



**Annual Report**  
to  
**The General Assembly**  
*State of Connecticut*

**For the period**  
*July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006*

**OPERATION FUEL, INC.**

**One Regency Drive**  
**Suite #311**  
**Bloomfield CT 06002**  
**(860) 243-2345**

**Chair**  
**Executive Director**

**Lucy Davis**  
**Patricia J. Wrice**

**OPERATION FUEL, INC.**  
**2005 – 2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Operation Fuel Mission Statement	2
Annual Report and Program Description	3
Survey of Client Assistance	5
Fuel Bank Disbursements & Households Served	6
Cumulative Disbursements to Fuel Banks 10/1/83 - 6/30/2006	7
Add-A-Dollar Donations 10/1/83 - 6/30/2006	8
Board of Directors and Staff	9
<u>Appendix</u>	
Operation Fuel, Inc. Audited Financial Statements, 2005-06 (Sawicki & Lombardozi LLC, Certified Public Accountants)	10
Report of Independent Auditors	
Balance Sheets	
Statements of Activities and Change in Net Assets	
Statements of Functional Expenses	
Statements of Cash Flows	
Notes to Financial Statements	

# **OPERATION FUEL, INC.**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Operation Fuel partners with communities, businesses, government, and individuals to ensure people in need have access to year-round energy assistance. (January 2006)

Operation Fuel is an independent statewide interfaith program composed of various constituencies including religion, labor, business, utilities, government, oil industry and community agencies.

## **Annual Report and Program Description**

### **Legislative History**

In 1983, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 83-505 mandating gas and electric companies serving more than 75,000 customers to provide an opportunity for their customers to add one dollar to their monthly bill payment, the contributions to be forwarded to Operation Fuel. The effective date of the add-a-dollar program was October 1, 1983. Section (C) of this statute requires Operation Fuel to submit to the General Assembly a CPA Audit and Program Report on the use of these utility related donations. This report is submitted to satisfy the legislative mandate for fiscal year July 1, 2005- June 30, 2006.

Operation Fuel began in 1977 as a program of the Christian Conference of Connecticut, a nonprofit statewide ecumenical religious agency. In August 1989 the Internal Revenue Service recognized Operation Fuel, Inc. as a (501)-(C)-(3) tax-exempt organization. During the 1989 legislative session, Public Act 83-505 was amended by deleting reference to the Christian Conference and designating Operation Fuel, Inc. as the recipient and administrator of add-a-dollar funds. All other provisions of the original legislation remained intact.

### **2005-06 Program Year Highlights**

In the winter of 2005, Operation Fuel began a strategic planning process, a project supported in part with a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The board hired the consulting firms of Jeffery Daniels Consulting, and Ampersand Consulting. The plan was produced after extensive review of internal and external issues facing Operation Fuel. The plan directs Operation Fuel's strategy as it seeks to increase its influence, transform internal operations to meet new challenges, and grow its unique niche in Connecticut.

During fiscal year July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, Operation Fuel's Board of Directors awarded financial grants totaling \$859,153 to 60 fuel banks throughout the state of Connecticut. These funds were used to provide emergency energy assistance to Connecticut residents in 2,913 households. No Operation Fuel monies were used for administrative expenses by local fuel banks.

Operation Fuel provides emergency energy assistance to poor households in crisis that are not eligible for public energy assistance, and have incomes from 151% to 200% of the federal poverty level. This mission grew out of deep concern for families struggling to survive on low incomes, and for whom financial and medical emergencies would result in their inability to pay for heat and utilities to keep their homes warm in the winter.

Of the households served this past season, 1,368 were facing utility shut-off due to high arrearages, and an inability to make reasonable payments. Households in need of deliverable fuels totaled 1,635. These working poor, and fixed income families were unable to pay their bills due to sudden unemployment, illness, abandonment/divorce, death, and insufficient funds to meet basic needs.

Operation Fuel is not an entitlement program. The eligibility criteria are determined on income guidelines, and documented crisis. The program helps people who are temporarily confronted with the choice between heating their homes, feeding their families, or paying for medical bills. This year, the board of directors voted to increase the maximum energy grants from \$275 to \$400 per household.

### **Partnership in Service**

The foundation of the Operation Fuel program continues to be the partnership between the local energy banks and the Operation Fuel Board of Directors. The local directors are very aware of and sensitive to the economy and service needs in their community. When appropriate, most fuel banks offer their clients budget counseling and referrals to other resources such as food pantries, day care, legal services, treatment centers and housing advocacy. Local fuel bank directors and their organizations are committed to serving their communities.

### **Agency Administration**

The Operation Fuel office, located in Bloomfield Connecticut is administered by a volunteer board of directors, a full time paid executive director, and three part-time professional staff. The board of directors has the fiduciary responsibility for the agency in carrying out its mission. The Operation Fuel organization manages the add-a-dollar program, raises additional energy assistance funds, supervises grant distribution, conducts fiscal and program audits of its fuel bank network, and provides technical assistance through statewide and regional meetings.

Operation Fuel maintains relationships and dialogues on energy assistance issues with the Connecticut congressional delegation, legislative and state officials, social service agencies, utilities, the oil industry, and is responsible for public relations and marketing of the agency in the broader community. The executive director is a member of the Governor's Low Income Energy Advisory Committee.

### **Funding Resources**

The major share of money donated to Operation Fuel comes from the add-a-dollar program facilitated by the gas and electric utility companies. These contributions combined with shareholder matching funds totaled \$ 495,053 this program year.

Additional funds used for energy assistance grants are raised outside of the add-a-dollar program from individuals, religious organizations, foundations, and businesses. This year Operation Fuel received \$ 853,342 in addition to contributions received through the utilities.

Operating costs traditionally have been covered through separate fundraising efforts. Other resources for administrative support come from utility company corporate giving programs, foundations, religious groups, businesses and individuals.

The Board of Directors and Staff extend heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has supported the Operation Fuel program through the years. We take seriously the stewardship role assigned to us by thousands of Connecticut residents who care about the emergency energy needs of those less fortunate than themselves.

Lucy Davis, Chair

Patricia J Wrice, Executive Director

# **OPERATION FUEL, INC.**

## **2005- 2006 SEASON**

### **Annual Survey of Client Assistance**

Network energy banks complete an annual survey form describing the disbursement of Operation Fuel financial grants to households throughout the state. The following information describes the number of people and households assisted and the distribution of funds to fuel banks and energy vendors from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

### **7,540 Individuals Provided Energy Assistance**

**43 %** - Adults 18-59 yrs

**45 %** - Children under 18 yrs

**12 %** - Elderly and Disabled

### **2,913 Households Assisted**

<b>19%</b> from Region 1	(Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk, etc.)
<b>21%</b> from Region 2	(New Haven, Derby, Meriden, etc.)
<b>26%</b> from Region 3	(Norwich, Willimantic, Danielson, etc.)
<b>16%</b> from Region 4	(Hartford, Manchester, Windsor, etc.)
<b>18%</b> from Region 5	(Waterbury, Torrington, Danbury, etc.)

### **Energy Assistance Provided By Fuel Type**

**25%** - Gas Heat & Utility

**32%** - Electric Heat & Utility

**43%** - Oil Heat & Other Deliverable Fuels

**OPERATION FUEL -- 2005/06 SEASON -- GRANTS AND HOUSEHOLDS SERVED REPORT**

REGION / LOCATION	FUEL BANK NAME	FY2005-06 NET GRANTS	REGION TOTAL	HOUSE- HOLDS SERVED	REGION TOTAL
1 BRIDGEPORT	THE SALVATION ARMY	182,154		414	
1 DARIEN	PERSON-TO-PERSON	0		0	
1 GREENWICH	GREENWICH FUEL BANK	10,000		40	
1 MONROE	MONROE SOCIAL SERVICES	1,673		5	
1 NORWALK	NORWALK ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NEON)	10,000		32	
1 STAMFORD	FAITH TABERNACLE FUEL BANK	21,839		69	
<b>REGION 1 TOTAL</b>			<b>\$225,665</b>		<b>560</b>
2 BRANFORD	BRANFORD COUNSELING CENTER FUEL FUND	399		1	
2 DERBY	T.E.A.M., INC.	25,000		76	
2 MERIDEN	NEW OPPORTUNITIES OF GREATER MERIDEN	25,200		93	
2 NEW HAVEN	GREATER NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY FUEL BANK	115,000		386	
2 PLAINVILLE	PLAINVILLE FUEL BANK	2,500		11	
2 WALLINGFORD	WALLINGFORD FUEL BANK	12,299		46	
<b>REGION 2 TOTAL</b>			<b>\$180,398</b>		<b>613</b>
3 COLCHESTER	COLCHESTER FUEL BANK	2,871		8	
3 CROMWELL	CROMWELL HUMAN SERVICES	1,500		8	
3 DANIELSON	DANIELSON METHODIST FUEL FUND	21,573		82	
3 EAST HAMPTON	EAST HAMPTON VOLUNTEER FUEL BANK	1,000		6	
3 GROTON	GROTON EMERGENCY ENERGY FUND	2,970		11	
3 HEBRON	HEBRON INTERFAITH	4,005		12	
3 LEBANON	WARM HEARTS	1,787		6	
3 MIDDLETOWN	ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PLACE	6,000		25	
3 MONTVILLE	TOWN OF MONTVILLE DEPT OF SENIOR SOCIAL SERVICES	1,000		4	
3 NEW LONDON	NEW LONDON ENERGY LINE INC.	59,697		192	
3 NORWICH	NORWICH FUEL BANK (CATHOLIC CHARITIES)	51,488		190	
3 PAWCATUCK	PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER	3,714		15	
3 ROCKY HILL	TOWN OF ROCKY HILL HUMAN SERVICES	3,250		12	
3 STONINGTON	STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES	7,500		30	
3 THOMPSON	THOMPSON ECUMENICAL EMPOWERMENT GROUP(TEEG)	30,000		115	
3 WILLIMANTIC	WAIM EMERGENCY FUEL BANK	12,000		52	
<b>REGION 3 TOTAL</b>			<b>\$210,355</b>		<b>768</b>
4 AVON	GIFTS OF LOVE	2,958		10	
4 BLOOMFIELD	BLOOMFIELD SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES	5,871		21	
4 BRISTOL	BRISTOL FUEL BANK	1,615		10	
4 EAST GRANBY	EAST GRANBY EMERGENCY FUEL BANK	400		1	
4 EAST HARTFORD	TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD FUEL BANK	7,966		33	
4 ENFIELD	ECCC FUEL BANK	10,064		37	
4 GLASTONBURY	TOWN OF GLASTONBURY FUEL BANK	1,663		9	
4 GRANBY	GRANBY EMERGENCY FUEL BANK	999		3	
4 HARTFORD	COMMUNITY RENEWAL TEAM, INC. FUEL BANK	36,819		158	
4 MANCHESTER	MANCHESTER AREA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES	3,500		21	
4 NEW BRITIAN	MARY KNOWLES MEMORIAL FUEL BANK	15,000		46	
4 NEWINGTON	TOWN OF NEWINGTON DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES	3,000		14	
4 SOUTH WINDSOR	SOUTH WINDSOR FOOD AND FUEL BANK	3,200		15	
4 STAFFORD	TOWN OF STAFFORD FUEL BANK	2,000		8	
4 SUFFIELD	EMERGENCY AID ASSOCIATION FUEL BANK	3,013		12	
4 VERNON	TRI-TOWN FUEL BANK	1,789		5	
4 WEST HARTFORD	TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD	2,500		11	
4 WETHERSFIELD	WETHERSFIELD EMERGENCY FUEL BANK	5,948		23	
4 WINDSOR	WINDSOR FUEL BANK	6,500		22	
<b>REGION 4 TOTAL</b>			<b>\$114,804</b>		<b>459</b>
5 BETHEL	BETHEL FUEL FUND	1,983		7	
5 BROOKFIELD	BROOKFIELD EMERGENCY FUEL FUND	3,669		14	
5 DANBURY	DANBURY FUEL BANK	10,000		65	
5 MIDDLEBURY	MIDDLEBURY OPERATION FUEL	2,780		11	
5 NEW FAIRFIELD	NEW FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY FUEL BANK	2,000		6	
5 NEW MILFORD	COMMUNITY FUEL BANK OF NEW MILFORD	0		0	
5 NEWTOWN	NEWTOWN FUEL BANK	4,000		11	
5 RIDGEFIELD	RIDGEFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES	250		1	
5 SOUTHURY	SOUTHURY FUEL BANK	8,990		43	
5 TORRINGTON	TORRINGTON CHAPTER OF FISH, INC.	52,000		169	
5 WATERBURY	NEW OPPORTUNITIES, INC.	42,261		186	
<b>REGION 5 TOTAL</b>			<b>\$127,932</b>		<b>513</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>		<b>\$859,153</b>		<b>2,913</b>	

**Operation Fuel, Inc.**  
**Cumulative Grant Disbursements to Fuel Banks**  
**October 1, 1983 - June 30, 2006**

October 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984	\$257,320
July 1, 1984 - June 30, 1985	\$359,500
July 1, 1985 - June 30, 1986	\$377,788
July 1, 1986 - June 30, 1987	\$403,050
July 1, 1987 - June 30, 1988	\$546,700
July 1, 1988 - June 30, 1989	\$549,770
July 1, 1989 - June 30, 1990	\$604,150
July 1, 1990 - June 30, 1991	\$680,650
July 1, 1991 - June 30, 1992	\$866,850
July 1, 1992 - June 30, 1993	\$717,476
July 1, 1993 - June 30, 1994	\$690,521
July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995	\$566,594
July 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996	\$629,400
July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997	\$732,184 *
July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998	\$532,337
July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999	\$683,195
July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000	\$770,081
July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001	\$777,838
July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002	\$680,581
July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003	\$842,043
July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004	\$703,153
July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005	\$808,662
July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006	<u>\$859,153</u>
<b>Total Disbursements: 10/1/83 - 6/30/06</b>	<b>\$14,638,996</b>

*\*Net grants are shown from this date forward.*

**Operation Fuel, Inc.**  
**History of Utility Contributions and Fuel Bank Grants**

<b>Program Year Ending</b>	<b>Utility Contributions<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Households Served</b>	<b>Fuel Bank Grants<sup>2</sup></b>
June 30, 1984	\$232,904	1,045	\$257,320
June 30, 1985	\$313,173	1,866	\$359,500
June 30, 1986	\$379,703	1,939	\$377,788
June 30, 1987	\$386,961	1,847	\$403,050
June 30, 1988	\$524,162	2,510	\$546,700
June 30, 1989	\$538,539	2,643	\$549,770
June 30, 1990	\$554,949	2,569	\$604,150
June 30, 1991	\$629,926	2,872	\$680,650
June 30, 1992	\$726,977	4,568	\$866,850
June 30, 1993	\$679,041	3,780	\$717,476
June 30, 1994	\$617,820	3,511	\$690,521
June 30, 1995	\$561,686	2,765	\$566,594
June 30, 1996	\$565,834	3,244	\$629,400
June 30, 1997	\$506,771	4,175	\$732,184
June 30, 1998	\$482,632	3,274	\$532,337
June 30, 1999	\$573,941	3,745	\$683,195
June 30, 2000	\$495,638	3,898	\$770,081
June 30, 2001	\$523,598	3,699	\$777,838
June 30, 2002	\$530,032	3,818	\$680,581
June 30, 2003	\$505,083	4,716	\$842,043
June 30, 2004	\$485,824	3,336	\$703,153
June 30, 2005	\$505,857	3,983	\$808,662
June 30, 2006	\$495,053	2,914	\$859,153
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$11,816,104</b>	<b>\$72,717</b>	<b>\$14,638,996</b>

**Fiscal Year 2005-06 Utility Contributions**

	<u>Add-A-Dollar</u>	<u>Shareholder Match</u>	<u>Customer Checks</u>
Connecticut Natural Gas	44,046		
Northeast Utilities	284,617	65,000	10,796
Norwich DPU	3,949		
Southern Connecticut Gas	10,063		
United Illuminating	34,079	19,921	
Yankee Gas Co.	22,583		
	<b>\$399,336</b>	<b>\$84,921</b>	<b>\$10,796</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes Add-a-Dollar, shareholder matching funds, & utility customer checks.

<sup>2</sup> Funding sources for fuel bank grants include contributions from utilities, individuals, religious organizations, businesses and foundations.

<sup>3</sup> Net grants are shown from this fiscal year forward.

## Operation Fuel 2005/ 2006 Board of Directors/ Staff

Lucy Davis, Chair  
Yankee Gas Services  
164 Cumberland Avenue  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Ken Burton  
East River Energy  
401 Soundview Road  
Guilford, CT 06437-0388

Judy Veslocki, Vice Chair  
Strategic Management Division  
450 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Robert M. Levin  
Law Offices of Nair & Levin PC  
707 Bloomfield Avenue  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Ronald J. Walsh, Treasurer  
Walsh, Merrill & Brousseau, PC  
750 Main Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

Lindsay Parke  
Northeast Utilities  
101 Charter Oak Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Carlene Taylor, Secretary  
State of CT Dept. of Social Services  
25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Gary A. Rhule, MD  
St. Francis Hospital, Emergency Dept.  
114 Woodland Street  
Hartford, CT 06105

Joanne Balaschak  
New Opportunities, Inc.  
232 North Elm Street  
Waterbury, CT 06702

Janine Saunders  
Norwich Public Utilities  
173 South Main Street  
Norwich, CT 06360

Mark Berns  
Palace Aids Fireplace, Pool & Spa Center  
1083 East Main Street  
Torrington, CT 06790

Donald Zemaitis  
Southern CT Gas/Connecticut Natural Gas  
76 Meadow Street  
East Hartford, CT 06108

Celestine I. Bishop  
United Illuminating Co.  
157 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06506

Ronald Gregory, Sr.  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church  
28 Prospect Street  
Enfield, CT 0608

### Staff

Patricia J. Wrice, Executive Director  
Dianna Goode, Director of Development  
Joyce Adrian, Executive Assistant