

Press information from:
WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT
DEPARTMENT

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WMGLD Supports the Salvation Army
Good Neighbor Energy Fund

(Wakefield, MA) – The Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department (WMGLD) is continuing its support for the Salvation Army’s Good Neighbor Energy Fund, a program that helps provide energy assistance to residents in temporary crisis who do not qualify for federal or state energy funds. This is the seventh consecutive year that the WMGLD has participated in the program, and the 28th year that the Good Neighbor Energy Fund has been providing energy assistance to residents who are struggling to pay their energy bills.

Since 1985, the Good Neighbor Energy Fund has raised more than \$18.3 million and assisted over 80,450 needy families. Last year, the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund helped more than 1,872 families pay an electric, gas or oil bill.

The fundraising goal for this year’s campaign is \$650,000. WMGLD customers recently received a Good Neighbor Energy Fund envelope with their bill which they can use to make a tax-deductible donation, in any amount, to the Salvation Army.

Those who receive assistance from the program must meet income eligibility guidelines. Income must fall between 60 and 80 percent of the state's median income levels. Income guidelines vary from \$31,271 to \$41,695 for an individual, and \$60,137 to \$80,182 for a family of four. Each household can receive a maximum grant of \$350 per

season regardless of the amount owed. Grants for a household must be paid directly to the vendor.

“WMGLD customers have been very generous with their financial support for the Good Neighbor Energy Fund every year,” WMGLD General Manager Pete Dion said.

“The number of people who are in need has risen and we expect that the request for help will increase as well. The Good Neighbor Energy Fund is a great program because, unlike state and federal fuel assistance programs, it offers help to families and individuals who do not qualify for other programs.”

In addition to using the envelopes in the WMGLD bills, tax-deductible donations can also be made online at donate.salvationarmyusa.org/massachusetts/GNEF, or by sending a check made payable to "Good Neighbor Energy Fund" and sent to The Salvation Army, 25 Shawmut Road, Canton, MA 02021-1408.

Further information about the fund can be obtained on the Good Neighbor Energy Fund website www.magoodneighbor.org.

Anyone who is in a temporary crisis and would like to apply for funds can contact the Salvation Army at 800-334-3047, or visit the website at www.magoodneighbor.org. Additional information about other energy assistance programs can be obtained at the WMGLD business office, on the WMGLD website at www.wmgld.com or by calling 781-246-6363.