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MASSACHUSETTS GOOD NEIGHBOR ENERGY FUND REMAINS AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS DURING THE SUMMER

CANTON, MA, June 20, 2024 – With the arrival of the first day of summer, the sponsoring energy companies of the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund and its administrator, The Salvation Army, want to remind eligible families and individuals struggling financially that the Fund remains open and continues to be a resource long past the winter and spring months. Please visit your local Salvation Army Corps Community Center to receive assistance with the payment of a home energy expense. To find the nearest Salvation Army location, please visit maggoodneighbor.org.

The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund is often the last resort for families who are in temporary financial difficulty and do not qualify for federal and state fuel assistance programs such as LIHEAP. The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division pays the energy provider directly for households whose gross income falls between 60 and 80 percent of the state's median income levels. For example, a household size of 4 would need to have a total gross yearly income of between \$87,294 and \$116,392 to qualify. This campaign year's Fund disbursement is \$400 per eligible household per heating season.

"It's that time of the year when temperatures are rising, and air conditioners and fans are being turned on. As a result, home energy bills are often higher than anticipated," said Marie McCabe, Chairperson of the 2024 Good Neighbor Energy Fund campaign and Customer Service Representative for North Attleborough Electric Department. "The Fund can still be a source of relief and is available throughout the summer months for eligible households who are struggling financially." McCabe added that the easiest way to determine if a household qualifies is to visit the Fund's website at magoodneighbor.org.

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The Fund's 39th annual "Give the Gift of Warmth" campaign is a cooperative effort between the Fund's 19 sponsoring energy companies, the general public and the corporate community to raise \$500,000 and help an anticipated 1,500 households. The campaign relies on the generosity of individuals, families, local corporations and foundations for support and has raised more than \$24.5 million and assisted over 94,850 households since its inception in 1985.

Massachusetts residents and businesses that wish to donate to the Fund are encouraged to use the green Good Neighbor Energy Fund donation envelope found as an insert in monthly energy bills or scan the QR code found on the envelope. Some energy companies offer an 'add a dollar' program which allows customers to contribute on their monthly bill payment by one dollar or more. Anyone can also donate with a credit card or other payment options online at magoodneighbor.org. Donors can also simply mail a check payable to "Good Neighbor Energy Fund," c/o The Salvation Army, 25 Shawmut Road, Canton, Massachusetts 02021-1408. Participating energy companies support their respective customers' generosity through various giving programs.

For more information about how to apply for the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund, visit your local Salvation Army Corps Community Center or call 800-334-3047 if you live in area codes 508, 617, 774, 781 or 978 or 800-262-1320 if you live in area code 413. Visit magoodneighbor.org or #MAGoodNeighbor.