

Project Warmth

A PROGRAM OF UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND



WINTER 2023



Dear Friends,

The Project Warmth Fuel Fund Committee and staff would like to express our deep gratitude to every donor who made it possible for us to help families and senior citizens STRUGGLING to AFFORD FOOD, MEDICINE, AND HEAT to keep their homes warm this past winter. Despite the myriad of challenges many faced and continue to face, we are so fortunate to have a community of faithful, compassionate supporters who helped us serve 1,143 families when they had heating emergencies – including 803 children. We are grateful to our many funders including National Grid Foundation who awarded an unprecedented grant of \$350,000 as well as more than 1,000 Long Islanders who contributed through their PSEG utility bills to help their neighbors in need.

On behalf of all the Project Warmth recipients, we would like to thank Project Warmth's wonderful staff and our community-based partner agencies. Thank you again to all of our supporters for your generosity! We could not keep families warm without your help.

Sincerely,

*Gene M. Bernstein
Chair – Project Warmth
Chairman of the Board,
Northville Industries*



Inset Image: Aaron Choo, National Grid; Vicente, U.S. National Guard veteran and Project Warmth recipient; Christine Berardi, Communication Lead/Editor for National Grid Foundation and Craig Fligstein, United Way of Long Island

NATIONAL GRID FOUNDATION GRANTS \$350,000 TO WINTER FUEL RELIEF FUND

United Way of Long Island's Project Warmth received a \$350,000 grant from the National Grid Foundation that kept more than 500 Long Island families warm last winter. This is the largest contribution a United Way program has received since it began in 1964.

The recent ALICE (Asset-Limited Income Constrained Employed) Reports saw an increase in Long Island families having difficulties making ends meet, even when working two, or three jobs. With home heating costs rapidly increasing, Project Warmth is a lifeline to neighbors who are experiencing economic challenges.

"This year, more than ever, as energy prices and inflation are putting such a strain on our customers and communities, National Grid Foundation is pleased to again be able to help our neighbors by continuing our annual support of United Way's Project Warmth," said Ed White, Executive Director of the National Grid Foundation and Vice President, Social Impact for National Grid. "We are especially thrilled the funding this season will offer even more relief for fuel-neutral energy costs during this unprecedented situation. We have a long history of serving as a community

partner, understand the critical need in our communities. We are grateful to organizations like United Way as they help deliver so many much-needed services during this trying economic time."

Theresa Regnante, President and CEO of United Way of Long Island, said "The National Grid Foundation's grant means that hundreds of families with children and seniors who are especially vulnerable to the cold did not have to lower their thermostats or put on layers of sweaters to stay warm in their own home – they did not have to make the heartbreaking decision whether to put food in their refrigerator or pay for a heating bill. United Way is grateful for the unwavering support of National Grid Foundation."

Project Warmth has helped to fill the need for emergency heating assistance on Long Island since 1994, raising more than \$13 million to help more than 31,000 families. We are one of the country's oldest non-government fuel funds, serving as a model across the United States. We are the primary source of emergency assistance (oil, gas, fuel related electric) for households who are struggling financially and have exhausted other options.

Photo Caption: United Way's Project Warmth Fuel Fund Committee and supporters, featuring from left to right: Alanna Russo, National Grid; Ed Gomez, Petro; Gary Zanazzi, Swezey Fuel; Christopher Hahn, PSEG; Gene M. Bernstein, Northville Industries; Aaron Choo, National Grid; Vicente, U.S. National Guard veteran and Project Warmth recipient; Theresa Regnante, United Way of Long Island; Dennis Galvam, Eversource; PSEG transport driver; Cliff Hochhauser, Carbo Industries; Craig Fligstein, United Way of Long Island; Robert DeMarinis, WRS Environmental Services and Chris Korkidis, AVP of Personal Injury Claims at GEICO

Project Warmth helped 1,143 families in the 2022-2023 winter season

Including: 803 children, 572 seniors, 106 veterans and 1,455 adults. Average Grant was \$521 per family

Families that Project Warmth served this past winter:

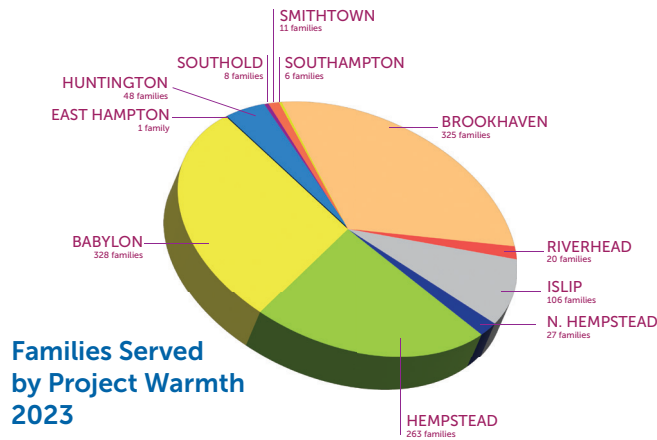
- 81% required emergency assistance because of a medical emergency, illness or disability.
- 19% needed help because of a loss of job or loss of loved one.
- 92% of recipients had at least one vulnerable person. Elders, young children and individuals with disabilities are most susceptible to extreme temperatures and thus prioritized by Project Warmth.
- 100% of recipients required assistance due to a disruption in family income while some are seniors on fixed incomes.
- Project Warmth's partner agencies assist recipients with long-term solutions to financial crisis, including connecting the family to other community resources, such as budget/debt counseling, supplemental food programs or job training services.



As a single parent family, the Fatzie's had some major car repairs, and Project Warmth was able to provide some relief allowing the client to repair her car and to continue working to provide for her 3 children.



The Lorio Family was helped this past winter as the family debt was mounting. They were also referred to the EDCAP, United Way's Student Debt Assistance Program.



Families Served by Project Warmth 2023

Long Island is a region of extraordinary high energy costs and Project Warmth is often the only resource available to those facing home heat insecurity.

Project Warmth works with 18 local agencies and more than 90 parish outreach centers that provide intake and case management services. The case management process ensures that needed services are provided to the client to resolve existing problems and reduce the need for future assistance. The process is so successful that 80% of previous year's clients did not request further assistance.

Project Warmth Community Partner Agencies

Bellport Hagerman
E. Patchogue Alliance
Catholic Charities Parish Outreach Offices
Choice for All
Colonial Youth and Family Services
Community Action of Southold Town (CAST)
Community Chest South Shore
Community Counseling Too Outreach
Dept. of Human Services Resource Center (Amityville)
EAC Network
Family Service League
Hempstead Works
Hispanic Brotherhood
Long Island Council of Churches
Margert Community Corp.
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Town of Huntington Human Services Dept.
Town of Southampton
Wyandanch Community Resource Center

Project Warmth Committee Members

Gene Bernstein
Northville Industries
Robert DeMarinis
Community Advocate
Biena Depena
United Way of Long Island
Craig Fligstein
United Way of Long Island
Dennis Galvam
Eversource
Ed Gomez
Petro
Cliff Hochhauser
Carbo Industries
Raymond Homburger
PSEG Long Island
Rocco Lacertosa
NYS Energy Coalition
Theresa Regnante
United Way of Long Island
Alanna Russo
National Grid
Gary Zanazzi
Swezey Fuel Corp

Thank you to all our Project Warmth Supporters

Signature Supporters



Sustaining Supporters

Brookhaven Science Associates • Capital One • Carbo Industries • Esquire Bank • Eversource • Flushing Bank • GEICO • The Horace & Amy Hagedorn Fund at NY Community Trust
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IBEW Local 2230 • Island Transportation • Kelman Family Foundation • M&T Bank • One Hope Foundation • Treiber Family Fund • Vane Brothers

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