

Project Warmth



A PROGRAM OF UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND

WINTER 2019/2020

Project Warmth Day at Rosa Parks Hempstead Transit Center Get on board the "Project Warmth Express"



National Grid Foundation presents a check for \$110,000 in support of United Way of Long Island's Project Warmth Emergency Heating Assistance Program. Pictured from left to right: Meshessna, Project Warmth recipient; Edward White Jr., Executive Director, National Grid Foundation; Eileen Cohen, Chairperson of the Board, National Grid Foundation; Theresa A. Regnante, President & CEO, United Way of Long Island. Right: Village of Hempstead Mayor Don Ryan and Project Warmth outreach volunteer informs attendee about the program.

United Way of Long Island in partnership with community and corporate partners held **PROJECT WARMTH** Day at the Rosa Parks Hempstead Transit Center/NICE Bus.

Customers and transit center visitors connected with United Way of Long Island's **PROJECT WARMTH** community partner agency representatives who were on-hand to give the residents immediate counseling on how to access the emergency fuel fund to help them pay their home heating bills. This included Hempstead Works, Community Empowerment Resource Center (CERC), Choice for All, Long Island Council of Churches and EAC, as well as Project Warmth's leading corporate supporters, National Grid Foundation, National Grid and PSEG Long Island.

Edward White Jr., Executive Director of National Grid Foundation, presented Theresa Regnante, President and CEO of United Way of Long Island with a check for \$110,000 to continue their support of the **PROJECT WARMTH** program.

As the backbone of the program, National Grid Foundation's objective is based on the principle that giving people the tools to build hope is an essential ingredient in the development of individuals, families and communities. Eligible applicants include residents who are behind in their utility payments, have a low or empty oil tank, have received a disconnection notice, and can demonstrate financial hardship. This is especially critical for seniors, veterans, families with young children and people with disabilities.

Since its inception in 1994, **PROJECT WARMTH** has provided more than \$12 million in emergency funding to nearly 95,000 children and adults. To support **PROJECT WARMTH**, please make a contribution on United Way of Long Island's website at www.unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth.

If you know someone who needs assistance, dial 211, United Way's free, non-emergency helpline or visit www.211longisland.org. Outside of Nassau and Suffolk County dial 888-774-7633.

Project Warmth Supporters

\$100,000 to \$150,000

National Grid Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,000

Anonymous Gift

\$10,000 - \$49,999

National Grid

Northville Industries

Flushing Bank *

Vane Line Bunkering, Inc. *

PSEG Long Island

Carbo Industries

Jones Fund

Petro

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Horace & Amy Hagedorn Foundation

Oil Heat Institute of Long Island

Dennis E. & Irene M. Kraft

Swezey Fuel Co. Inc.

UPS

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Aifang Lin

AJH Foundation

Caithness Long Island, LLC

John F. Croker, Jr.

Empire National Bank *

Manfred & Marita Demenus

J-Power USA

Hart Home Comfort

Sprague Operating Resources LLC

Island Transportation

Janet and Edwin Meyer

Thomas B. Poole

Evelyn Rechler

Francesco & Judith Scattone

The Anna Goldie Charitable Trust

The Treiber Family Fund

TriState Capital Bank

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Yula

Susan and John Pavacic

Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Hochhauser *

as of January 8, 2020

* is a pledge

Reaching Out for Help



Denise is a strong-willed, full-time working mom of three children... all live at home and all depend on her, which presents its own challenges. But six years ago tragedy struck when Denise's house was significantly damaged due to a fire, which left her and her family in a dire situation. She is still struggling to rebuild her life after this tragedy. More recently, she is caring for her ill mother.

Given the complex challenges in her circumstance, Denise needed extra help, so she reached out to United Way of Long Island's community partner, Choice For All, and applied for a Project Warmth grant. Receiving home heating bill assistance meant Denise could live in a safe, warm home and focus on her work and family life.

She explains, "People don't realize that home ownership has a lot of responsibilities like servicing a home. But I often have to 'rob Peter to pay Paul' to make sure I meet the operational cost of my home and ensure it is safe."

She added, "By me being able to get assistance it opens doors for me so I can direct my funds to other avenues and home operation costs, such as repairing my broken gutters or paying another monthly bill."

It's well-known that Long Island is a high cost of living region... so when unexpected events happen, making ends meet becomes extra challenging. After Denise's home tragedy in 2013, it was difficult to overcome the financial burden of expenses that insurance does not cover, including costs associated with new living arrangements and removing asbestos discovered post-fire. Today, Denise she still feels the repercussions of battling the work of a poor contractor.

Caring for her children, mother and herself can be draining, but Denise does not want a cold, unsafe home to be an additional stressor. "I'm grateful I got assistance from Project Warmth and was excited that I was eligible. Despite having a full-time income, my salary is too high to qualify for many programs, yet my paycheck doesn't stretch as much as I want.

As Denise explains, "Life is full of challenges and I am grateful to be able to get this extra support to ensure my family is safe and warm. There's no reason to be ashamed of asking for help. If I can help another family become empowered to ask for heating assistance, then I'm happy to do so."

Project Warmth Community Partner Agencies

BHEP Alliance

Catholic Charities

Choice for All

Colonial Youth & Family Services

Community Action Southold Town

Community Chest South Shore

Dept. of Human Services Resource Ctr (Amityville)

EAC

Family Service League

Hempstead Works

Hispanic Brotherhood

Huntington Opportunity Resource Center

Long Island Council of Churches

Margert Community Corp.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Town of Southampton

Wyandanch Community Resource Center

Project Warmth Committee

Gene Bernstein
Northville Industries

Robert DeMarinis
National Grid

Craig Fligstein
United Way of Long Island

Ed Gomez
Petro

Christopher Hahn
PSEG Long Island

Cliff Hochhauser
Carbo Industries

Raymond Homburger
PSEG Long Island

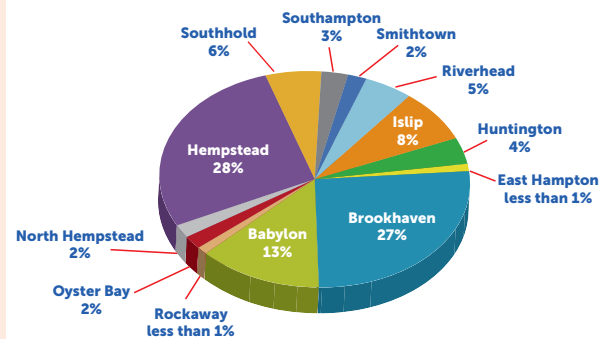
Rocco Lacertosa
NY Oil Heating Association
Oil Heat Institute of LI

Trish Rivers
United Way of Long Island

Lee Westerlind
National Grid

Gary Zanazzi
Swezey Fuel Corp

Project Warmth Total Grants 2018-19



Project Warmth Supporters

nationalgrid
Foundation

NORTHVILLE nationalgrid **PSEG** LONG ISLAND

FLUSHING Bank **PETRO** HOME SERVICES **Meenan** Your local home service experts.

Carbo Industries **VANE BROTHERS** **UPS** **OHI** Oil Heat Institute of LI

Swezey **CONNOISSEUR MEDIA LONG ISLAND** **Newsday**