

Join Us For Our Burn Calories For Fuel 5K Run/Walk

When: Saturday, April 9, 2011

Where: The Metropolitan Learning Center
1551 Hills Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Cost: Pre-register -\$25 per runner/walker
Register the day of the race - \$30 per runner/walker

Time: Check in begins at 8:00 am.
The race starts at 9:00 am.



To pre-register visit us at www.operationfuel.org or at www.hartfordmarathon.com



Many Thanks To Our Sponsors:

Presenting Sponsors: Aetna, Northeast Utilities, Dominion

Finish Line Sponsor: Best Oil Company

Mile Marker Sponsors: Brothers Oil, Budget Oil, Hometown Heating

Food & Beverage Sponsor: Burtons

Radio Sponsor: Clear Channel Hartford

TV Sponsor: NBC30

Operation Fuel | One Regency Drive | Bloomfield, CT 06002 | (860) 243-2345 | operationfuel.org



Operation Fuel, Inc.

WE'RE ALL PART OF THE OPERATION.

Our Mission:

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

How to Contribute

Send a Check

- Send a check payable to Operation Fuel to:
Operation Fuel
One Regency Drive, Suite 200
Bloomfield, CT 06002

- Or you can write out a check to Operation Fuel 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 or more 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 become enrolled in an automatic Add-a-Dollar program.

Donate Online

- Donate online through Operation Fuel's secure website, www.operationfuel.org. Click on the "Donate Now" 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 the Director of Development at (860) 243-2345.

Join Our Newsletter

- To help us make the most of our resources, we'd like to keep you updated by subscribing to our newsletter. Simply visit www.operationfuel.org and enter your email address to subscribe.

Be Part of the Operation

- If you are a corporation or business wishing to partner with Operation Fuel please contact the Director of Development at (860) 243-2345.



Operation Fuel, Inc.

WE'RE ALL PART OF THE OPERATION.

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In this Issue:

Operation Fuel Elects Two New Board Members

Join Us For Our Burn Calories For Fuel 5K Run/Walk

A Word from the Executive Director

Less Than a Cup of Coffee

Save Money and Energy While Helping Families Stay Warm This Winter

Operation Fuel Asks State Legislators to Adopt Low Income Residential Utility Rate

Canavan Named to Hartford's 40 Under Forty

Annual Giving Campaign Targets \$1 Million

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INSIDE THE OPERATION

Winter 2011

Operation Fuel Stops Taking Applications While Waiting for Additional Donations

Operation Fuel temporarily has stopped taking new applications for energy assistance, while the non-profit tries to raise additional funds.

From December 1 through February 24, Operation Fuel and its network of more than 100 fuel banks had committed nearly \$878,000 in grants to more than 2,500 households for the winter program. Executive Director Patricia Wrice said Operation Fuel hopes to raise an additional \$200,000 to keep the winter energy assistance program running through May.

This winter has been especially difficult. During the last week of January, Operation Fuel's fuel banks processed more applications than they did for the entire month of January 2010.

Wrice said, "We knew we had to run a limited emergency energy assistance program this winter. But we didn't expect to give out this much money by now." For the past two years, in addition to private donations, Operation Fuel had received grant money from the state of Connecticut. But there are no funds available this year.

The non-profit has limited its winter program to serve only homes that heat with deliverable fuel such as home heating oil. Households that heat with natural gas or electricity must apply to their utility company for the winter protection program, which runs from November 1 to April 30. Winter protection will end on May 1, and then Operation Fuel wants to start helping households that face losing their utility service.

Operation Fuel Elects Two New Board Members



Patricia Wrice, Executive Director, Lynn Vasquez, Mark Berns, Board Chair and Nancy Bulkeley

Nancy Bulkeley and Lynn Vasquez have been elected to Operation Fuel's board of directors. Bulkeley, who lives in Pawcatuck, is the community affairs representative for Dominion Nuclear Connecticut. Vasquez, who lives in Newington, is a senior program administrator in economic development and community relations for Northeast Utilities.



A Word from the Executive Director

Dear Friends
of Operation Fuel:

I want to thank you for your continued support and generosity. Your donations have allowed Operation Fuel to lend a hand this past year to thousands of Connecticut residents in crisis.

From December 1 through the end of February, we have committed nearly \$900,000 in grants for over 2,500 households. During the last week of January, our fuel banks processed more applications than they did for the entire month of January 2010.

Unfortunately, there is a much greater need for energy assistance than we have the resources to meet. Operation Fuel temporarily has had to stop taking new applications for energy assistance, while we try to raise additional funds.

As it is, we've been running a limited winter program, serving only homes that heat with deliverable fuel such as home heating oil. We've asked households that heat with natural gas or electricity to apply to their utility company for the winter protection program, which runs from November 1 to April 30. When winter protection ends on May 1, Operation Fuel wants to start helping households that face losing their utility service.

If there is any way that you can contribute, please consider making a small donation. As always, anything that you are able to do is greatly appreciated. Meanwhile, Operation Fuel will do its best to help Connecticut's families and elderly.

Sincerely,

Patricia Wrice
Executive Director, Operation Fuel

2010-2011 Board of Directors

Mark Berns, Chairman
Palace Fireplace, Pool & Spa

Daniel Canavan, Vice Chairman
Northeast Utilities

Carlene Taylor, Secretary
State of CT. Dept. of Social Services

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To Our Donors: Thank You! We Couldn't Do It Without You

Throughout Operation Fuel's 34-year history, individual donors have been a major lifeline for the non-profit program. It is donors who give \$50 or less annually that make up the majority of individual contributions.

"Our energy assistance program never could have grown to the level it has and accomplished so much through the years, without the loyal support of our individual donors," explains Executive Director Patricia Wrice adding. "I wish that I could personally thank each and everyone one of our contributors."

Without Operation Fuel's charitable dollars, many families and senior citizens would have no where else to turn. Here are just a few examples of some of the people that Operation Fuel has helped recently.

About to Run Out of Oil

An 85-year-old woman, who still lives in the home where she raised her family, was running out of fuel. Although she lives alone, she's determined to remain in her home despite rising costs and health problems. Marion Zambory, a social worker for the town of Wallingford's department of Youth & Social Services, recalled: "She contacted me (Operation Fuel) and in the tiniest and shakiest of voices she said, 'I am very close to being out of oil, and I'm afraid I will run out. I don't know what to do.'" After completing the application, her oil was delivered the next day.

Mom and Young Son Without Gas Service for Months

When a single mom with a young son had her gas service turned off last spring she wasn't quite sure what to do. Despite having a job, she was struggling financially. The previous winter, she'd had trouble keeping up with her gas bill. Her apartment is heated with natural gas.

By October, it was getting cold again and she knew she needed to do something. She contacted the fuel bank in her shoreline town and, after filling out an application, qualified for an Operation Fuel grant. "Operation Fuel helped to have my services reconnected and my son and I were able to be warm again. I really appreciated their services and I hope that other families who are in need will be able to access their services," explained the extremely grateful mother.

Elderly on a Fixed Income

An 82-year-old South Windsor resident relies on her social security and a small pension to live on. But in February the high cost of oil was too much for her fragile budget. She knew she couldn't afford both an oil delivery and her basic monthly expenses. So she called the town's human services department and, after completing an application, was approved the next day for an Operation Fuel grant. This was among 15 applications processed by South Windsor Human Services from January 22 to February 14 for a total of \$5,250 in Operation Fuel grants for South Windsor residents.

Paraprofessional Didn't Get Paid for Snow Days

A South Windsor woman is working as a paraprofessional at an area school. She works very hard to be self sufficient and provide her children with basic necessities, but does not get paid when school is closed for snow days. In January, she could not pay for both an oil delivery and groceries because of the loss of income from all of the snow days and the high price of oil. "When she called me, we were able to get her approved for Operation Fuel. She was very thankful and felt a burden had been lifted off of her shoulders knowing that she could meet all of her children's needs," explained Lindsey Ravalese, social services coordinator for the town of South Windsor.

Editors Note:

It has been a tradition at Operation Fuel to list all donors who made a gift in the previous fiscal year in our newsletter, but due to the costs involved we have decided to give you all one great big Thank you!

Operation Fuel will be able to give the gift of light and warmth to over 150 families with the resources saved.

As we move more towards electronic communication we encourage you to sign up for our e-news. You may sign up on our website: www.operationfuel.org.

THANK YOU to all our donors, without your support too many Connecticut families would be left in the cold dark.

**Less Than a Cup of Coffee****Who says a dollar can't help these days?**

Did you know that one of the easiest ways to help Operation Fuel is to add a dollar (or more) to your electric or gas bill? Last year, the program ADD-A-DOLLAR raised \$516,284 for Operation Fuel.

All utility companies in Connecticut participate in Operation Fuel's Add-A DOLLAR program. Just check off the box on your bill's return receipt, it is located near the perforation line. All of the donations are collected by the utility and then turned over to Operation Fuel, Inc. Pay your bill electronically? No problem, simply follow the instructions for the individual utility when setting up your account.

Save Money and Energy While Helping Families Stay Warm This Winter

Wallingford, Conn., -- Connecticut residents, who are customers of the Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P), can make their homes more energy efficient while helping Operation Fuel keep another family's home warm this winter.

Competitive Resources Inc. (CRI) will make a \$25 donation to Operation Fuel for every CL&P customer who schedules a home energy assessment in support of the non-profit energy assistance program through April 15. Operation Fuel is a private, non-profit statewide program that provides emergency energy assistance to lower-income working families and elderly residents who are in financial crisis and not eligible for energy assistance from government-funded programs.

"Having a home energy assessment is a wonderful way to conserve energy and save money for your household, while helping another family stay warm this winter. There are many families and senior citizens who, through no fault of their own, are struggling to pay their energy bills. Some recently have lost jobs or are retirees living on a limited income. Operation Fuel's mission is to ensure that no home in Connecticut is without heat this winter," explained Operation Fuel's Executive Director Patricia Wrice.

For a co-pay of \$75, which is subject to change, CL&P customers who participate in Home Energy Solutions (HES) will receive an average of \$700 in services and installed products that will help make their homes more energy efficient and lower their energy bills by an average of \$200 annually.

Remember to check off the box; otherwise your donation will appear as a credit on your next statement. You may also contact the utility and enroll in an automatic Add –A-DOLLAR contribution.

100 percent of the donations made to our Add-A-DOLLAR program are used for emergency energy assistance. Some of the utility companies also match a percentage of the funds raised.

For less than a cup of coffee!

If we all gave one dollar every month Operation Fuel could help over 2,500 families a month.

The statewide HES program is administered by electric utility companies in Connecticut, including CL&P, through funds provided by the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund. CRI of Wallingford, Conn., is an authorized Home Energy Solutions provider for all participating electric, gas, and municipal utilities in Connecticut.

During the home energy assessment, CRI's certified technicians will make energy saving improvements that includes identifying and sealing air leaks and drafts, installing improved lighting, analyzing appliances and insulation, installing water-saving devices and more.

CL&P customers can schedule an appointment by calling 888-403-3500 or by going to www.criprograms.com. CL&P must approve all applications and the offer is subject to the availability of funding from the Energy Efficiency Fund. This offer is only valid and redeemable at the time of the HES services. When calling to schedule a home energy assessment, customers should have their CL&P account number available and mention Operation Fuel.

