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

**MASSACHUSETTS GOOD NEIGHBOR ENERGY FUND  
2018-2019 "GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH" CAMPAIGN NOW UNDERWAY**

CANTON, MA, December 17, 2018 -- The sponsoring energy companies of the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund (GNEF) announce that the Fund's 2018-2019 "Give The Gift of Warmth" fundraising campaign is now underway with a goal to raise \$500,000 and provide energy assistance to more than 1,650 households. The Fund, which helps families in temporary crisis who do not qualify for federal or state assistance with the payment of their energy expenses, is currently open to all eligible candidates. The GNEF has raised more than \$21.5 million and assisted over 88,750 households in need since its inception in 1985.

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](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.

"It takes a real collaborative effort between the sponsoring energy companies, their customers, the corporate community and Fund administrator, The Salvation Army, for this initiative to be a success each year," said Mary Ellen Molloy, Chairperson of the 2018-2019 Good Neighbor Energy Fund campaign and Regulatory Relations Specialist for Eversource Energy. "We intend to raise the bar, exceed our fundraising goal and continue to help make a difference in the lives of families in need of energy assistance across the Commonwealth."

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“One of the many rewarding aspects of our social services ministry is that we have the chance to administer the Good Neighbor Energy Fund and see firsthand the positive impact it has on those who never expected to need help,” said Major B. Davis, The Salvation Army of Massachusetts Divisional Commander. “In fact, it is our experience that energy assistance from the Fund is often just what is needed to help folks get through a tough time.”

The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy 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 \$68,289 and \$91,052 to qualify. This campaign year's Fund disbursement is \$300 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.