



News Release

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EXTREME WINTER AND SUMMER WEATHER DOUBLES DEMAND FOR ASSISTANCE FROM FUEL FUND OF MARYLAND

Demand for Services Outstrips Fuel Fund Ability to Keep Pace with Requests.

Baltimore, MD – The Fuel Fund of Maryland, Inc. will be addressing members of the press on October 28, 2010 on the dire need for support and the extreme demand for services. The press conference will be held at Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO), a local Fuel Fund agency located at 5513 York Road in Baltimore, at 10:30 am and will focus on the Fuel Fund's success in reaching over 7500 families in the 2010 fiscal year, an increase of 67% over the 2009 fiscal year due to increases in unemployment and poverty levels in the state of Maryland.

"We need to thank all of our donors for their support during a time of statewide economic challenges," said Mary Ellen Vanni, Executive Director of the Fuel Fund. "We are grateful to every individual donor, each foundation, and corporate funder, for their part in strengthening the safety net for families and children during a time of remarkable need."

To highlight this community support, the Fuel Fund will announce that the organization was presented with a Challenge Grant, the details of which include a \$100,000 match if the Fuel Fund is able to raise \$200,000 from community donors. In response, the Fuel Fund will put out a call to action for sustainable financial support from the community. That support will directly aid low-income families, seniors and individuals with disabilities in handling utility and heating bills. Many are still resolving bills from last year's extreme weather conditions.

Among those invited to the press conference to lend their support are Maryland Congressman Elijah Cummings, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, members of the Baltimore City Council, representatives from Energy Advocates, the Office of Home Energy Programs, the Maryland Alliance for the Poor (MAP), the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute, and Foundations and Corporate funders.

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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.