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**THE 2015-16 MASSACHUSETTS GOOD NEIGHBOR ENERGY FUND CAMPAIGN  
EXCEEDS FUNDRAISING GOAL AND PROVIDES WARMTH TO 966 HOUSEHOLDS**

CANTON, MA, November 2, 2016 -- The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund, a cooperative effort between the state's sponsoring energy companies and their customers to help households in temporary financial crisis pay their energy bills, announces that its 2015-2016 "Give The Gift of Warmth" campaign raised \$789,570.70 in contributions, exceeding its fundraising goal of \$750,000. Most importantly, the donations to the campaign provided energy assistance to 966 Massachusetts households in need.

"This success of the campaign was a case of neighbor helping neighbor and everyone making a concerted effort to assist those in a time of need," said Mary Ellen Molloy, Regulatory Relations Specialist for Eversource and Chairperson of the 2016-2017 Good Neighbor Energy Fund campaign. "We would like to thank the customers of the Fund's sponsoring energy companies across the state for their generosity which continues to be truly inspiring. Also, donations from the sponsoring energy companies, as well the corporate community and area foundations, helped provide warmth to all the households in the Commonwealth who requested assistance and qualified. It was a true team effort."

The Fund is often the last resort for families who have not qualified 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, in the upcoming 2016-2017 GNEF campaign year, a household size of 4 would need to have a total gross yearly income of between \$65,387 and \$87,183 to qualify.

(more)

Since its establishment in 1985, the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund has raised over \$20.5 million and helped more than 86,000 families in need pay a month's energy expense. For more information, please visit [www.magoodneighbor.org](http://www.magoodneighbor.org).

The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund will open for all applicants on Monday, November 14, 2016. Households in need who meet the eligibility guidelines are encouraged to visit The Salvation Army Center nearest to their home to request assistance.

Energy customers in Massachusetts can "Give the Gift of Warmth" by using the Good Neighbor Energy Fund donation envelope found in their utility bills during the winter months or through an 'add a dollar' program offered by some companies 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 make a check payable to "Good Neighbor Energy Fund" and send it Good Neighbor Energy Fund, c/o The Salvation Army, 25 Shawmut Road, Canton, MA 02021-1408.