respiratory infection. Dana's frequent hospital visits has resulted in a sharp decrease the family's income and put Mrs. Shaw in jeopardy of losing her job.

The family lives in a poorly maintain housing unit exacerbates Dana's condition. Despite the family's attempts to "winterize" their apartment and keep their heat usage to a minimum, their monthly heating bill is still too high. The family is faced with the decision of paying this month's \$350 heating bill or attending to Dana's medical needs.

### The Kings

Cynthia 27; Joy 14; John, 4; Alex, 1

Annual income: \$10,000      Utilities: \$250

Monthly income: \$833      Rent: \$400

Food Stamps: \$630

Cynthia King is a single mother of three children. She works a minimum wage job and receives child support payments for her children. Last year, Ms. King lost her Section 8 voucher because her water was disconnected. The family moved from home to home for several homes before they moved into a 2 bedroom home with the grandmother.

Joy's grades have been steadily dropping this school year. Her teachers are considering retaining her in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade because of academic underachievement.

In July, Grandmother's electricity was disconnected and Alex found in lying in his crib struggling to breathe. The baby suffered a heat stroke.

### ***Keeping the Power On Goals:***

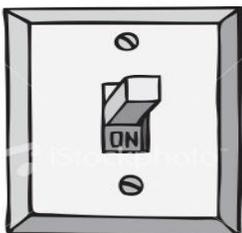
- *Study the effects of energy insecurity on the local community.*
- *Form partnerships with community-based organizations for problem-solving.*
- *Design protocols for identifying and addressing home energy needs in medical homes.*
- *Create a website to facilitate community-based utilities advocacy.*
- *Support energy-related policy efforts beneficial to child health and development.*

### **For more information, contact:**

*Children's Health Advocacy Project  
4232 Forest Park Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
314-256-8764  
www.lsem.org/chap*

### **Health Effects of Energy Insecurity:**

- *Hunger & Nutrition*
- *Healthcare*
- *Household Safety*
- *Education*
- *Employment*
- *Housing*



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