

# HOME IS WHERE IT'S SAFE AND COMFORTABLE



Housing advocacy involves more than providing shelter for the neediest but seeing that home also is safe, comfortable and affordable for everyone. So the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center last fall started its Healthy Homes Initiative.

Since November, 52 residents of Phillips County have participated in BGACDC's four housing training programs at Marvell and Helena-West Helena. More such events are coming.

People learn about conditions in their homes that can cause illness, dangerous chemicals that should be avoided, tips for maintaining homes in good condition, how to save money on utility bills and other advice on how to make their homes safer. They also sign up for free energy audits, which may qualify them for a weatherization service that will save money on their electricity and gas bills. Readers can call 870-714-5214 to see if they qualify for an energy audit. Experts test whether homes can be easily repaired so that they stop losing heat and cooling.

The Healthy Homes Initiative is partnership between BGACDC and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the Delta Community Development and Law Center.

