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David L. Hughes, Dodge Associates, 401-273-7310, dave@dodgeadv.com

2016-2017 MASSACHUSETTS GOOD NEIGHBOR ENERGY FUND OPEN TO ALL ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS AS OF TODAY, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

“Give The Gift of Warmth” campaign’s goal is to raise \$500,000 and assist more than 1,150 households.

CANTON, MA, November 14, 2016 -- The sponsoring energy companies announce that the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund (GNEF) is open to all eligible candidates as of today, Monday, November 14, 2016. The Fund helps households in temporary crisis who do not qualify for federal or state assistance with the payment of their energy expenses. The Good Neighbor Energy Fund’s 32nd annual “Give The Gift of Warmth” campaign’s goal is to raise \$500,000 and assist more than 1,150 households.

“The Good Neighbor Energy Fund Committee is excited to open the Fund to all eligible households earlier than we ever have,” said Mary Ellen Molloy, Regulatory Relations Specialist for Eversource and Chairperson of the 2016-2017 Good Neighbor Energy Fund campaign. “Temperatures are already starting to dip which means monthly heating bills will begin to rise, especially during those cold winter months. We urge all Massachusetts households in temporary crisis, whether it is due to a loss of a job, unexpected medical expense or some other circumstance, to visit the Fund’s website at www.magoodneighbor.org to see if they qualify for assistance.” Molloy added that the Fund has raised more than \$20.5 million and assisted over 86,000 households in need with the payment of monthly energy expenses since its inception in 1985. “We ask Massachusetts residents to consider providing a gift of warmth to our neighbors who are struggling through a donation to the Fund.”

(more)

The Fund is often the last resort for families who do not qualify for federal and state assistance programs. The Salvation Army, which administers the Fund, 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 4 would need to have a total gross yearly income of between \$65,387 and \$87,183 to qualify. This campaign year's Fund disbursement is \$425 per eligible household per heating season. To apply to the Fund for assistance, visit your local Salvation Army Corps Community Center or call 800-334-3047 if you live in area codes 508, 617, 781 or 978 or 800-262-1320 if you live in area code 413.

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 the green-colored 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 on-line by visiting 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.