



News Release

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2010 FUEL FUND ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN BEGINS THIS WEEK

Fuel Fund Donation Envelopes Will be in this Month's BGE Bill.

Baltimore, MD – Beginning this week, BGE customers will see the addition of the annual Fuel Fund of Maryland donation envelope in their gas and electric bills. The envelopes, which will hit 1.2 million homes in Maryland, will be included in both the December and January BGE bills.

In 2009-2010, donor contributions helped almost 24,000 individuals stay safe and warm in their homes. More than half of the recipients were children, disabled and seniors. In the coming year, requests for services are expected to double.

"The Fuel Fund assisted 7,835 families in the last year, compared to 4,933 the previous year," said Mary Ellen Vanni, Executive Director of the Fuel Fund. "That is an increase of 59% due to the extreme cold and snow of last winter and increases in unemployment and families living near poverty level statewide. But, over the past three months, the number of people we have been able to help has decreased due to our dwindling funds."

Working with Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) and the recipient, the Fuel Fund is able to stretch each dollar donated to be able to pay \$3 of a Maryland family's utility bill. With the brisk chill of fall making way for the biting cold of winter, a few dollars can go a long way to help those in need.

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As a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Fuel Fund of Maryland, Inc. provides year-round home energy assistance to families in Central Maryland and has raised more than \$20 million to help nearly 100,000 Maryland families since 1981. The Fuel Fund also garners recognition year after year by receiving the Seal of Excellence from the Maryland Association of Nonprofits, which identifies nonprofit organizations that go above and beyond minimum legal requirements and hold the highest standards of ethics and accountability under the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations' Standards for Excellence code. A resource in energy conservation education, the Fuel Fund sponsors the Watt Watchers of Maryland™. For more information, visit the Web site at www.fuelfundmaryland.org.