



News Release

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BGE Fulfills \$2 Million Pledge to Fuel Fund of Maryland To Help Families Afford Energy Bills

Baltimore – October 20, 2006 – Today the Fuel Fund of Maryland, Inc., received the final \$1 million installment of a \$2 million cash pledge made by the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) to help limited-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities afford their home energy. The check was presented at the Baltimore County Community Assistance Network, which gave out nearly 40 percent of the energy assistance distributed through the Fuel Fund of Maryland in 2005.

“The amount of this award represents BGE’s high-level commitment to the mission of the Fuel Fund and to families in need in Central Maryland,” says Mary Ellen Vanni, Executive Director of the Fuel Fund of Maryland. “On behalf of the people this grant will help, we wholeheartedly thank BGE for their generosity. “It could not have come at a better time.”

“The Fuel Fund is helping families with larger bills,” Ms. Vanni explained. “Although energy prices have come down, that promises little relief for most limited-income families. Studies show that a median-income family pays about six percent of its annual income on home energy. Compare that to Fuel Fund families, which pay anywhere from 25 to 50 percent—*or more*—of their annual incomes on home energy. There’s very little left for life’s other essentials, such as food, housing, and medicine,” says Ms. Vanni. “BGE’s gift will allow us to help so many people with the *unaffordable* portion of their bills, which in turn allows them to better afford life’s necessities.”

John F. Goedeke, Jr., President of the Fuel Fund’s Board of Directors, observes that BGE’s gift will help the Fuel Fund keep up with the startling increase in need. “We estimate 70,000 new families will need assistance for the first time because of changes to the eligibility guidelines. This remarkable gift will allow us to help more families in the year ahead,” says Mr. Goedeke.

“We appreciate BGE taking the lead at this important time to address this critical need,” Mr. Goedeke continued. “Corporate support is essential to the Fuel Fund because we receive no federal or state funds, and we are not a United Way agency. We rely on the generosity of corporations like BGE, individual donors, and foundations to help keep people safe and secure in their homes. This generous gift will go a long way toward that goal,” concluded Mr. Goedeke.

About the Fuel Fund of Maryland

The Fuel Fund of Maryland, Inc. (<http://www.fueelfundmaryland.org>) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit founded in 1981 to assist low-income families in Central Maryland afford their home energy year round. In 25 years, the Fuel Fund has raised over \$20 million to help more than 100,000 families.

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The Fuel Fund was awarded the Seal of Excellence from the Maryland Association of Nonprofits in 1999. The award is given to 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.

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