

Can't we do better than this?

A young woman I know works 42 hours a week at \$9 an hour. A single mom, she struggles to raise her children--- the youngest in diapers--- and give them a good life while paying bills.

On Monday Nov. 30 after most of us filled our stomachs with a more than adequate Thanksgiving dinner, she got a call that SEC was removing her electric meter at home, because she owed \$39. She begged SEC to wait 2 days until her next payday.

She reminded them that her home's only heat came from electric heaters and her youngest 2 kids were only toddlers. She was told "no", Alarmed at hearing her situation, I called SEC's assistant manager in Socorro imploring her help. She said she could do nothing about the situation. What does that mean?

The children can freeze or get sick--- with temperatures down to 20--- and the food can spoil? Yet no one cares? Two days later she still has no heat, because, not only does she owe \$39, but an additional \$50 to reconnect. That young woman had no Thanksgiving and dreads Christmas without presents for her children. How's that for the Christmas spirit? Can't we do better than that?

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