



Community Recognized For Its Generosity to The Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund

(February 24, 2009) Williamsville, New York: Hundreds of families in western New York have enjoyed some peace of mind this winter thanks to the generosity their community showed in supporting a local heating assistance program called the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund.

On behalf of these families, National Fuel, The Salvation Army, the Chautauqua Office For the Aging and Catholic Charities extend their gratitude and are pleased to recognize the outstanding generosity of the community to the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund, which opened in January. Since 1983, this fund has provided assistance to nearly 16,000 families in western New York for energy-related costs.

This year, the following were among those contributing to the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund:

- Dominion, headquartered in Richmond, Va., is the largest natural gas pipeline company serving New York State through its interstate gas transmission subsidiary, Dominion Transmission. National Fuel would like to thank Daniel A. Weekley, Dominion's managing director, Northeast Government Affairs, for Dominion's generous \$5,000 donation to the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund.
- National Fuel's western New York-area customers regularly donate several thousand dollars each month to the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund. Last year, the Fund received nearly \$125,000 in total donations from the National Fuel Gas Company, community members and employees.
- In January, the National Fuel Gas Company contributed \$67,000 to the Fund.
- National Fuel employees, through the Company's Charitable Giving Program and other fundraising events, have donated more than \$6,000 to the Fund.

Since the opening of the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund, contributions from the community, National Fuel and its employees total more than \$4.1 million, and have been used to help nearly 16,000 families in western New York that were in need of assistance. Last year, 718 families in western New York received more than \$239,000 in grants made possible by generous contributions such as those mentioned above.

In order to qualify for a grant from the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund, an applicant must be 60 years old or older OR they or a member of their household is handicapped or has a disability that reduces the household's income OR has a certified medical emergency. Applicants must have made at least six payments to their heating bill within a 12-month period from the date of application, and monthly income and expenses will need to be verified. Applicants must reside in National Fuel's service territory, however, they are not required to be a National Fuel customer. Individual grant amounts are determined by need with a maximum grant amount of \$400.



Eligible families or individuals in need of payment assistance are encouraged to contact The Salvation Army at (716) 883-9800, extension 230, the Chautauqua Office For the Aging at (716) 753-4471, or Catholic Charities at (716) 856-4494 to find the nearest agency and determine the necessary documentation to bring to the application interview. National Fuel does not process grant applications.

The Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund is administered by The Salvation Army and is sponsored by National Fuel, The Salvation Army, the Chautauqua Office For the Aging and Catholic Charities.

Donations to the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund can be made easily through customers' monthly National Fuel gas bill by adding \$5, \$2 or \$1 to the monthly payment. Customers can also designate a regular pledge amount by calling 1-800-365-3234, or by enrolling to do so via National Fuel's Web site, www.nationalfuelgas.com. In addition, The Salvation Army receives direct donations to the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund at: **Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund, c/o The Salvation Army, 960 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202** (please make checks payable to Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund).

In addition to the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund, if you are having trouble with your heating bills, you may be eligible for assistance from the federally funded Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). Changes to HEAP this year have made more families than ever before eligible for as much as \$685 in initial assistance and, for those in a heating emergency situation, even more help is available; other changes to the HEAP program have made applying for help easier than ever. Visit www.HEAPhelps.com or call 1-877-443-2743 for more information.

The Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund is funded with generous contributions from National Fuel Gas Company and its customers and employees and other private entities. Additional information about the Fund and other programs and services available for those having trouble with their heating bills is available by calling National Fuel at 1-800-365-3234 or by visiting www.nationalfuelgas.com.