



## **Payment Assistance Programs Available for Western New York Families in Need of Help with Heating Bills**

(July 13, 2010) Williamsville, N.Y.: National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (“the Utility”) reminds its customers that help with this year’s heating bills is still available through the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund and other assistance programs offered by the Utility.

The Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund, a first-come, first-served home-heating assistance grant program, is open to provide assistance to elderly and disabled Western New Yorkers to pay for energy-related expenses. This fund was established by National Fuel in 1983 and has offered grants to over 16,000 Western New Yorkers, totaling more than \$4.3 million.

In order to qualify for a grant of up to \$400 from the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund, applicants must be at least 60 years old; or a member of their household must be handicapped or have a disability that reduces the household’s income; or they must have a certified medical emergency. Applicants must have made at least six payments to their heating bills within a 12-month period from the date of application. Monthly income and expenses will be verified. Applicants must reside in National Fuel’s service territory. However, they are not required to be a National Fuel customer.

Eligible families or individuals in need of payment assistance are encouraged to contact the following to find the nearest agency and determine the necessary documentation to bring to the application interview

- The Salvation Army at 716-883-9800, extension 230, or
- Catholic Charities at 716-856-4494 if **under the age of 60** or 716-896-6388 if **over the age of 60**.

**In Chautauqua County**, eligible families or individuals should contact the following:

- The Salvation Army at 716-664-4108 if **under the age of 60**,
- Catholic Charities at 716-484-9188 if **under the age of 60** or
- Chautauqua County Office For the Aging at 716-753-4471 if **over the age of 60**.

National Fuel does not process grant applications. The Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund is funded with generous contributions from National Fuel Gas Company, its customers and employees, and other private entities.

The Utility also offers other programs and services and referrals to other third-party assistance programs to customers who are struggling with their heating bills. To find out more, call 1-800-365-3234 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or visit [www.nationalfuelgas.com](http://www.nationalfuelgas.com) and look under the “For Home” section of the website. If you are having any difficulty paying your bill, call National Fuel as soon as possible. Our experienced representatives can work with you and will help you find a payment plan or an assistance program to help you.



National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation is the Utility segment of National Fuel Gas Company, a diversified energy holding company that is engaged in a number of natural gas-related activities. The Utility provides natural gas service to approximately 500,000 customers in Western New York. Additional information about National Fuel and its customer services is available at [www.nationalfuelgas.com](http://www.nationalfuelgas.com) or by calling 1-800-365-3234.