

Project Warmth Committee

Kevin Rooney, Chairman
Oil Heat Institute

Gene Bernstein
Northville Industries

Robert DeMarinis
National Grid

John DiBiasi
StarLite Propane Gas Corp.

Ed Gomez
Petro

Mike Greco
Blackman Plumbing & Heating

Christopher Hahn
PSEG Long Island

Lee Westerlind
National Grid

Gary Zanazzi
Swezey Fuel Corp

Project Warmth is...

Long Island's only non-governmental fuel fund that provides assistance to the those who are experiencing heating emergencies during the winter. Applicants receive referrals from 2-1-1, our information and referral program, to agencies and parish outreach centers where a Project Warmth application is completed and forwarded to United Way of Long Island for review, approval and grant processing. Grants are sent directly to the utility and/or fuel company on behalf of the approved clients.

Dedicated to Keeping Long Islanders Warm in Their Homes This Winter

Project Warmth Supporters

\$100,000 to \$150,000

National Grid Foundation

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Anonymous Foundation

National Grid

\$10,000 to \$49,999

Northville Industries

Vane Line Bunkering, Inc.

Carbo Industries, Inc.

Flushing Bank

Petro Home Services

Horace and Amy Hagedorn Fund

JPMorgan Chase

PSEGLI, LLC

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Dennis E. & Irene M. Kraft

Oil Heat Institute

United Metro Energy Corp.

\$1,000 to \$4,999

The Goldie Anna Charitable Trust

Blackman Plumbing Supply Co., Inc.

Caithness Energy

John F. Croker Jr.

Manfred and Marita Demenus

Empire National Bank

Hallen Construction Co., Inc

Hart Home Comfort

Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Hochhauser

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Frank A. DiFazio

Francesco and Judith Scattone

Island Transportation Corp.

Leonard Kemp

Knapp Swezey Foundation

Plumbing Contractors Association of Long Island

Evelyn Rechler

Sprague Operating Resources

Swezey Fuel Co., Inc.

Tri-State Capital Bank

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Yula

Become a Project Warmth Energizer

A Special Thanks to Our Partners

- Project Warmth is a true community partnership between energy providers and nonprofit agencies across Long Island.
- Each year, National Grid, PSEG Long Island and over 100 home heating companies work hand-in-hand to assure that residents don't have to worry about being cold this winter.
- United Way of Long Island's partner agencies process Project Warmth applications to provide clients who face a heating emergency much needed access to fuel.
- Our partners include many community-based agencies, and more than 90 parish outreach centers.

nationalgrid
Foundation



11/2018

Project Warmth

A PROGRAM OF UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND



Project Warmth Night at NYCB LIVE!

Home of the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum



United Way of Long Island partnered with the Long Island Nets to host Project Warmth Night during a basketball game at NYCB LIVE, home of the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. This special event raised awareness about this essential program available for Long Islanders.

The evening began with the singing of the national anthem by 9-year-old Mason of Huntington Station, whose family received support through Project Warmth. It continued with a special on-court presentation acknowledging key funding partners as 'Project Warmth Community Champions', including National Grid Foundation, National Grid, IBEW Local 1049 and the Long Island Nets.

"For families who are struggling, especially those with children, seniors or members who are medically compromised, winter can be a very stressful season in terms of financial stability," said Theresa A. Regnante, President and CEO of United Way of Long Island. "We are grateful to all of our partners and individual donors whose funding allows hundreds of families overcome having to make difficult decisions, like choosing between heat and medications."

"For many years, National Grid has been a proud supporter of United Way's Project Warmth," added Robert DeMarinis, United Way Board member and Vice President of Gas Operations and Construction at National Grid. "It is our responsibility to help ensure that Long Islanders in need stay warm during the winter. It was a tremendous honor to be part of this year's Project Warmth Night, receiving the *Community Champion Award* was a true testament to the power of this program and the lives that it touches."

"We look forward to initiatives like Project Warmth Night where we can collaborate and give back to our neighbors," concluded Alton Byrd, Vice President of Business Operations for the Long Island Nets. "It is important to us to lift the spirits of Long Islanders, on and off the court, and partnering with United Way of Long Island is the perfect way to do both."

Pictured at Top: Alton Byrd, Vice President, Business Operations, Long Island Nets; Ronald Bauer, United Way of Long Island Board Member and Business Manager, IBEW Local 1049, AFL-CIO; Robert DeMarinis, United Way of Long Island Board Member and Vice President of Gas Operations and Construction at National Grid; and John R. Durso, United Way of Long Island Board Chair, President of Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW, President, LI Federation of Labor. Middle: Mason and Lexi perform the National Anthem. Juan Santiago, National Grid employee and Veteran of the Game. Bottom: National Grid and IBEW 1049 employees at halftime.



www.unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth

Project Warmth Community Partner Agencies

Bellport Hagerman
E. Patchogue Alliance

Catholic Charities Parish
Outreach Offices

Colonial Youth and
Family Services

Community Action of
Southold Town

EAC Network

East End Disabilities
Associates

Family Service League

Five Towns Community
Chest

Long Island Council of
Churches

Margert Community Corp.

Society of St. Vincent de
Paul

Wyandanch Community
Resource Center



Meshessna and her daughters

The Warmth of a Mother's Love

Meshessna of Freeport is a single mother of two daughters, doing the best she can to retain a sense of normalcy after her divorce two years ago.

But maintaining this life proved difficult, as she was managing her household with only a single salary. "While I was married, with two incomes, I didn't really struggle to pay my bills. Now that I'm a single mother, with only one household income, it's more challenging to get by," she said. Despite working full-time, Meshessna realized she needed help when it came to affording all of her monthly expenses.

When the weather turned cold, and her oil use increased, she found herself compromising on the temperature of the house in an effort to conserve her resources. Having a warm home means everything to Meshessna and her family, especially because her daughters, aged 11 and 13, need to be comfortable in the house.

Recognizing that this was not a healthy situation for her children, Meshessna reached out to United Way of Long Island's partner agency Choice for All where she learned about Project Warmth.

"To be able to get this assistance is just a blessing," Meshessna shared. "I tell everyone I know about Project Warmth, that help is out there and it's not a handout. It's offered to hard working people, to senior citizens, it's out there to help you when you need it. It allows you to be able to budget for your other expenses, to turn your heat up a bit more so you don't have to worry about being cold just because you can't fill your tank."

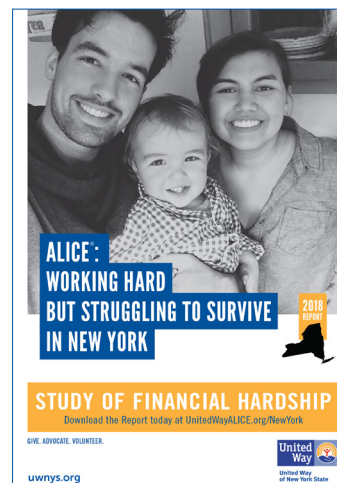
"My girls can have their friends over, to a warm house, with electricity and heat. I am beyond grateful to Choice for All, United Way of Long Island, and Project Warmth for this gift."

The Need for Project Warmth is Greater Than Ever



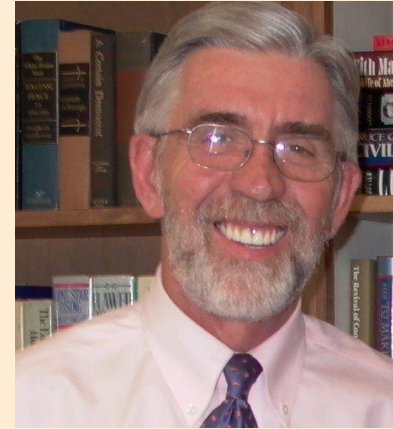
Families and individuals across New York State, including those living on Long Island, are lacking sufficient income and resources for housing, food, child care, transportation and health care, according to a report released by United Way of New York State. On Long Island, 30 percent of households in Nassau County and 36 percent of households in Suffolk County fall below this income threshold.

More than 240,000 households on Long Island are living just above the poverty line but are struggling to make ends meet. This population, **ALICE**, Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed survives living paycheck to paycheck. These families and individuals work hard to make enough money to support their families, but often find themselves behind on bills, including their heating costs.



Without the ability to accrue savings any unexpected cost can be devastating. "Long Islanders work extremely hard and still are unable to afford life's basic necessities," said Theresa A. Regnante, President and CEO of United Way of Long Island. "This report on **ALICE** individuals and families highlights the need to examine the imbalance between income and the significantly higher cost of living in our region as compared with the national average, and to work towards reducing this gap."

This is where Project Warmth provides a critical service to **ALICE** families who experience cost of living increases during the winter to heat their homes.



Kevin Rooney November 17, 1949 – June 9, 2018

Over the summer United Way of Long Island lost a very close friend. On June 9th of this year, Kevin Rooney lost his courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Kevin had served as a member of our Board of Directors and also served as the current Chairman of our Project Warmth Advisory Committee since its inception.

As the CEO of the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island, he maintained a hectic schedule, including many trips to Albany lobbying for the distillate fuel industry. Yet he was able to find time to serve as our advisory committee chairperson, even after his diagnosis and during his difficult treatments. He did this because he believed that children and families deserve to live in a warm and safe home during the cold Long Island winter months.

Kevin was the type of person we all want our children to emulate. He was bright, articulate, dedicated, friendly, sincere, and above all, he was kind. In his role at United Way, Kevin worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Long Islanders. We thank Kevin on behalf of the thousands of lives he helped.

We will miss our dear friend.

photo courtesy of Oil Heat Institute of Long Island

Project Warmth Grants By Township

(Winter 2017-2018)

Highlights included:

- The average grant was \$533.46
- Helping over 800 children and 1700 adults
- Total distribution for oil customers: \$336,635.60
- Total distribution for gas customers: \$111,035.49
- Total distribution for electric heat customers: \$39,954.34

National Grid Foundation Awards \$110,000 Grant to United Way of Long Island in Support of Project Warmth

United Way of Long Island is the recipient of a \$110,000 grant from the National Grid Foundation in support of Project Warmth, helping Long Islanders keep their homes warm.

"Project Warmth is so important, especially for families who have just hit a few bumps in the road, whether that be due to an illness or unexpected home repairs," said Ed White, Executive Director of the National Grid Foundation. "Nobody should have to decide between food, medications and heat. By supporting Project Warmth, the National Grid Foundation is able to provide much-needed relief to our neighbors who are struggling. We are proud to give this gift to this critical program."

"You never think you're going to be in a position where you need help to keep your family warm, but that's exactly where I found myself this winter," said Kelly of Huntington Station, a Project Warmth recipient. "I am so grateful to Project Warmth for giving me the small bit of help I needed to get my financial situation back on track."

Project Warmth is available during the winter months, opening in December, and remaining open until the funds are fully allocated. For assistance from Project Warmth, contact United Way of Long Island's 2-1-1 service by dialing 2-1-1, calling toll-free at 1-888-774-7633, or visiting the website at www.211longisland.org.

Since its inception, Project Warmth has provided more than \$10.5 million in emergency funding to more than 30,000 families.

To support Project Warmth, please make a contribution on United Way of Long Island's website www.unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth

