

# GOOD NEIGHBOR ENERGY FUND

*Give the Gift of Warmth*

## Fund Facts

- The MA Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance.
- Last year, the MA Good Neighbor Energy Fund helped 2,084 families pay an electric, gas or oil bill.
- Since 1985, the Fund has raised more than \$17.7 million and assisted over 78,600 needy families.
- Sponsoring gas, electric and oil companies support their respective customers' generosity through various giving programs.
- To qualify for assistance from the MA 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 \$350 per eligible household per heating season.

## List of GNEF Sponsors

Ashburnham Municipal Light  
Atlas Glen-mor  
Belmont Municipal Light  
Berkshire Gas  
Braintree Electric Light Dept.  
Columbia Gas of Massachusetts  
Concord Municipal Light Plant  
Groton Electric Light  
Holyoke Gas & Electric  
Littleton Electric Light  
Mansfield Municipal Electric  
Massachusetts Oilheat Council  
Merrimac Light & Water Dept.  
Middleborough Gas & Electric  
NSTAR  
National Grid  
New England Gas Company  
North Attleborough Electric Dept.  
Reading Municipal Light  
Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant  
Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric  
Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light  
Wellesley Municipal Light Plant  
Western Massachusetts Electric  
Westfield Gas & Electric

## Energy Fund Kicks-Off 27th Annual Campaign

Celebrating its 27th year of providing energy assistance to Massachusetts residents in temporary crisis, the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund held its annual breakfast on November 9th, 2011 to kick-off the 2011-12 "Give the Gift of Warmth" campaign.

"With our economy's continued struggles in mind, I want to thank each and every one of you for the work you do on behalf of the Fund," said Major David Kelly of The Salvation Army which administers the Fund. "There are many individuals and families in our state who are in temporary crisis and in need of energy assistance. Thanks to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, they will have a place to turn for warmth this winter season."



**Jim Sweeney,**  
Sr. Director - General Manager,  
New England Gas Company

Jim Sweeney, Senior Director – General Manager for New England Gas Co., added, "I'm sure the more than 78,000 families the Fund has assisted over the past 26 years have far surpassed even the GNEF founders' expectations. Let's continue to raise the bar and make a difference in the lives of families in need of energy assistance across the Commonwealth." He went

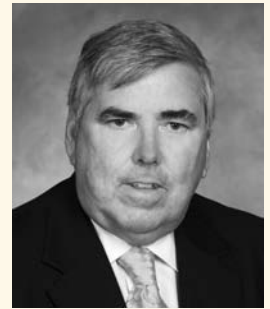
on to thank all the participating energy companies, The Salvation Army and, of course, the residents of Massachusetts for their support of the Fund over the years.

The kick-off also featured Michael Morrissey, District Attorney for Norfolk County, who spoke about his years as a State Senator from the Norfolk and Plymouth District when he served as Chairman of the Legislative Committee for Public Utilities and

helped formulate the Restructuring and Green Communities Acts. Joining Morrissey on the speaking program was State Representative Elizabeth Poirier from the 14th Bristol District and Mike Wankum, a Meteorologist with WCVB-TV5 in Boston. Wankum gave the attendees his predictions on what kind of weather to expect this winter season and the possible impact it might have on the Fund.

Although many of the Fund's energy sponsors provide a donation or matching contribution at various points throughout the year, a number of sponsors presented their grants towards the end of the kick-off event. "As the historic October snow storm will attest, Mother Nature can bring in the cold weather at any time with a heightened 'urgency of need' the result," said Major Kelly. "So, it's never too early to receive these donations from some of our GNEF sponsors. This seed money will help eligible families right away."

Jeanne Cherry, 2011-12 Fund Chairperson and Lead Energy Efficiency Programs Administrator for New England Gas Company, summed up the kick-off by saying, "The Fund exceeded its fundraising goal last year even in these tough times. This year, let's all 'Give the Gift of Warmth' for those in temporary crisis and help exceed our fundraising goal of \$650,000 once again."



**Michael Morrissey,**  
District Attorney,  
Norfolk County

## Meet the New GNEF Administrators

The Salvation Army's new Division Leaders, Majors David E. and Naomi R. Kelly, have already settled into their new surroundings. "I've read with interest about the past service provided by The Good Neighbor Energy Fund and look forward to continuing both its effective administration and its legacy," said Major David Kelly.

Both of the Kellys are children of retired Salvation Army officers and each have completed more than 30 years with the organization, serving in numerous Corps appointments, as well as divisional staff roles in Ohio, Connecticut and Maine. Welcome to Massachusetts!





## Donations Add Up One By One!

The Good Neighbor Energy Fund Committee members gathered last March 18th to help The Salvation Army count and process energy customer donations received via the Fund's green-colored donation envelopes. Representatives from half a dozen energy sponsors and The Salvation Army processed more than \$46,159 from 1,145 donors in just one day. Thank you volunteers!

## GNEF Recognizes Northeast Utilities Foundation with Fifth Annual Good Neighbor Award

The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund is proud to announce that the fifth annual recipient of the Lt. Colonel Fred Van Brunt Good Neighbor Award is the Northeast Utilities Foundation. Named in honor of the retired Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army who was a strong advocate for the Fund, Northeast Utilities Foundation is recognized for its community leadership and giving spirit.

The fourth annual GNEF Chairman's Award recipients are Susan Wentworth and Barbara Curtin, Office Supervisor and Executive Assistant, respectively, with Braintree Electric Light. For the past five years, this dynamic duo has gone "above and beyond" during their time on the GNEF Committee with Sue serving as Chairman for two years and Barbara an active and loyal Committee member.



Peter Clark (center), President & CEO of Western Massachusetts Electric, presents a check on behalf of Northeast Utilities Foundation for \$150,000 to Major William Bode, former Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army, and Mary Ellen Molloy, Vice Chairperson of the 2010-11 GNEF.

## 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's \$650,000 goal was surpassed and 2,084 families were assisted.

Considering the struggling economy and high unemployment rate, the Fund's goal for 2011-12 will remain unchanged. It is anticipated that the money raised will help more than 2,000 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 approximately 5,000 requests for aid this winter alone.

Please look for your green Good Neighbor donation envelope provided with your utility bill or take advantage of some companies' "add a dollar" program whereby customers

are asked to overpay their utility bills by one dollar or more. 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, as is the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund.

If you know of someone who is in need, please have them visit one of the 36 local Salvation Army offices throughout the state.

**For more information, call:**

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

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

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

650,000

## Give The Gift of Warmth

A letter received by The Salvation Army

Dear Sir:

I'm a married mother of four and was doing my best to make ends meet in this economy when I lost my job as a social worker for the Head Start program. At around the same time, our house tenant lost his job and left without paying two months rent and the gas bill.

Needless to say, my family was looking at some tough times ahead. My husband works as a truck driver and his salary covers our rent and food but we counted on what I had brought home to take care of the rest of the bills, as well as any other expenses we had.

We were in danger of losing our heat when I turned to The Salvation Army and the Good Neighbor Energy Fund for help. Never did I think I would need to rely on the same assistance that I would often refer my clients to during my time as a social worker!

I want to thank the Good Neighbor Energy Fund for getting my family through a tough time. Due to the job market, I can't find another job as a social worker but things are looking up. I'm taking a six-week course to become a certified nurse's assistant which should help me get work again.

Thanks for all you do!