

Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church

Building Relationships with People in Christ

Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (REAP)

Each spring our Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church holds a **Pancake Breakfast/Bake Sale** to benefit REAP. It is a joint effort with Outreach Committee advertising and helping the Property Committee in any way. Property does the actual cooking, but Outreach purchases food, sets-up tables and buses them and over-sees the bake sale items that church members donate.

Check our calendar for the date of our Pancake Breakfast!

History of REAP

The mission of REAP is to consistently deliver our emergency services, making the client's dignity, self-esteem, and stabilization a top priority.

- 1982 REAP was founded as the Raytown Energy Assistance Program, with 501 (C) 3 status, to raise funds for helping Raytown school district residents needing help with utility bills. The funds were administered by the Community Services League of Independence from a satellite office, with food pantry, located at the Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church in Raytown
- 1983 The REAP Christmas Store began with nearly 50 families shopping the first year.
- 1990 Because the demand for services was increasing, and more funds were being raised locally, the REAP board of directors voted to become an independent social services agency serving qualified residents in the Raytown C-2 School District with a food pantry and help with rent and overdue utility bills.
- 1991 The name was changed to Raytown Emergency Assistance Program. The agency continued to operate from the church with a paid director and dedicated volunteers. Classes were added in foods, budgeting, and job readiness.
- 1993 The agency gained United Way support and the city voted \$10,000 in assistance. However, the majority of the operating funds continued to come from donations of local churches, civic organizations, businesses and individuals.

REAP organized a program to give a back pack and back-to-school supplies to qualified children.

- 1997 By this time, the church had managed to provide the agency two more rooms, but operations were still cramped, and BRP church could not give up any more space.
- 1998 After a capital funds drive, REAP was able to buy and move to an office at 7218 Maple.
- 2006 The number of people served continued to grow, and again the agency became severely cramped for space. Ken Blom donated ground for a new building at 75th and Elm and the board of directors voted to begin a capital funds drive and to construct a 9322 sq. ft. building at this site as soon as possible.
- 2007 Building site preparation started in April. The footings and foundation were poured in June. The floor was poured and structural steel erected in July. By December, the frame of the building was completed. The majority of this work was done by volunteers, and some of the materials were donated as well.
- 2008 Work on the interior of the building, the electrical and furnace, and drainage work on the parking lot continued on the project throughout 2008. The building's estimated value is \$1,790,000, but with all the monetary and volunteer, donations the building was built for \$650,000. REAP assisted 2599 families in 2008, giving them 113,920 food items, and providing \$87,470 in utility and rent assistance. In addition, 500 students received school supplies, 300 families were given Thanksgiving turkeys, and 350 families shopped in the free Christmas Store.
- 2009 Interior finishing work, still mostly by volunteers, continued as the attractive and efficient building emerged. Persistent fundraising, with cash donations from the community and area foundations, paid for most of the work as it proceeded. Only \$75,000 was yet to be raised when REAP moved into the new building at 9300 East 75th street on September 12, 2009.