



# THE MASSACHUSETTS Good Neighbor Energy Fund

*Give the Gift of Warmth*



## Fund Kicks Off 40th Anniversary Campaign

Celebrating its 40th anniversary year of providing energy assistance to Massachusetts residents in temporary crisis, the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund and its sponsoring energy companies held their annual breakfast on January 15th, 2025 to help kick-off its "Give the Gift of Warmth" campaign.



**Lisa Derochers**  
Director of  
Customer Operations  
Unitil/Fitchburg  
Gas & Electric

Hosted this year by long-time sponsor Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric, the breakfast served as the official start to the campaign, which set a fundraising goal of \$500,000. Lisa Derochers, Director of Customer Operations for Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric, welcomed attendees and thanked the 18 utilities across the state for their support of the Fund, as well as The Salvation Army which administers the Fund.

"Due to the continued high cost of essentials like food and rent, the Fund is going to be as important as ever this winter season and even into the spring," said Derochers. "The successful 40-year history of the Fund makes me especially confident that we will expand its good work this year and make a difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and families in temporary crisis throughout the state."



**Michael Judge**  
Undersecretary of Energy  
MA Office of Energy  
and Environmental Affairs

Michael Judge, Undersecretary of Energy for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, was a featured speaker at the breakfast. He provided an update on the state's energy initiatives and shared his support for the Fund.

The kickoff also featured the following speakers: Kevin Lemanowicz, Chief Meteorologist for Boston 25 News WFXT-TV, who gave his predictions on what kind of weather to expect for the rest of the winter season and the possible impact it may have on the urgency of need; Major Elijah Kahn, General Secretary of the Massachusetts Division of The Salvation Army, who provided insight into the vital role the GNEF plays across the state; and Justin Stearns, Chairperson of the GNEF and Manager of Credit & Collections at Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric. A former recipient of the Fund also shared how the home energy assistance he received helped his family get through a tough time.



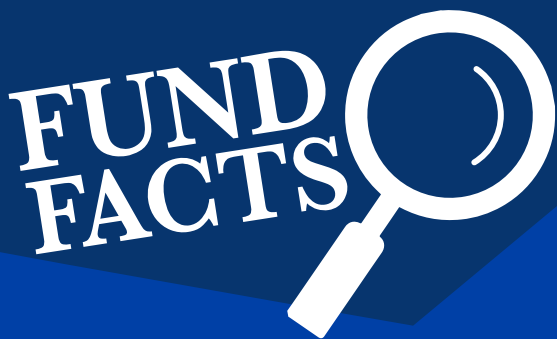
**Kevin Lemanowicz**  
Chief Meteorologist  
Boston 25 News  
WFXT-TV

Although the Fund's sponsoring energy companies provide a donation at various times throughout the year, Eversource Energy and National Grid presented their annual grants at the end of the breakfast to ensure that eligible families in need are helped as soon as possible.

Derochers closed by referencing the more than 96,000 households in the Commonwealth that have received warmth from the Fund since its inception in 1985. "Let's mark the Fund's 40th anniversary milestone by exceeding this campaign year's fundraising goal and by providing energy assistance to every household in our state who is eligible!"



**Major Elijah Kahn**  
General Secretary  
MA Division of  
The Salvation Army



- **The Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts resident who, due to a temporary crisis, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal assistance.**
- **Last campaign year, the Good Neighbor Energy Fund helped more than 1,325 households pay an electric, gas or oil bill.**
- **Since 1985, the Fund has raised more than \$25 million and assisted over 96,000 households in need.**
- **Sponsoring gas and electric 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.**
- **Households with a fairly broad income level are eligible for the Fund. For example, a household of four can have a total gross yearly income of between \$94,609 and \$126,144 to qualify.**
- **This year's maximum disbursement is \$400 per eligible household per heating season.**

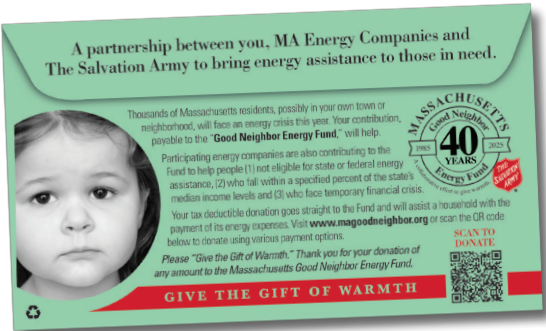
# GNEF Sets Goal to Meet Anticipated Need

Massachusetts residents' support of their neighbors in need was evident during last year's campaign as the Fund surpassed its fundraising goal and assisted more than 1,325 households.

The Fund's goal for this campaign year has been set at \$500,000. It is anticipated that the money raised will help provide energy assistance to more than 1,500 Massachusetts families this winter season and throughout the spring. The Salvation Army, which administers the Fund, is seeing 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 Good Neighbor donation envelope provided with your utility bill, take advantage of some companies' "add a dollar" program where



customers are asked to contribute a dollar of more on their utility bills or simply visit [magoodneighbor.org](http://magoodneighbor.org).

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

### For more information, call:

#### Eastern Massachusetts

1-800-334-3047  
(Serving Area Codes 508, 617, 774, 781 & 978)

#### Western Massachusetts:

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

### You may also visit:

[magoodneighbor.org](http://magoodneighbor.org) or follow the Fund on social media at #MAGoodNeighbor

# Do You Qualify?

The GNEF's 2025 income eligibility guidelines are as follows:

Household Size	Total Gross Yearly Income
1	\$49,197 - \$65,595
2	\$64,334 - \$85,777
3	\$79,471 - \$105,960
4	\$94,609 - \$126,144
5	\$109,746 - \$146,327
6	\$124,883 - \$166,509
7	\$127,721 - \$170,293
8	\$130,560 - \$174,079

## Thank You GNEF Sponsors

Ashburnham Municipal Light

Belmont Municipal Light

Berkshire Gas

Braintree Electric Light Dept.

Eversource Energy

Groton Electric Light

Hull Municipal Light Plant

Holyoke Gas & Electric

Liberty

Littleton Electric Light

National Grid

North Attleborough Electric Dept.

Reading Municipal Light

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant

Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric

Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant

Westfield Gas & Electric

## Give the Gift of Warmth

A note received by The Salvation Army

*Life can sure be full of surprises. I had what I thought was a secure management position at a major company and then was unexpectedly laid off. With a big mortgage and a family to care for, I soon realized that we were heading into a tough stretch. Because of the specialized nature of my job, I went almost 8 months without finding work. Also, during that time my wife and I received the news that we were expecting our third child. So, with unemployment running out and our savings dwindling, it was a godsend to receive assistance from the Good Neighbor Energy Fund. I never saw myself as needing to seek that kind of help and hope it's the last time but I'm so grateful the support from the Fund was there when I needed it most.*

*Thank You.*