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**MASSACHUSETTS GOOD NEIGHBOR ENERGY FUND  
NOW OPEN TO ALL ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS**

CANTON, MA, November 6, 2023 -- Energy companies from across Massachusetts are coming together to support neighbors in need with the announcement that the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund (GNEF) is open to all eligible households. The Fund helps families and individuals impacted by a temporary crisis and who don't qualify for federal or state assistance with the payment of home energy expenses. The 2023-24 campaign year's Fund disbursement is \$400 per eligible household per heating season. The Good Neighbor Energy Fund's 39<sup>th</sup> annual "Give the Gift of Warmth" campaign's goal is to raise \$500,000 and assist more than 1,500 local households.

"With prices still high for essentials like food and utilities, combined with interest rates continuing to climb, we understand the heightened urgency of need for home energy assistance and are opening the Fund to all eligible households in the state," said Marie McCabe, Chairperson of the 2023-2024 Good Neighbor Energy Fund campaign and Customer Service Representative for North Attleborough Electric Department. Those in temporary crisis are encouraged to visit the Fund's website at [www.magoodneighbor.org](http://www.magoodneighbor.org) to see if they qualify for assistance. McCabe added that the Fund has raised more than \$24.5 million and assisted over 94,850 households in need with the payment of monthly energy expenses since its inception in 1985.

(more)

The Fund is often the last resort for families who do not qualify for federal and state assistance programs. The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division, which administers the Fund for the sponsoring energy companies, pays the energy provider directly for households whose gross income falls between 60 and 80 percent of the state's median income levels. For example, a household size of four would need to have a total gross yearly income of between \$87,294 and \$116,392 to qualify.

"We recognize that many of our hardworking neighbors across the state are struggling to pay for home energy costs, so they are turning to the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund for assistance for the first time in their lives," said Jeffrey Bailey, Director of Social Services, The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division. "Thanks to the Fund and its sponsoring energy companies, we're able to help them stay warm as we enter the colder months."

Participating energy companies support their respective customers' generosity through various giving programs. Massachusetts residents who wish to support the Fund can "Give the Gift of Warmth" by using Good Neighbor Energy Fund donation envelope found as an insert in monthly energy bills or through the 'add a dollar' program some energy companies offer which allows customers to increase their monthly utility bill payment by one dollar or more. Customers can also donate online by visiting [www.magoodneighbor.org](http://www.magoodneighbor.org) or simply mail a check payable to "Good Neighbor Energy Fund" and send it to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, c/o The Salvation Army, 25 Shawmut Road, Canton, Massachusetts 02021-1408.