



# The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund

**GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH**



## 32nd Annual Kick Off Launches 2017 Campaign

Anticipating another year of helping thousands of individuals in need of energy assistance across the Commonwealth, the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund held its annual breakfast on January 11 to kick off its "Give the Gift of Warmth" campaign.



**Jim Hunt**

SVP, Regulatory Affairs & Chief Comm. Officer, Eversource Energy

Hosted this year by long-time Fund sponsor Eversource Energy, the breakfast served as the official start to the campaign, which has a goal of \$500,000 in 2017. Jim Hunt, Eversource Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs & Chief Communications Officer, welcomed attendees and thanked all the utilities across the state for their support of the Fund and The Salvation Army which administers the GNEF.

"I would like to thank everyone here for your commitment to making this critically important assistance available to households in need. Right now there are thousands of Massachusetts families in the communities where we live and work staying warm thanks to the Fund," Hunt said.



**Rep. Robert A. DeLeo**  
Speaker, Massachusetts House of Representatives

The Honorable Robert DeLeo, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, served as keynote at the breakfast. He provided an update on energy legislation in the state, and shared his continuing support of the Fund.

The following also spoke at the breakfast: WCVB-TV5 Meteorologist Mike Wankum, who was back by popular demand to predict the upcoming winter weather and its potential impact on the urgency of need; Major David B. Davis, Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army, who provided insight into the impact the Fund has across the state; and Mary Ellen Molloy, Chairperson of the Fund and Regulatory Relations Specialist for Eversource.



**Mike Wankum**  
Meteorologist, WCVB-TV5

To further illustrate the good work of the Fund, a former recipient shared his personal story about how the Fund helped his family through a tough time when they were in temporary crisis and in need of energy assistance.

Although many of the Fund's sponsoring energy companies provide a donation at various points throughout the year, a number of sponsors closed out the breakfast by presenting their donations, which will ensure that eligible families in need may be helped as soon as possible this winter.

"Since it began in 1985, the Fund has helped a staggering 86,000 households here in Massachusetts," Hunt said. "Let's continue to raise the bar and help make a difference in the lives of families in need of energy assistance across the Commonwealth."



**Major David B. Davis**  
Divisional Commander  
The Salvation Army

## Did You Know?

- The Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts resident who, due to temporary difficulty, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance.
- Last year, the Good Neighbor Energy Fund helped more than 950 households pay an electric, gas or oil bill.
- Since 1985, the Fund has raised more than \$20.5 million and assisted over 86,000 households in need.
- Sponsoring gas, electric and oil companies support their respective customers' generosity through various giving programs.
- To qualify for assistance from the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, an applicant's gross household income must fall between 60 and 80 percent of the state's median income levels.
- This year's maximum Fund disbursement is \$425 per eligible household per heating season.

# GNEF Fundraising Goal Set at \$500,000

Massachusetts residents' support of their neighbors in need was evident during last year's campaign as the Fund surpassed its fundraising goal and assisted close to 1,000 households.

Considering these uncertain times, the Fund's goal for 2017 is \$500,000. It is anticipated that the money raised will help provide energy assistance to more than 1,150 Massachusetts families this winter season.

The Salvation Army, which administers the Fund, is already beginning to see a rise in the number of phone calls from families in need. In fact, the Fund expects to receive thousands of requests for aid this winter alone.

And the need doesn't end with the cold weather. Families in temporary crisis also request assistance with their energy bills even when the weather warms up. The need is year-round.

To make a donation, please look for the green Good Neighbor donation envelope provided with your utility bill, take advantage of some companies' "add a dollar" program whereby customers are asked to contribute a dollar or more on their utility bills or simply visit [www.magoodneighbor.org](http://www.magoodneighbor.org).



Also, those that are in need can visit the more than 30 local Salvation Army Community Centers throughout the state.

**For more information, call:**  
 Eastern Massachusetts  
 1-800-334-3047  
 (Serving Area Codes 508, 617, 781 & 978)

Western Massachusetts  
 1-800-262-1320  
 (Serving Area Code 413)

**You may also visit:**  
[www.magoodneighbor.org](http://www.magoodneighbor.org)

## Give The Gift of Warmth

*A note received by The Salvation Army*

Dear Sir or Madam:

After my husband's sudden layoff, I was faced with being the only source of income for our family with two young girls. It quickly became hard to keep up with our utility payments. If not for the assistance of the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, the money that we had budgeted for food would have been used to pay our heating bill. While it was difficult to ask for assistance, your staff made it easier. I will never forget the kindness and generosity that has been extended to my family and hope that one day I'll be able to extend that same generosity to another family. Thank you.

## Thank You GNEF Sponsors

Ashburnham Municipal Light

Atlas Glen-mor

Belmont Municipal Light

Berkshire Gas

Braintree Electric Light Department

Columbia Gas of Massachusetts

Eversource Energy

Groton Electric Light

Holyoke Gas & Electric

Liberty Utilities

Littleton Electric Light

Mansfield Municipal Electric

Merrimac Municipal Light Department

National Grid

North Attleborough Electric Department

Reading Municipal Light

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant

Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric

Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant

Westfield Gas & Electric

## TransCanada Helps Get GNEF Campaign Off To Quick Start

The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund Committee recently received a \$15,000 donation to the Fund's 2017 "Give The Gift of Warmth" campaign from electric supplier, TransCanada. On behalf of those in need, the GNEF thanks TransCanada for this timely donation as well as for its past support!



## Molloy Recognized with Chairman's Award

At last year's GNEF kick off, the GNEF Committee recognized Mary Ellen Molloy (left), 2017 Chairperson of the GNEF and Regulatory Relations

Specialist at Eversource Energy, with the eighth annual Chairman's Award for her more than 15 years of leadership and dedication to the Fund.

