



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**MASSACHUSETTS GOOD NEIGHBOR ENERGY FUND  
NOW OPEN TO ALL ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS FOR 2018-2019**

CANTON, MA, November 7, 2018 -- 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 candidates for 2018-2019. 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 34<sup>th</sup> annual "Give The Gift of Warmth" campaign's goal is to raise \$500,000 and assist more than 1,650 households.

"We have all felt those colder temperatures the last week or two so on behalf of all the sponsoring energy companies in the state, I'm pleased to announce that the Fund is now open to all eligible households," said Mary Ellen Molloy, Chairperson of the 2018-2019 Good Neighbor Energy Fund campaign and Regulatory Relations Specialist for Eversource Energy. "Now is the time for 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](http://www.magoodneighbor.org) to see if they qualify for assistance." Molloy added that the Fund has raised more than \$21.5 million and assisted over 88,750 households in need with the payment of monthly energy expenses since its inception in 1985. "Let's all help our neighbors who are currently having trouble making ends meet by giving the gift of warmth through a donation to the Fund."

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The Fund is often the last resort for families who do not qualify for federal and state assistance programs. The Salvation Army of Massachusetts, which administers the Fund for the sponsoring energy companies, provides a disbursement 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.

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.