Fund Kicks Off 35th Annual Campaign

Celebrating its 35th year of providing energy assistance to Massachusetts residents in temporary crisis, the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund (GNEF) and its sponsoring energy companies held their annual breakfast on November 13th, 2019 to help kick off its “Give the Gift of Warmth” campaign.

Hosted this year by long-time sponsor Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric, the breakfast served as the official start to the 2019-20 campaign, which has a fundraising goal of $500,000. Mark Lambert, Vice President of Customer Operations for Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric, welcomed attendees and thanked the 20 utilities across the state for their support of the Fund, as well as The Salvation Army which administers the GNEF.

“The combination of the successful 35-year history of the Fund along with the enthusiasm of everyone here today, makes me especially confident that we will expand on its good work this campaign year and make a difference in the lives of thousands of families in temporary crisis across the state,” said Lambert.

The Honorable Robert DeLeo, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, served as the keynote speaker at the breakfast. He provided an update on energy legislation in the state and shared his continued support of the Fund.

The kick off also featured the following speakers: WCVB-TV5 Meteorologist Mike Wankum, who gave his predictions on what kind of weather to expect for the winter season and the possible impact it might have on the urgency of need; Major David B. Davis, Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army, who provided insight into the vital role the GNEF plays across the state; and Susan Corson, Chairperson of the GNEF and Credit Supervisor for Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric.

To further illustrate the good work of the Fund, a former recipient described how the GNEF helped her through a tough time when she was in temporary crisis and in need of energy assistance.

Although many of the Fund’s sponsoring energy companies provide a donation at various points throughout the year, a number of sponsors presented their grants towards the end of the breakfast to ensure that eligible families in need may be helped as soon as possible.

Lambert closed by referencing the more than 90,000 households in the Commonwealth that have received assistance from the Fund since its inception in 1985. “Let’s all work together to exceed this year’s $500,000 fundraising goal and make sure no family who applies and is eligible for the Fund goes to bed cold this winter season.”

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts resident who, due to temporary difficulty, cannot meet a month’s energy expense and is not eligible for state of federal assistance.

- Last year, the Good Neighbor Energy Fund helped more than 1,375 households pay an electric, gas or oil bill.

- Since 1985, the Fund has raised more than $22 million and assisted over 90,250 households in need.

- Sponsoring gas, electric and oil companies support their respective customers’ generosity through various giving programs.

- To qualify for assistance from the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, an applicant’s gross household income must fall between 60 and 80 percent of the state’s median income levels.

- Households with a fairly broad income level are eligible for the Fund. For example, a household of four can have a total gross yearly income of between $71,847 and $95,795 to qualify.

- This year’s maximum disbursement is $250 per eligible household per heating season.
Thank You GNEF Sponsors
Ashburnham Municipal Light
Belmont Municipal Light
Berkshire Gas
Brantree Electric Light Dept.
Columbia Gas of Massachusetts
Eversource Energy
Groton Electric Light
Holyoke Gas & Electric
Liberty Utilities
Littleton Electric Light
Merrimac Municipal Light Department
National Grid
North Attleborough Electric
Petro Home Services
Reading Municipal Light
Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant
Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric
Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light
Wellesley Municipal Light Plant
Westfield Gas & Electric

Do You Qualify?
The GNEF’s 2019-20 income eligibility guidelines are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Total Gross Yearly Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$37,361 - $49,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$48,856 - $65,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$60,352 - $80,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$71,847 - $95,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$83,342 - $111,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$94,838 - $126,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$96,993 - $129,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$99,148 - $132,197</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GNEF Sets Goal to Meet Anticipated Need
Massachusetts residents’ support of their neighbors in need was evident during last year’s campaign as the Fund surpassed $440,000 in donations which assisted more than 1,375 households.

The Fund’s goal for 2019-2020 has been set at $500,000. It is anticipated that the money raised will help provide energy assistance to more than 1,650 Massachusetts families this winter season and throughout the spring. The Salvation Army, which administers the Fund, is already beginning to see a rise in the number of phone calls from families in need. In fact, the Fund expects to receive thousands of requests for aid this winter alone.

And the need doesn’t end with the cold weather. Families in temporary crisis also request assistance with their energy bills even when the weather warms up. The need is year-round.

To make a donation, please look for the green Good Neighbor donation envelope provided with your utility bill, take advantage of some companies’ “add a dollar” program whereby customers are asked to contribute a dollar of more on their utility bills or simply visit www.magoodneighbor.org.

Also, those that are in need can visit the more than 30 local Salvation Army Community Center’s throughout the state.

For more information, call:
Eastern Massachusetts
1-800-334-3047
(Serving Area Codes 508, 617, 781 & 978)
Western Massachusetts:
1-800-262-1320
(Serving Area Code 413)
You may also visit:
www.magoodneighbor.org

GNEF Collaborates with Mass Save® to Better Serve Households
The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund (GNEF) announces that, starting this campaign year, an award letter from the GNEF will also serve as qualification for the Mass Save® Enhanced Insulation Incentive for customers of a Massachusetts investor-owned utility. Specifically, the offer provides qualified customers with no-cost insulation, as well as other no-cost energy savings measures.

“Both programs are always looking for ways to better serve moderate-income households,” said Sue Corson, 2019-20 GNEF Chairperson. “This collaboration will offer a simplified process to qualify for this energy efficiency offer.”

Mass Save is a statewide initiative sponsored by Berkshire Gas Company, Blackstone Gas Company, Cape Light Compact, Columbia Gas, Eversource, Liberty Utilities, National Grid and Unitil.