



Inside the Operation

WE'RE ALL PART OF THE OPERATION.

SPRING 2018

In this Issue:

A Word from The Executive Director [p2](#)

Operation Fuel and Utility Companies Host Annual Energy Assistance Conference [p3](#)

Operation Fuel Marks 40 Years of Keeping CT Homes Warm [p4](#)

New Partnership with The Tiny Miracles Foundation [p5](#)

In 2013: Town of Darien Requested to Be a Fuel Bank [p5-6](#)

Greenwich Fuel Bank Has Longtime Partnership [p6](#)

In the Spring: Westport Needs Operation Fuel [p7](#)

LifeBridge Fuel Bank: Many Clients Work But Are Still Struggling Financially [p8](#)

Credit Unions Support Operation Fuel's Homeless Intervention & Prevention Program [p9](#)

GoodWorks Insurance and CEMA Give Generous Donation to Operation Fuel [p10](#)

Featured Partners in the Community [p11-12](#)

De La Puente Named Program Manager [p12](#)

Why I Give [p13](#)

Hartford Foundation Awards Grants to Operation Fuel [p14](#)

Adding Just \$1.00 to Your Utility Bill Can Really Make an Impact [p15](#)

Board of Directors [p15](#)

Over 320,000 Connecticut Households Are Struggling to Pay Energy Bills



More than 320,000 lower- and moderate-income Connecticut families and individuals are struggling with unaffordable energy bills. These households, which have incomes at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, owe a combined \$450 million more in annual home energy bills than they can afford to pay, according to the Home Energy Affordability Gap: Connecticut (2017) report, which Operation Fuel released in December.

The \$450 million home energy affordability gap is the portion of their energy bills that more than 320,000 Connecticut households can't afford to pay, not the entire amount that they owe. On average, each household owes \$1,404 more in annual energy bills than they can afford.

For more than 40 years, Operation Fuel has worked with its community and business partners to help struggling families and individuals who can't afford their energy bills. Since raising its income guidelines to 75% of the state median income, Operation Fuel has seen an increase in energy assistance applications from moderate-income households that are in financial crisis.

Through late February, Operation Fuel had provided nearly \$720,000 in winter

energy assistance to 1,650 households throughout Connecticut. About half of all the people helped are either children or elderly. Operation Fuel will continue to provide winter and spring energy assistance until May 31.

During the spring and summer months, some lower-income families and individuals are in danger of having their utility services terminated because they do not have the resources to keep up with the high cost of energy. The annual winter moratorium, which prevents eligible households from having their utilities shut off, ends on May 1 and won't resume until November 1, 2018.

In early July, Operation Fuel will start its summer energy assistance program to help these vulnerable households that live in fear of losing their electricity or gas services.

"Being without electricity during the hot summer months can create serious problems. This situation is especially dangerous for young children, the elderly and people with chronic medical conditions. Without electricity you can't refrigerate food or medicine, cook meals or have lights and hot water," said Brenda Watson, Operation Fuel's Executive Director.



Operation Fuel, Inc.

WE'RE ALL PART OF THE OPERATION.

75 Charter Oak Ave.
Suite 2-240
Hartford, CT 06106

860.243.2345
operationfuel.org

Follow us on
Facebook and Twitter



A Word from The Executive Director



Dear Friends,

I write this letter with gratitude in my heart and a passion to lead Operation Fuel into the future. On February 12, 2018, I started my first day as Executive Director. I have no words to express how much of an honor this is for me.

It was almost exactly eight years ago when I began my journey on January 2, 2010 as Operation Fuel's Director of Community Programs. I got to experience firsthand how our fuel banks and their staff work to ensure that vulnerable households have heat and electricity. Without their hard work and dedication, Operation Fuel would not be able to accomplish all that we have.

On many occasions, I have been asked, "What is the future of Operation Fuel?" I believe it all starts with our team. This includes our staff, board of directors, and our fuel banks. We have a very strong team of committed individuals who believe in our mission. It is important for me to ensure that our team continues to believe that Operation Fuel serves a very critical purpose and is a great place to work and grow professionally.

While Operation Fuel continues to evolve as an organization, we will always retain our core beliefs to work hard and serve those in need. We will continue to be flexible and accessible and always maintain our compassion, agility, and sensitivity.

When you contribute to Operation Fuel, whether it is through the Add-a-Dollar program on your utility bill or a direct donation, please know that we maintain the highest standards of fiscal management and frugality. Your generosity and support make it possible for so many struggling families and individuals to have heat and electricity. Thank you for helping us accomplish this.

I look forward to continuing Operation Fuel's mission to keep our most vulnerable population safe and healthy, from premature infants to the elderly who are living on a fixed income.

Sincerely,

Brenda Watson
Executive Director

Operation Fuel and Utility Companies Host Annual Energy Assistance Conference

This past October, Operation Fuel held its annual statewide Energy Assistance Conference in partnership with Eversource Energy and Avangrid subsidiaries: United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas, and Connecticut Natural Gas. The conference was attended by representatives from several state agencies and fuel banks throughout Connecticut, as well as staff from Operation Fuel and the utilities.

The energy assistance conference focused on the availability of energy assistance and the various programs offered by the utility companies to help low- and moderate-income households manage their energy expenses. The meeting also provided an opportunity for fuel bank staff to get answers to questions that they had about energy assistance and energy efficiency programs that can help to lower energy costs.

State of Connecticut Consumer Counsel, Elin Swanson Katz, was the conference's guest speaker. Based on the data her office has received, Swanson Katz said that about 25 percent of Eversource Energy and United Illuminating customers are



Statewide Energy Assistance Conference attendees.

struggling to pay their electric bills and many of these households are sometimes unable to pay their bill in full.

"This creates tremendous burdens on their (customers) lives, in terms of the risk of shut-off, fear and uncertainty, but it also impacts the general customer base, who ultimately covers the uncollectible shortfall," said Swanson Katz.

She added that the fuel banks can help their low-income clients by urging them to read their electric bills; warning them about the increasing number of utility scams; and reporting to her office when electrical suppliers harass clients with repeated telemarketing inquiries.

Charity Navigator Gives Highest Rating to Operation Fuel

Operation Fuel was notified on March 1, 2018 that the organization once again has received the highest rating possible from Charity Navigator, which is one of the nation's leading charity evaluators. Operation Fuel received the top rating for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. "This is our highest possible rating

and indicates that your organization adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way," said Michael Thatcher, Charity Navigator's President and CEO.



Operation Fuel Marks 40 Years of Keeping Connecticut Homes Warm



Guests at Operation Fuel's 40th Anniversary celebration.

Since 1977, Operation Fuel has provided nearly \$50 million in energy assistance to over 156,000 households throughout Connecticut. This past fiscal year, over 20,000 individuals received energy assistance; almost half were either elderly or children under the age of 18.

Throughout the years, many people have played a role in Operation Fuel's mission to help struggling families and individuals keep their heat on and electricity running.

In late September, Operation Fuel observed its 40th anniversary at a reception with some of its community partners and supporters at the Riverfront Boathouse in Hartford.



Pictured from left: Former Operation Fuel Executive Director Adrienne Baughns-Wallace, former Operation Fuel staff Mildred Williams, and former Operation Fuel Executive Director Pat Wrice.

The reception's guest speakers included Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff and State Representative Lonnie Reed. Former Executive Directors Patricia Wrice and Adrienne Baughns-Wallace spoke about their experiences at Operation Fuel.

Diane Casey Lee, who served as Operation Fuel's Executive Director from 1988 to 1991, was not able to attend the event but she sent some remarks. Master of Ceremonies Renee DiNino, who is the Director of Community Affairs and On-Air Programming at iHeartMedia, read Lee's comments at the reception.



Pictured from left: Former Operation Fuel Executive Director Adrienne Baughns-Wallace, Master of Ceremonies Renee DiNino from iHeartMedia, Operation Fuel Executive Director Brenda Watson, Operation Fuel Director of Development Kim O'Brien Green, State Representative Lonnie Reed, former Operation Fuel Executive Director Pat Wrice, Operation Fuel Board Chair Nancy Bulkeley, and Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff.

40 Years of Caring for Communities

Donate now . . . visit operationfuel.org

New Partnership with The Tiny Miracles Foundation

As part of its mission, Operation Fuel works with other nonprofit organizations to ensure that vulnerable families are able to keep their heat and electricity running.

Operation Fuel recently began partnering with The Tiny Miracles Foundation, of Fairfield County, which helps families with premature babies by providing support, information, services and supplies for the families during and immediately following their hospital stay.

"Tiny Miracles was unaware of our services before and now they are able to refer families who are struggling financially to our energy program. These families are faced with enormous challenges just trying to focus on their newborns' health," said Brenda Watson, Operation Fuel's Executive Director.

"I'm looking forward to working with Operation Fuel to discover ways that we can jointly serve families that are in financial distress and are at risk of losing heat or electricity while caring for their fragile infants," said Elisabeth T. Schneider, who is Director of Family Services for The Tiny Miracles Foundation.

Within just a few weeks of learning about Operation Fuel, Tiny Miracles was able to refer a family to the energy assistance organization's local fuel bank. "I love that we could put it to immediate use!" added Schneider.



In 2013: Town of Darien Requested to Be a Fuel Bank

Since Darien became a fuel bank in 2013, Operation Fuel has helped local families and individuals with \$27,896 in energy assistance grants. Previously, Darien residents needed to go to the fuel bank in Norwalk.

"We advocated for Operational Fuel to give us our own fuel bank to better serve our community. It was very inconvenient for our clients, especially the seniors and people who are disabled, to travel to Norwalk," said Cynthia Hall, a Case Manager with the Darien Department of Human Services. Hall processes applications for Operation Fuel along with Darien's Director of Human Services, Ali Ramsteck, who is also the fuel bank director.



Pictured from left: Ali Ramsteck, Darien's Director of Human Services and Cynthia Hall, Case Manager Darien Department of Human Services.

Assistance from Operation Fuel helps to reduce the financial burden for struggling households, said Hall. It

. . . continued on next page

Continued from page 5 . . . **Town of Darien Requested to Be a Fuel Bank**

recently made a difference for an elderly Darien couple, who has lived in their home for 60 years, when they needed energy assistance. The 87 year-old wife has been working as a crossing guard for the last 35 years. But because the couple was slightly over income, they were not eligible for energy assistance

from the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). Fortunately, Operation Fuel was there to help.

“The (Operation Fuel) applications are simple and are processed promptly. Operation Fuel has a great team. The staff is very knowledgeable and helpful,” added Hall.

Greenwich Fuel Bank Has Longtime Partnership

For the past 20 years, the Greenwich Department of Human Services has partnered with Operation Fuel to provide energy assistance to families who are going through a financial crisis.

“Operation Fuel has very clear guidelines to assist families who are making their best effort to maintain their utility service. The staff is extremely responsive and understanding of special situations that our clients may have and makes every effort to provide assistance in a very timely manner,” said Monica Bruning, Greenwich’s Director of Human Services Programs.

Operation Fuel helped 50 Greenwich households with \$21,852 in energy assistance this past fiscal year.



Pictured from left: Greenwich Department of Human Services staff members Linda Sandiaes, Jayne Wilson, and Monica Bruning.

Recently, Operation Fuel was able to keep a Greenwich husband and wife and their three children from losing their utility service. The husband, who is serving in the military, had been deployed and the family was struggling financially, explained Bruning, who also is the town’s fuel bank director. Thanks to Operation Fuel, the family avoided having their service terminated and was able to enroll in their utility company’s New Start program and begin making affordable monthly payments.

Another Greenwich family, with a young child, needed help after the husband was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and could no longer work. The Greenwich fuel bank assisted the family with an Operation Fuel energy assistance grant and helped them get on an affordable budget plan.

Bruning said her town greatly appreciates Operation Fuel. “Operation Fuel totally fits in with our organization’s mission to enhance the quality of life for Greenwich residents by meeting basic human needs and promoting services that foster self-sufficiency,” concluded Bruning.

In the Spring: Westport Needs Operation Fuel

The Westport Fuel Bank is very grateful that Operation Fuel has a year-round energy assistance program. The spring is usually when Westport residents need Operation Fuel the most.

The Fuel Bank Director, Susan Stefenson, said many Westport residents who need heating assistance are eligible for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). These vulnerable households - whether they heat with oil, propane, gas or electricity - are also covered by the utility company’s Winter Protection program, added Stefenson. However, when these safeguards expire on April 30, Operation Fuel adeptly provides additional assistance.

“Operation Fuel helps us bridge that gap . . . particularly in the spring months. Households that are coming off Winter Protection in May often need additional support, which Operation Fuel provides,” explained Stefenson, who is the Finance Manager for Westport’s Department of Human Services.

She anticipates that there will be a significant number of requests for Operation Fuel grants this spring. “The bitter cold snap that passed through in January stressed many households and accelerated energy consumption. The need will become more apparent in the next few months,” said Stefenson.

Last spring, the Westport Fuel Bank helped a range of households with energy grants from Operation Fuel. Between March 1 and May 30, 2017, Operation Fuel provided \$5,444 to 11 households.

One was a senior couple who did not qualify for state and federal assistance. “Operation Fuel granted them money for heating because they recognized the need to assist households on a fixed income that are draining their savings to age in place,” said Stefenson. Another recipient was a single disabled client who was about to lose his utility service when the Winter Protection program ended. But with the help of Operation Fuel, the shut-off was averted and the client was able to stay comfortably in his home.

Stefenson said that she especially appreciates that Operation Fuel’s application process is straightforward and decisions are made quickly to accommodate emergency requests.



Susan Stefenson of Westport’s Department of Human Services

LifeBridge Fuel Bank: Many Clients Work But Are Still Struggling Financially



Andrew G. Geisert, LifeBridge's Director of Economic Empowerment and Elizabeth Selkis, LifeBridge's Intake Specialist for Operation Fuel clients.

LifeBridge Community Services in Bridgeport is one of Operation Fuel's largest fuel banks in Fairfield County.

This past fiscal year, LifeBridge provided \$81,011 in Operation Fuel energy assistance grants to 182 households. Through late February, the fuel bank had helped 173 households with \$74,000 in winter energy assistance from Operation Fuel.

LifeBridge became a fuel bank two years ago after partnering with Operation Fuel on the energy assistance organization's Homeless Intervention and Prevention Program (HIPP). When LifeBridge's Eviction Prevention program lost funding, they had to drop out of HIPP but wanted to continue its partnership with Operation Fuel.

Since energy assistance is a good fit with many of their other programs and

services, LifeBridge decided to become a fuel bank. "Programs like Operation Fuel don't just pay utility bills, they allow families to be more secure and reduce some of the stress low- and middle-income families face every day," said Andrew G. Geisert, LifeBridge's Director of Economic Empowerment.

He added, "Many of our clients work but still struggle to pay their bills and maintain financial stability, which is essential for family stability."

Sam is among the many clients who have been helped by Operation Fuel. The 84 year-old man, who lives alone, owns his home and must cover all his expenses with his Social Security retirement benefit of \$767 a month. His daughter helps him when possible but isn't financially able to provide regular support. For the past two years, Sam has received Operation Fuel energy assistance, which helps him keep up with his bills but more importantly allows him to stay in his home where he feels comfortable.

"LifeBridge understands that people impacted by poverty are challenged by a range of complex social, economic, and health issues. Our goal is to move our clients from crisis to stability, and to greater levels of self-sufficiency. Operation Fuel energy assistance is critical to providing the stability our clients need to advance themselves and their families," said Geisert.

Credit Unions Support Operation Fuel's Homeless Intervention & Prevention Program

The Connecticut Credit Union Charitable Foundation provided a very generous \$10,000 grant to Operation



Fuel in December to support the Homeless Intervention and Prevention Program (HIPP). The grant represents funds from Connecticut's Credit Unions, which contribute to various causes around the state every year and work together to raise funds.

A charitable golf tournament fundraiser and a raffle are held annually where credit unions sell tickets to their members for the chance to win some great prizes. The Connecticut Credit Union Charitable Foundation uses the funds raised to help various food and fuel organizations around the state. Operation Fuel was grateful to be one of the fortunate recipients in 2017.

Operation Fuel started the Homeless Intervention and Prevention Program in 2013 to help prevent and eliminate homelessness that occurs as a result of unaffordable home energy costs. HIPP provides energy assistance grants to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and need to pay past due energy/utility bills to either stay in their home or transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Since it began, HIPP has provided \$166,978 in energy assistance to 258 Connecticut households and made it possible for 634 people to either resume or maintain housing.

We are in further talks with the Connecticut Credit Union Charitable Foundation to collaborate on ways to partner together, including offering financial training from the Credit Unions for our HIPP clients at fuel bank sites.

"We are immensely grateful to Connecticut's Credit Unions for their significant donation for our Homeless Intervention and Prevention Program. We will be able to serve many vulnerable families in need of our services and in danger of losing their homes," said Kim O'Brien Green, Operation Fuel's Director of Development.

"Connecticut's Credit Unions are extremely excited to partner with Operation Fuel in the spirit of cooperation and people helping people," said David Hinchey, Director of Community Impact for the Credit Union League of Connecticut. "By collaborating, both our organizations can create a greater impact on the communities we serve."

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives. No matter where you live or work in Connecticut, there's one for you. To learn more, visit www.ctcreditunions.org.

The Connecticut Credit Union Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization representing Connecticut's Credit Unions through charitable giving with a mission to provide fuel assistance and help feed those in need throughout the state.

GoodWorks Insurance and CEMA Give Generous Donation to Operation Fuel

Operation Fuel received a \$5,000 donation in late December, with potentially up to another \$10,000 or more to come, as a result of a partnership among GoodWorks Insurance, the Arbella Insurance Foundation, and the Connecticut Energy Marketers Association (CEMA).

The funds will be used to help many lower-income Connecticut families keep the heat and electricity on in their homes this winter. GoodWorks Insurance launched the initiative with a \$2,500 donation and \$2,500 matching grant from the Arbella Insurance Foundation. GoodWorks will also match up to \$5,000 in donations from CEMA's members, so the total could exceed \$15,000 by the end of the challenge.

"Operation Fuel does wonderful work throughout Connecticut, where one in five residents has a hard time paying for energy. We're glad to join with CEMA and Arbella to support them," said GoodWorks Insurance President, Paul Brian.

"CEMA is proud to join GoodWorks, Arbella and home heating oil dealers across Connecticut to contribute to Operation Fuel's mission to give people in need access to energy assistance," said CEMA President, Chris Herb.

"The generous support from GoodWorks, Arbella and CEMA members shows that we are all in this together. Without the support of the community, we could not do what we do," said Brenda Watson, Executive Director of Operation Fuel.

Headquartered in Glastonbury, Conn., GoodWorks Insurance has other offices in New Milford, Avon and Columbia, Conn.; in Western Massachusetts; and in Walnut Creek, California. It offers home, auto and

business insurance, surety bonds and group health insurance.

One of America's fastest-growing insurance agencies, GoodWorks donates 50 percent of its operating profit to local charities. Its mission of "Purpose Beyond Profit" is fulfilled through GoodWorks Community Grants and strategic partnerships with leading nonprofit groups. More information is on the web at www.goodworksinsurance.com and www.facebook.com/GoodWorksInsurance.

CEMA, based in Cromwell, Conn., consists of 585 Connecticut home heating oil dealers and gasoline distributors. It works to support and protect the hundreds of thousands of consumers its members serve in Connecticut. For more information, visit www.ctema.com.

Since 2005, the Arbella Insurance Foundation has been committed to supporting local, nonprofit organizations that work hard to positively impact the lives of the people of New England. More information can be found at www.arbella.com/arbella-insurance/why-arbella/arbella-insurance-foundation.



Operation Fuel Executive Director, Brenda Watson accepts a check from GoodWorks Insurance President, Paul Brian.

Featured Partners in the Community

Operation Fuel continues to receive support from many community partners throughout the state. These corporations, civic organizations, and faith communities continue to impact the lives of so many of our neighbors in need. We cannot thank them enough for their valuable support.

- St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford made a very generous donation of \$2,000 to Operation Fuel in August to provide emergency energy assistance to the Greater Hartford community. A supporter of Operation Fuel since 1991, St. John's Episcopal Church is a welcoming congregation that offers many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and engagement within a warm and diverse community. Located where West Hartford and Hartford join geographically, the parish has a core mission of building bridges between and among the residents of the diverse communities.

- The Avon Connecticut Chapter of UNICO



National made a generous \$1,000 donation to Operation Fuel in December to provide emergency energy assistance to Farmington Valley residents. This is the second year that the Avon Chapter of UNICO has supported Operation Fuel and our neighbors in the Farmington Valley. UNICO, which stands for Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity and Opportunity, is the largest Italian-American heritage service organization in the United States. The Avon Chapter, which began 34 years ago, sponsors several merit-based college

scholarships in the community and supports many local charitable organizations.

- Emanuel Lutheran Church made a very generous first time donation of \$1,500 to Operation Fuel in late December, representing funds from their Stanley Sandberg Mission Endowment Fund. Emanuel Lutheran Church was founded in 1889 by Swedish immigrants who settled in the Frog Hollow neighborhood of Hartford. The congregation today is made up of people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and expressions of faith who gather together to worship, to serve their neighbors and the world, and to love and support one another.
- St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Avon made a generous first time donation of \$1,495 to Operation Fuel in early February. St. Matthew began in 1885 as an immigrant church, serving the German laborers who came to work in the Collins Factory in Collinsville, CT. In the early 1960s, the congregation moved to Avon, serving the growing communities of the Farmington Valley.
- In October, Operation Fuel received a \$1,000 donation from The Duncaster Retirement Community Outreach Committee to provide emergency energy assistance to Bloomfield households. Operation Fuel was fortunate to receive the generous support from Duncaster for the second year in a row. Duncaster is a boutique continuing care retirement community. Its mission is to offer an engaging independent lifestyle to senior adults through excellence in

... continued on page 12

Continued from page 11 . . . **Featured Partners**

living, life enhancement events and person-centered service. Duncaster has a strong commitment to making the greater community a better place to live. Residents and staff give their time and support to community service projects.

- In late December, Operation Fuel received a generous first time donation of \$1,000 from the Board of Norcom Cares. An employee of Norcom Mortgage and Insurance requested that Operation Fuel receive a donation and the Board approved their request. Norcom Cares was founded to support the charities that their employees are involved in, care about, and support.
- The Ladies Home Missionary Society of the First Church of Christ in New Haven/Center



Church on the Green generously donated \$1,000 in December to provide emergency energy assistance for residents of New Haven. The Ladies Home Missionary Society has been a generous supporter of Operation Fuel since 2007.

- First Church in Windsor made a generous \$1,000 donation in late December. First Church in Windsor is the oldest Congregational Church in Connecticut and, in partnership with other ministries of the United Church of Christ, is building communities where diverse people join together to worship, grow and dream. First Church in Windsor has been a generous supporter of Operation Fuel since 2009.



De La Puente Named Program Manager

Nadia De La Puente has been promoted to Program Manager of Operation Fuel. In her new position, she will oversee the energy assistance program and its fuel banks.

“Nadia knows the program and fuel banks like the back of her hand. We are very happy to have her in this key position,” said Brenda Watson, Operation Fuel’s Executive Director.

De La Puente joined Operation Fuel in 2008. She holds a Bachelor of Science



Operation Fuel’s Program Manager, Nadia De La Puente.

degree from Central Connecticut State University and is pursuing her Master’s degree at the University of Hartford.

Why I GI♥E

We recently contacted some of our longtime individual supporters to ask them about their personal connections to Operation Fuel. Many of you will agree that these are the very reasons that you support our organization as well. Because of the generous support from individuals like you, we are able to continue to serve those who need our help the most.

“My wife and I were both born and raised in CT. We’re both retired, financially stable and wanted to give to a local organization that we know, respect and have the confidence that our donations will be used wisely. We regularly support three main causes which are very important to us: heat, food, and the military. As long as we are able to, we will continue to give and support Operation Fuel and those other causes near to our hearts.” – **Rick and Joan from North Granby, CT**

“We are happy to be able to make this donation. We are your average working couple and realize we are very blessed. We decided not to exchange gifts this year. Instead we are hoping to give a gift of heat to others!” – **Maureen and Jim from Durham, CT**

“I give to Operation Fuel because I believe in its mission wholeheartedly. There are thousands of charities out there but this one stands out. When my family was in a tough place financially due to unemployment, I searched for financial help and found Operation Fuel could provide grants for heating bills. Fortunately, I found work soon after I learned about the organization so I didn’t need a grant but what I had learned really struck me. I learned how many people it helps in Connecticut, how enormous the need is for their kind of help, how it’s one of the most highly ranked charities in the nation and that it’s been providing this help for four decades. All these reasons have made me a strong supporter. I tell anyone who will listen, “You’ve got to do the Add-a-Dollar program because 100% of the donations go straight through to energy assistance – not salaries or marketing. Your dollar really helps your neighbors.” – **Franny from Monroe, CT**

“Not being able to come out of the cold and into a warm home is an option many people do not have. Operation Fuel is a wonderful, credible organization that helps make this possible for so many people in need. We consider ourselves blessed to have the means to support Operation Fuel in such compassionate and kind-hearted efforts.” – **Trisha and Joe G. from Southington, CT**

Hartford Foundation Awards Grants to Operation Fuel

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG) has awarded a total of \$82,553 in grants to Operation Fuel, which includes \$66,803 in grants for energy assistance and \$15,750 towards a financial management grant.

The following grants were awarded for energy assistance: \$46,803 through grants from the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund, \$5,000 through the Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund, \$5,000 through the Budd Family Fund, \$5,000 through the Carol and Edward Wrobel Family Fund, and one anonymous grant for \$5,000.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for Hartford and 28 surrounding communities. Made possible by the gifts of generous individuals, families, and organizations, the Foundation has awarded grants of more than \$680 million since its founding in 1925. For more information about the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, visit www.hfpg.org or call 860-548-1888.



Additional Grant Awards of Note Received in FY18* Include:

| NAME | FY18 |
|---|-------------|
| American Savings Foundation | \$50,000.00 |
| Wayne Eisenbaum Charitable Foundation | \$20,000.00 |
| Dominion Foundation | \$10,000.00 |
| HCC Global Financial Products | \$10,000.00 |
| The Gryphon Fund | \$10,000.00 |
| The Renee B. Fisher Foundation Fund | \$10,000.00 |
| The Carl Marks Foundation, Inc. | \$6,000.00 |
| ERJ Fund | \$5,500.00 |
| Bruyette Family Foundation | \$5,000.00 |
| Connecticut Community Foundation | \$5,000.00 |
| Connecticut Health Foundation | \$5,000.00 |
| James H. Napier Foundation | \$5,000.00 |
| Laura J. Niles Foundation | \$5,000.00 |
| Lena Benas Memorial Fund | \$5,000.00 |
| The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation | \$5,000.00 |
| William and Alice Mortensen Foundation | \$5,000.00 |
| Dime Bank Foundation, Inc. | \$3,500.00 |
| Ion Bank Foundation | \$3,000.00 |
| SI Financial Group Foundation, Inc. | \$3,000.00 |
| XL Catlin | \$3,000.00 |
| Claire L. Helsing Foundation | \$2,500.00 |
| Elizabeth Raymond Ambler Trust | \$2,500.00 |
| NewAlliance Foundation | \$2,500.00 |
| The Community Fund of Darien | \$2,500.00 |
| The Hartford | \$2,500.00 |
| Fuller Family Foundation | \$2,000.00 |
| The Franklin Conklin Foundation | \$2,000.00 |
| The McPhee Foundation, Inc. | \$2,000.00 |
| United Bank Foundation | \$2,000.00 |
| Webster Bank | \$1,500.00 |
| American Eagle Financial Credit Union | \$1,000.00 |
| Sun Life Financial | \$1,000.00 |
| The Sandra and Arnold Chase Family Foundation, Inc. | \$1,000.00 |
| Aldo DeDominicis Foundation | \$800.00 |

*Grant awards received from July 1, 2017 through March 9, 2018.

Adding Just \$1.00 to Your Utility Bill Can Really Make an Impact

Operation Fuel wants to remind Connecticut residents that the Add-a-Dollar program is one of the easiest ways to help Connecticut families who are struggling to keep their homes warm and their electricity on.

The Add-a-Dollar program is part of Operation Fuel and all of the money collected is used to provide energy assistance for Connecticut households.

Utility customers can contribute to Operation Fuel simply by adding a dollar when they pay their utility bill by check or online. Utility customers who wish to donate more than one dollar or who want to contribute automatically each month to Operation Fuel can do so by contacting their utility company.

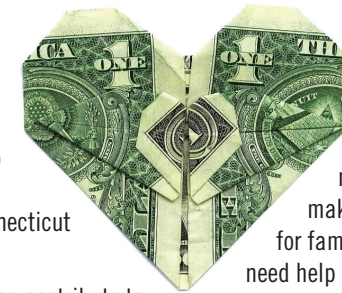
This past fiscal year, Operation Fuel raised \$665,387 through the Add-a-Dollar program; \$518,563 was from utility customers' donations and \$146,824 was in utility provided shareholder-matching funds.

"The Add-a-Dollar program raises a significant amount of money for Operation Fuel, but there are still many utility customers who may not be aware of how the program works. Every dollar donated to the

Add-a-Dollar program goes directly to providing energy assistance. If everyone who can afford to do so adds just one dollar to their monthly utility bill, it will make a significant difference for families and individuals who need help paying their energy bills," explained Operation Fuel's Executive Director, Brenda Watson.

Since Operation Fuel started the Add-a-Dollar program in late 1983, it has provided more than \$18 million in energy assistance to over 41,000 Connecticut households.

In addition to the Add-a-Dollar program, donations for Operation Fuel can be made online at www.operationfuel.org or mailed to Operation Fuel, 75 Charter Oak Ave., Suite 2-240, Hartford, CT 06106.



2017-2018 Board of Directors

Nancy Bulkeley, Chair
Dominion Energy

Camilla Hillian, Vice Chair
Bloomfield Social & Youth Services

Richard Schauster, Treasurer
Empire Industries, Retired

Allan Smith, Secretary
Carter Chevrolet

Charles "Chuck" Anderson
State of CT Department of Social Services

Arianna Baret Peralta
Eversource Energy

Megan Brown
Thames Valley Council for Community Action

Daniel Canavan
UIL Holdings Corporation

Elizabeth Craun
Capital Region Education Council

Our Mission: Operation Fuel brings together communities, businesses, government and individuals to ensure people in need have access to vital year-round energy assistance.



Operation Fuel, Inc.

WE'RE ALL PART OF THE OPERATION.

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE

PAID
HARTFORD CT
PERMIT NO 751

INSIDE THE OPERATION

SPRING 2018

How to Contribute

SEND A CHECK

Send a check payable to Operation Fuel, Inc. to:

Operation Fuel, Inc.
75 Charter Oak Avenue, Suite 2-240
Hartford, CT 06106

Or make a check payable to Operation Fuel, Inc. and enclose it with your utility bill. The utility companies will forward all checks to Operation Fuel.

ADD-A-DOLLAR

Support Operation Fuel through the Add-a-Dollar program with your utility company. You may donate \$1.00 by adding the amount to your utility bill, both paper bills and electronically. 100 percent of funds raised through the Add-a-Dollar program are used for energy assistance grants. The utility companies also match a percentage of Add-a-Dollar funds raised. You may contact your local utility companies to donate more than \$1.00 or to become enrolled in an automatic Add-a-Dollar program.

DONATE ONLINE

Donate online through Operation Fuel's secure Web site, www.operationfuel.org. Click on the "Donate" button at the top of the page.

MATCHING GIFTS

Take advantage of your company's matching gifts program. Contact your company's human resources department for more information.

ESTATE PLANNING / PLANNED GIVING

Plan for the future security of Operation Fuel by considering a planned gift through your estate plans, such as gifts of stock, real estate and life insurance policies. For more information please contact Kim O'Brien Green, Director of Development at 860-243-2345, x3303.

BE PART OF THE OPERATION

If you are a corporation or business wishing to partner with Operation Fuel please contact Kim O'Brien Green, Director of Development at 860-243-2345, x3303.