



## **Community Recognized for Its Generosity to the Neighbor for Neighbor Heat Fund**

(March 19, 2007) 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 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 thousands of families in western New York for energy-related costs under special circumstances.

National Fuel's western New York-area customers regularly donate more than \$8,500 each month to the Neighbor for Neighbor Heat Fund. This season, the following were also among those contributing:

- 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 coordinating Dominion's generous \$5,000 donation to Neighbor for Neighbor Heat Fund.
- In January, the National Fuel Gas Company Foundation contributed \$66,667 to the Fund. Additionally, National Fuel employees donated \$1,405 to the Neighbor for Neighbor Heat Fund after conducting a fundraiser.
- In 2007, National Fuel employees have also donated \$1671.79 to the Neighbor for Neighbor Heat Fund through the Company's Employee Charitable Giving Program, with a matching gift from the National Fuel Gas Company Foundation of \$741.50. The Employee Charitable Giving Program allows employees to designate a specific dollar amount to be given to any 501 (c)(3) organization of their choice, and provides a match from the Foundation up to \$250 dollars per person, per year.

Since the opening of the Neighbor for Neighbor Heat Fund, contributions from the community, the Foundation and National Fuel employees total nearly \$6 million, and have been used to help more than 14,259 families in need of assistance. Last year, 672 families received nearly \$186,992.02 in grants made possible by generous contributions such as those mentioned above.

Individuals may qualify for a Neighbor for Neighbor Heat Fund grant if they are at least 60 years old, if they, or a household member, have a handicap, disability, or medical hardship, and if they live in National Fuel's service territory (even if they are not a National Fuel customer). Eligible applicants also must have sought help from the federally-funded Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). Those who meet the program requirements are encouraged to seek assistance from Neighbor for Neighbor by applying at their local office of the Salvation Army or Catholic Charities. Individual grant amounts are determined by need with a standard grant amount of \$300.



Donations to the Neighbor for Neighbor Heat Fund can be made easily through customers' monthly National Fuel gas bill by adding \$1, \$2 or \$5 to the monthly payment. Customers can also designate a regular pledge amount by calling 1-800-365-3234. In addition, the Salvation Army receives direct donations to the 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).

The Neighbor for Neighbor Heat Fund, in western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania, is funded with generous contributions from National Fuel customers and employees, private entities, and National Fuel's shareholders. Additional information about the Fund is available by calling National Fuel at 1 (800) 365-3234 or by visiting [www.nationalfuelgas.com](http://www.nationalfuelgas.com).