

# Inside the Operation



WE'RE ALL PART OF THE OPERATION.

SPRING 2019

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## The True Heart of Operation Fuel



A hero is someone who thinks of others before themselves. If you're reading this, you should know that you are one of our heroes, because we could not do this without YOU, our community partners and donors.

A recent report from the United Way found that 538,529 households in Connecticut – 40% of the population – cannot afford basic necessities such as housing, food, and utility costs. This gap is at the heart of our work at Operation Fuel: we exist to help struggling families and individuals afford the costs of their energy bills all year long. This past winter, with your help, Operation Fuel was able to provide nearly \$1.0 million in energy assistance for over 1,700 households throughout Connecticut.

The New Year allows us to look back on what we've done with pride, but it also reminds us that there is always more work to be done. The weather may be getting warmer, but many Connecticut residents still remain at risk of having their utility services terminated. Losing electricity in the summer means no refrigeration to

keep medications cool and food from spoiling. It means no lights and no hot water. It also means no air conditioning, which can be especially important for the elderly, children, and people with chronic health conditions who rely on air conditioning to stay comfortable and safe from the summer heat. Operation Fuel is committed to providing energy assistance to vulnerable residents regardless of the temperature outside. We would not be able to do this vital work without the support of our heroes – YOU – the donors and partners who make what we do possible all year long.

In the pages to follow, you'll find stories of the people Operation Fuel has assisted throughout Connecticut. You'll also learn more about the advocacy Operation Fuel has done across the state to raise awareness about energy affordability in Connecticut. We hope these stories help you share the pride we feel in our work, and inspire you to keep Operation Fuel in your heart all year long.



**OPERATION FUEL**

WE ADVOCATE. WE COLLABORATE. WE SERVE.

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## A Word from The Executive Director



Dear Friends,

The beginning of 2019 is an excellent time for me to think back on my first year as Executive Director for Operation Fuel. This is an exciting time for the organization as we are taking deliberate steps to improve our level of service to those who need us most. In addition to providing support for water assistance, we are developing an application that will allow those in need to apply for our grants at any time of day. Our goals for the rest of the year, will be to increase the range and reach of our programs, continue to empower those who struggle with home energy costs and finally, continue to work with the leaders in our state to dismantle the social and structural causes of home energy poverty.

This November, I was honored to join then Governor-Elect Lamont's Transition Committee on Energy to assist in the development of energy policy and planning. Our committee of 23 represented a diverse range of energy interests in Connecticut, with Operation Fuel as the voice for the low- and moderate-income consumer. In January, we had the pleasure of presenting the Governor with ten energy policy recommendations, including my recommendation to establish a Council on Energy Affordability and Equity. This was just the first of many exciting ways that Operation Fuel brought our work into the public eye as we entered 2019.

At the beginning of December, I was proud to represent Operation Fuel at a news conference and round table discussion that we sponsored at the State Capitol to highlight the increasing water affordability challenges facing residents in Connecticut. We are grateful to House Majority Leader Matthew Ritter, State Senator Matthew Lesser, the Metropolitan District (MDC) and the participants of the panel for helping to bring greater awareness to this pressing issue.

Operation Fuel hosted our first Ice House – Presented by Eversource Energy on January 31, 2019 at the Old State House in Hartford. This fundraiser featured a 15'x15' "house" made of blocks of ice to help raise public awareness to what it is like to live in a home without heat or electricity. The frigid temperatures that day highlighted the seriousness of energy affordability that continues to impact more than 500,000 households in Connecticut.

This work would not have been possible without the support of our donors and community partners. Your continued generosity has allowed Operation Fuel to help thousands of households afford their basic needs during another cold Connecticut winter. As we transition into the warmer months, we must keep these essential needs in mind; families and individuals can face a temporary crisis at any time of year.

Thank you for keeping Operation Fuel at the front of your mind all year round.

Sincerely,

**Brenda Watson**  
Executive Director



Governor Lamont's Transition Committee on Energy.

## Operation Fuel and Utility Companies Host Annual Energy Assistance Conference



Pictured from left: Suannette Galarza from Avangrid subsidiaries United Illuminating (UI), Southern Connecticut Gas (SCG), and Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG); Diane Duva from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP); Taren O'Connor from the Office of Consumer Counsel; Brenda Watson from Operation Fuel; Mary Sotos, Deputy Commissioner of DEEP; Laura Gonzalez from Avangrid subsidiaries UI, SCG, and CNG; and Eddie Swift from Eversource Energy.

In September, 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 meeting 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.

Mary Sotos, Deputy Commissioner for Energy at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental

Protection (DEEP), was the conference's guest speaker. She talked about DEEP's work developing and implementing energy policies designed to bring cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable power to Connecticut families and businesses. Sotos also discussed DEEP's work to help close the energy affordability gap by integrating efforts to regulate and direct the state's electric, natural gas, and water utilities.

The conference also provided an opportunity for fuel bank staff and colleagues to share information about the various energy assistance programs that the utility companies offer to help low- and moderate-income households manage their energy expenses during the winter.

## Feeling the Weight of Water



Pictured from left: Bart Halloran, The Metropolitan District (MDC) Counsel; Richard Sobolewski, Office of Consumer Counsel; Lori Mathieu, Department of Public Health; David Silverstone, MDC Consumer Advocate; Jack Betkoski III, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA); State Representative Jonathan Steinberg; Brenda Watson, Operation Fuel; State Senator-Elect Matthew Lesser; and Betsy Gara, Connecticut Waterworks Association.

Water affordability has become a critical concern for many Connecticut households. Operation Fuel and House Majority Leader, State Representative Matt Ritter and State Senator-Elect State Representative Matt Lesser held a news conference at the State Capitol in early December to bring more awareness to the water affordability problem that is affecting many low- and moderate-income households.

After the news conference, a roundtable discussion was held that included Senator-Elect State Representative Matt Lesser, State Representative Jonathan Steinberg, Operation Fuel Executive Director Brenda Watson, and representatives from the Office of Consumer Counsel, Department of Public Health, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), Connecticut Waterworks Association, and The Metropolitan District (MDC). Panelists examined the challenges that low- and moderate-income and vulnerable families and individuals are encountering with water utility expenses. Many of these households are also struggling with the increasing costs of other basic necessities such as food, electricity, housing, and home heating.

Water and wastewater services are becoming unaffordable for many households as expenses continue to increase in order for Connecticut's water utility companies to be able to provide quality drinking water. Federal

grant funds, which previously were available to subsidize infrastructure improvements, have been eliminated. Meanwhile, water utilities must meet strict environmental standards at the state and federal level, while responding to the needs of their most vulnerable customers.

"We hope today's roundtable discussion provided a forum to begin developing ways to help low- and moderate-income customers who are struggling to pay for water and other basic needs. Partnerships such as these are critical to addressing the water affordability issue," pointed out Operation Fuel Executive Director Brenda Watson.

In April 2018, Operation Fuel and the MDC formed a partnership by piloting a water assistance program to low- and moderate-income MDC customers that are in danger of having their water service terminated. Since the program began, thanks to funding from MDC, Operation Fuel has provided nearly \$44,000 in water utility assistance grants to 111 households that were struggling to pay their water bills and were facing termination of service.

As we continue this partnership with the MDC in 2019, we hope to introduce more initiatives like a "good neighbor" donation fund to help reduce the burden on families and individuals struggling to afford water utilities.

## Operation Fuel's Inaugural Ice House!



Photos by Alex Syphers

Thank you to everyone who came out and braved the frigid cold temperatures for our first-ever Operation Fuel - Ice House Presented by Eversource Energy! During the day on January 31, 2019, visitors toured and sat in a 15' x 15' "house" made out of giant blocks of ice on the grounds of the Old State House in downtown Hartford to raise funds and awareness for the hundreds of thousands of households in our state struggling without heat or electricity.

We raised more than \$63,000 to help warm our neighbors' homes with the support of our sponsors and many generous community individuals. On behalf of the Connecticut households we will be able to assist this year, thank you to everyone who came out in the cold and supported our event!



Sr. Vice President and CCO Penni Conner and President, Corporate Citizenship Rod Powell from Eversource Energy.

Operation Fuel is also grateful for the incredible support from our generous sponsors, including: **Presenting:** Eversource Energy; **Gold:** iHeartMedia; **Silver:** AARP; **Ella Grasso:** Connecticut Energy Marketers Association (CEMA),

Connecticut Green Bank, Connecticut Public, Empire Industries, Manchester Honda/Carter Chevrolet, Robinson+Cole LLP, and Windsor Federal Savings; **Father Thomas Lynch:** Connecticut Power and Energy Society, DePino, Nuñez, and Biggs, LLC, Dillon Mailing and Printing, Ferguson & McGuire, and Karen Paterno Communications; **In Kind:** American Medical Response, Connecticut Democracy Center, Connecticut General Assembly, Dunkin' Donuts, Ferris Events, Hartford Hilton, Ice Matters, and State - Market Hartford, LLC.



Master of Ceremonies and radio personality Renee DiNino and Executive Ryan Donohue from iHeartMedia.

Though the event is over, donations are still coming in! Those who wish to help local families and individuals in need may continue to donate online at <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/operationfuel>. To see photos from the event, please visit the event page at <http://www.operationfuel.org/ice-house/>.

Thank you to everyone who "chilled out" with us!

## Town of Windsor Social Services: Partnering to Provide the Most Basic Necessity

*“Water is the driving force of all nature.” ~ Leonardo da Vinci*

There is not a more basic human need than water – when this basic necessity is unavailable, it is an extreme hardship. Water affordability has become a critical concern for many Connecticut households.

Water and wastewater services are becoming unaffordable for many households as expenses continue to increase in order for Connecticut’s water utility companies to be able to provide quality drinking water.

Operation Fuel has long recognized the need for assisting low- and moderate-income households that are faced with having their water service terminated, and started a pilot water assistance program with the Metropolitan District (MDC) in the spring of 2018. The MDC wanted to respond to the needs of their vulnerable customers and partnered with Operation Fuel and several area towns to develop this crucial program.

One of the towns that benefited from the pilot program was the Town of Windsor. In the spring of 2018, thanks to the partnership with Operation Fuel and the MDC, the Town of Windsor was able to award grants to 28 households for a total of \$10,930.28 that benefited 61 individuals, mostly single family households.

Susan Raggo, Social Services Coordinator for the Town of Windsor said, “I am grateful to Operation Fuel and the MDC for recognizing this crucial need and was pleased to partner with them to assist those in need here in Windsor. When the pilot program was initiated we were very excited because there is a real need to help people pay their water bills.”



Jasmine Hall, the Town of Windsor’s energy assistance case worker, who processes the applications for Operation Fuel.

Many of those that received assistance were referred to the Town of Windsor Social Services through the town’s Health Department and the school system. They were comprised of people who were unemployed, or on a fixed income, who were struggling to pay their water bills and were facing termination of service. According to Raggo, the need is real and as a result of the town’s long-time relationship with Operation Fuel and this pilot program with the MDC, the Town of Windsor was able to reach more people to help them pay their water utility bills.

The pilot program also awarded grants to MDC customers who live in Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky, Hill, and Wethersfield. Operation Fuel and the MDC are working together and are committed to making this program a permanent resource for customers in need in order provide them with this most basic human need.

## Donors Make it Possible for Operation Fuel to Help Struggling Households

### ► “Everybody Has Hard Times” – Operation Fuel is Here to Help

Many people know that Operation Fuel helps families and individuals pay for winter heating costs, but they may not realize Operation Fuel can help with other types of energy and utility assistance available to residents in need.

Gill Pelletier is a U.S. Army veteran and a 44-year resident of Bristol. He said he never had much trouble paying his bills while he was working, but things changed once he was retired. When the hot water heater in his home started leaking, he was worried because he did not have the money to repair it on his own. With the help of an Operation Fuel grant, Mr. Pelletier was able to replace his hot water heater before the winter cold set in.

Pelletier said he is “very grateful” to Operation Fuel for replacing his hot water heater. “With winter coming on,



Gill Pelletier.

that leak could have gotten larger, and I would have been in real big trouble,” he said. When asked how the new hot water heater is working this winter, he responded “EXCELLENT!”

Pelletier wants his fellow residents of Connecticut to know that Operation Fuel and its partners are there to help. “Everybody has hard times,” he said, “everybody. You need assistance, they will help you. Just call 211 if you’re not sure, and they will give you the information to get assistance for Operation Fuel.”

### ► “I Didn’t Know Where to Turn for Help” – Operation Fuel was There

Judi Aidukonis is a resident of Vernon. She has lived in her home for 22 years, and when the weather first turned cold this fall, Judi turned on her heat and realized something was wrong. “The smell was horrid,” she said. “The gas company came to check out my furnace and red tagged it,” meaning she would not be able to use her heat until her furnace was repaired.

Ms. Aidukonis said she had never struggled to pay for home repairs before, but she had recently lost her job and didn’t know where to turn for help. “It was a real challenge. After a few months of calling around and not finding anyone who could help, Senator Chris Murphy’s office finally put me in touch with Operation Fuel. The minute I spoke with someone at Operation Fuel it was wonderful, they were so helpful and made the process go so smoothly.”



Judi Aidukonis’s new furnace.

Three months after her furnace was first red tagged, Aidukonis’s furnace was replaced with the help of a

grant from Operation Fuel’s home system repair and replacement program. “It was a godsend” she said, “if it wasn’t for Operation Fuel, I still wouldn’t have heat. Until you’re there, you’ll never understand what people without heat go through. Nobody should have to go cold. I’m truly grateful, and I have 100% faith in Operation Fuel’s cause. You really help people.”

### ► “The Struggle is Real” – Operation Fuel is Here to Help All Year Long

After the bitter cold of winter, the warmer weather of spring might come as a relief – but for many families and individuals in Connecticut, the heat of summer brings a new set of challenges. If you are struggling to make ends meet, a missed electricity bill payment could mean spoiled food, formula, or medication in a turned off refrigerator, and no power to run the fan or air conditioner that keeps you cool.

This was the problem faced by Marisol Zaccaro, a resident of East Hartford, before she received a grant from Operation Fuel. Marisol was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) 15 years ago, and she is an active MS advocate. MS is a disease that affects the nervous system in a variety of unpredictable ways, and can cause problems like numbness, pain, paralysis, and blindness. Like many people with chronic health conditions, the summer heat can be especially dangerous for Mrs. Zaccaro’s health. She said that when it’s too hot out, “the pain I feel every day gets worse... If I’m out in the heat, I can’t even breathe. As soon as I get back into the cool air, I calm down and I feel better.” Air conditioning her home is vital to staying safe and healthy in the summer.



Pictured from Left: Brenda Watson, Operation Fuel, and Marisol Zaccaro.

A mother of three children, Zaccaro worked hard to support her family and buy their dream home, despite the often unpredictable challenges that MS can bring day to day. When her health required her to stop working at the end of May, she struggled to pay her electric bill, and without electricity she couldn’t run the air conditioner that she needed for her health. Zaccaro says she wasn’t even aware that programs like Operation Fuel existed until her longtime friend Brenda Watson reached out and connected her with her local fuel bank for assistance.

When asked how the grant from Operation Fuel impacted her, she said “It made my day. It helped me with my electric bill, and that took some stress away. Brenda is my rock, and I love her and Operation Fuel for helping me and my family focus on what’s important. I can’t thank them enough.”

## More Connecticut Households Will Stay Warm This Winter Thanks to Generous Support from GoodWorks Financial Group and CEMA

In December, Operation Fuel received a generous \$9,000 donation in addition to \$5,000 that was previously received last winter from GoodWorks Financial Group and the Connecticut Energy Marketers Association (CEMA). The funds will be used to help low- and moderate-income Connecticut families and individuals stay safe and warm this winter.

GoodWorks Financial Group matched \$4,500 provided by CEMA and its members. The check was presented to Operation Fuel at CEMA’s annual holiday party in December. This is the 3rd year that GoodWorks Financial Group has sponsored the matching challenge and supported Operation Fuel.



Pictured from left: Ed Ryan, Senior Vice President, GoodWorks Financial Group; Kim O’Brien Green, Director of Development, Operation Fuel; and Peter Russell, President of Santa Energy and Board Chair of the Connecticut Energy Marketers Association (CEMA).

“Operation Fuel is a lifesaver because one in five Connecticut residents has difficulty paying for energy,” said Greg Knight, Senior Vice President for GoodWorks Financial Group.

“Home heating oil dealers across Connecticut are honored to contribute to Operation Fuel’s mission to help people in need of energy assistance. It’s part of CEMA’s mission too,” said

CEMA Chair Peter Russell, who is also President of Santa Fuel in Bridgeport.

“We are incredibly grateful to GoodWorks Financial Group, CEMA, and its members for stepping up so generously. This much-needed support will help many Connecticut households this winter who are struggling with their energy needs,” said Kim O’Brien Green, Director of Development for Operation Fuel.

GoodWorks will make an additional grant of \$5,000 in the first quarter of 2019 and match up to \$5,000 more from CEMA members through next September, Knight announced.

Headquartered in Glastonbury, GoodWorks Financial Group is an independent insurance agency with branch offices in New Milford, Avon, and Columbia, Connecticut, and in Walnut Creek, California. It offers home, auto and business insurance, surety bonds and group health insurance.

GoodWorks donates 50 percent of its annual 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 at [www.goodworksfinancial.com](http://www.goodworksfinancial.com).

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](http://www.ctema.com).

## Featured Partners in the Community

Operation Fuel continues to receive funding 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.

### ► Community Partners

- **HCC Global Financial Products** made a very generous \$10,000 gift to Operation Fuel in November. HCC Global Financial Products is a specialty insurance company located in Farmington, CT with offices in New Jersey and Texas. One of their missions is to assist nonprofit organizations making a difference in their communities. Operation Fuel is fortunate to be one of their nonprofit partners since 2008 and we are extremely grateful for the continued support.
- In November, Operation Fuel received a \$1,000 donation from **The Duncaster Retirement Community** Outreach Committee to provide emergency energy assistance to Bloomfield households. This is the third year in a row that Operation Fuel was the beneficiary of this generous funding. Duncaster is a boutique continuing care retirement community in Bloomfield with a strong commitment to making the greater community a better place to live.

- **The Avon Connecticut Chapter of UNICO National** made a generous \$500 donation to Operation Fuel in December to provide emergency energy assistance to families in the Farmington Valley area. This is the third year in a row that the Avon Chapter of UNICO has given to Operation Fuel and our neighbors in the Farmington Valley. UNICO is the largest Italian-American heritage service organization in the United States. The Avon Chapter sponsors several merit-based college scholarships in the community and supports many local charitable organizations.



- In December, we received a contribution by **Ms. Greenspan's Grade 3 Class** at the **Race Brook School** in Orange, CT. The class held a craft fair and made projects for sale. The students decided to give some of the proceeds from the project sales to Operation Fuel. As one student said "I picked this because I do not want people to shiver or get frostbite."

... continued on page 11



Students from Ms. Greenspan's Grade 3 Class at Race Brook School.

Continued from page 10 . . . Featured Partners

### ► Faith Community Partners

- In October, **St. John's Episcopal Church** in West Hartford made a very generous donation of \$2,000 to Operation Fuel to provide emergency energy assistance for struggling households in Hartford County. St. John's Episcopal Church has been a supporter of Operation Fuel since 1991 and is a welcoming congregation that offers many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and engagement within a warm and diverse community.
- **The Ladies Home Missionary Society** of the First Church of Christ in New Haven/Center Church on the Green generously donated \$1,000 to Operation Fuel in late December. The Ladies Home Missionary Society has been a generous supporter of Operation Fuel since 2007.
- **United Church on the Green** in New Haven made a very generous donation of \$872 to Operation Fuel in January, representing donations collected at their Christmas Eve service. The Church was established in 1742 and is a progressive Protestant Christian church and member of the United Church of Christ (UCC). We have received funding from United Church on the Green since 2005.



- **First Church Congregational** in Fairfield made a very generous donation of \$795 to Operation Fuel in November as part of their Minute for Mission collection. Operation Fuel has been the grateful recipient of these generous collections since 1995. First Church Congregational is an open and affirming church committed to serving in Metropolitan Bridgeport and throughout the world.
- **Emanuel Lutheran Church** in Hartford made a very generous donation of \$750 to Operation Fuel in late December, representing funds from their Stanley Sandberg Mission Endowment Fund. This is the second year in a row that we have received generous support from the Church. Emanuel Lutheran Church was founded in 1889 by Swedish immigrants who settled in the Frog Hollow neighborhood of Hartford.



IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

## Why I GI♥E

We recently contacted some of our long-time 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.

*"It's a miserable feeling being cold. You can't relax, have to keep moving around, and can't focus on much more than just warming up a little and feeling a little more comfortable. I have the luxury of being able to turn up the heat a few degrees if I'm chilled. We tend to keep our house on the cool side, but I am always grateful that I have the option to bump up the heat a couple of degrees without having to worry about other expenses. For those struggling to get by, just a few degrees is a luxury that can't be afforded without sacrificing other essentials. I contribute to Operation Fuel so that people can feel a little more 'at home' at home."* – **Peter from Suffield, CT**

*"By joining with thousands of others who support Operation Fuel, we are able to make more of an impact in the lives of some of our more vulnerable neighbors than we possibly could on our own. Together, we are helping real people whose children may need a warm place to study or whose ill family member may need energy to operate life-saving equipment."* – **Ann and Mike from West Hartford, CT**

*"I was discharged from the United States Air Force in 1969 after five years of service, three of which were overseas. I returned to the States with a new wife, new baby, and too soon, a new house. Money was tight. It was often difficult to make ends meet. A converted parlor stove accepted the wood we used to save on fuel oil. After a few dead-end jobs, my wife and I decided to use the G.I. Bill and work part-time to support ourselves, while I completed my college degree. Upon completion I was fortunate enough to secure a professional position. Thirty years later I was able to retire with a defined pension. It plus social security provided enough disposable income so we could support selected charities. We wanted to support charities that would make a difference in our community. Operation Fuel does that."* – **Brian from South Windsor, CT**

## Hartford Foundation Awards Generous Grants to Help Operation Fuel Applicants

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has awarded a total of \$89,992 in energy and utility assistance grants to Operation Fuel as well as grants totaling \$7,500 for general operating support.

The following grants were awarded for energy assistance: \$29,992 from the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund, \$20,000 from the Edith W. and John Davis Murphy Fund, \$10,000 from the Natalie and Norma Sestero Fund, and \$10,000 through the Stanley D. and Hilda N. Fisher Fund. A \$20,000 grant was awarded from the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund and other funds at the Hartford Foundation for utilities assistance to address basic human needs.

Operation Fuel also received the following grants for general operating support: \$5,000 through the Budd Family Fund, \$2,000 through the Beth Schiro Fund, and \$500 through the Ann E. Thomas and Michael B. Bonzagni Fund.

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 \$750 million since its founding in 1925. For more information about the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, visit [www.hfpg.org](http://www.hfpg.org) or call 860-548-1888.



### Additional Grant Awards of Note Received in FY19\* Include:

NAME	FY19
Wayne Eisenbaum Charitable Foundation	\$20,000.00
The Connecticut Credit Union Charitable Foundation	\$16,000.00
The Renee B. Fisher Foundation Fund	\$15,000.00
William and Alice Mortensen Foundation	\$10,000.00
HCC Global Financial Products	\$10,000.00
ERJ Fund	\$5,500.00
Frank Loomis Palmer Fund	\$5,500.00
Laura J. Niles Foundation, Inc.	\$5,000.00
Connecticut Health Foundation	\$5,000.00
Thomas Atkins Memorial Fund Trust	\$5,000.00
James H. Napier Foundation	\$5,000.00
Marion Isabell Coe Fund	\$5,000.00
Farmington Bank Community Foundation	\$5,000.00
Feldman Family Philanthropic Fund	\$5,000.00
People's United Community Foundation	\$4,500.00
Katharine Matthies Foundation	\$4,500.00
Bruyette Family Foundation	\$4,000.00
Ion Bank Foundation	\$3,000.00
George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation	\$3,000.00
George H. C. Ensworth Memorial Fund	\$3,000.00
Fuller Family Foundation	\$2,500.00
The Franklin Conklin Foundation	\$2,000.00
The Hartford	\$1,500.00
Webster Bank	\$1,500.00
The Sandra and Arnold Chase Family Foundation, Inc.	\$1,250.00
The McCormack Foundation	\$1,000.00
Aldo DeDominicis Foundation	\$800.00

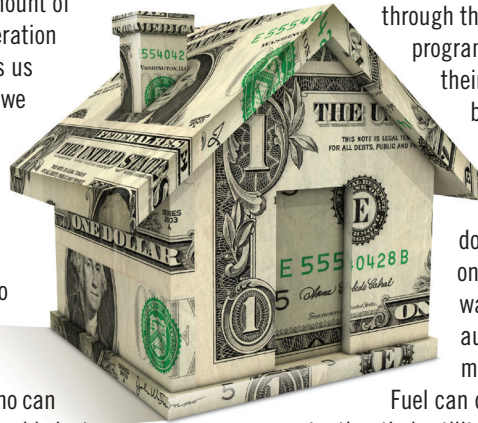
\*Grant awards received from July 1, 2018 through March 15, 2019.

## Add-a-Dollar: Did You Check the Box?

Join the thousands of Connecticut utility customers who contribute one dollar or more each month by checking the Add-a-Dollar box on your utility bill. One hundred percent of all donations are used to provide energy assistance grants to support your neighbors in need.

The Add-a-Dollar program raises a significant amount of money for Operation Fuel and gives us the resources we need to ensure that vulnerable Connecticut households have access to heat and electricity.

“If everyone who can afford to do so adds just one dollar to their monthly utility bill, it will make a world of difference for the many families and individuals who are trying to keep their heat and electricity on. Every dollar donated to the Add-a-Dollar program goes directly to providing energy assistance,” said



Operation Fuel's Director of Development Kim O'Brien Green.

Since Operation Fuel started the Add-a-Dollar program in late 1983, it has provided nearly \$19 million in energy assistance to vulnerable Connecticut households.

Connecticut utility customers are able to contribute to Operation Fuel through the Add-a-Dollar program when paying their monthly utility bills 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.

In addition to the Add-a-Dollar program, donations for Operation Fuel can be made online at [www.operationfuel.org](http://www.operationfuel.org) or mailed to Operation Fuel, 75 Charter Oak Avenue, Suite 2-240, Hartford, CT 06106.

## 2018-2019 Board of Directors

**Allan Smith, Chair**  
Manchester Sports Center

**Megan Brown, Co-Chair**  
Thames Valley Council for  
Community Action

**Camilla Hillian, Secretary**  
Bloomfield Social & Youth Services

**Richard Schauster, Treasurer**  
Empire Industries, Retired

**Charles “Chuck” Anderson**  
State of CT Department of Social Services

**Arianna Baret Peralta**  
Eversource Energy

**Daniel Canavan**  
UIL Holdings Corporation

**Courtney Chan**  
Town of Coventry

**Melissa Davis-Hussain**  
US Department of Veteran Affairs

**Denise Rhone**  
Connecticut Women's Education  
and Legal Fund (CWEALF)



### Sustain and Simplify Your Support to Operation Fuel

You can simplify your giving to Operation Fuel by making an affordable recurring gift by credit card. By signing up for a recurring gift you can help provide steady, reliable funding through a monthly, quarterly, or annual gift.

Recurring gifts can be made in any amount and allow you to make a larger commitment and space out the payments while providing continuous support to Operation Fuel.

It is easy to enroll with a credit card using our safe and secure online form. Visit <http://www.operationfuel.org/give-help/>. Select “Recurring Gifts” under “Ways to Give” and click on the “Set Up a Recurring Gift Now” button to get started.

Thank you! Your recurring support will play a vital role in our mission and make a real, lasting impact on the lives of working families, the elderly on a fixed income, the disabled, and others who are struggling with their energy costs.



**Our Mission:** Operation Fuel ensures equitable access to energy for all by providing year-round energy assistance, promoting energy independence, and advocating for affordable energy.



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## INSIDE THE OPERATION

SPRING 2019

# 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](http://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.