

# Project Warmth

A PROGRAM OF UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND



2021-2022



Dear Friends:

This past winter, because of your contribution to United Way's Project Warmth Emergency Fuel Fund, 1,108 households on Long Island did not have to make the heartbreaking choice between food, medication, or utilities. It was not an easy year for these households. Inflation hit them hard, but your contribution helped make Long Island warm, healthy, and safe.

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 a loved one.
- 92% of recipient households had at least one vulnerable person. Elders, young children, and the disabled are most susceptible to extreme temperatures and thus are prioritized by Project Warmth.

Since its inception, Project Warmth has helped to fill the need for emergency heating assistance on Long Island, raising more than \$11 million to help more than 30,000 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.

We thank you for helping your neighbors this past winter.

Sincerely,

Theresa A. Regnante,  
President & CEO



## Warm Hearts lead to Warm Homes

Natalie's family was one of the over 1,100 Long Islanders who were able to stay safe and warm in their home after receiving emergency heating assistance through United Way's Project Warmth initiative. The program provides a safety net for people having to make tough choices between paying for heat, feeding their family or even purchasing medication.

United Way has responded to the needs of Long Islanders who have been greatly affected by the economic and health pandemic. Recognizing the impact we have been making in the region, National Grid Foundation made a generous contribution of \$150,000 in support of Project Warmth.



According to the 2020 ALICE Report\*, more than 30% of local residents are struggling to make ends meet despite working one, two or even three jobs. Ed White, Executive Director of National Grid Foundation, pictured at left, noted, "This year has been especially difficult, as we are witnessing families asking for help for the first time. It's comforting to know Project Warmth is available to Long Islanders, helping to provide the stability needed to overcome temporary economic challenges."

As Long Island's only island-wide non-governmental emergency heating fund, United Way's Project Warmth is open and available as a safety net for individuals and families who are facing energy insecurity. This fuel-neutral program is especially critical for those who do not qualify for government programs, including seniors, veterans, families with young children and people with disabilities. When we help our most vulnerable neighbors, we advance the common good together!

\*With 302,520 households on Long Island who struggle to make ends meet, known as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), these individuals work hard to support their families yet cannot maintain self-sufficiency.

If you or someone you know needs emergency heating assistance, call 2-1-1 (or 1-888-774-7633). The Project Warmth Call Center is open Monday-Friday 9-5.

[www.unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth](http://www.unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth)

# This season Project Warmth helped 1,108 families

including: 830 children, 706 seniors and 1,433 adults  
Granting \$567,463 in emergency assistance  
The average grant was \$512.15 per family



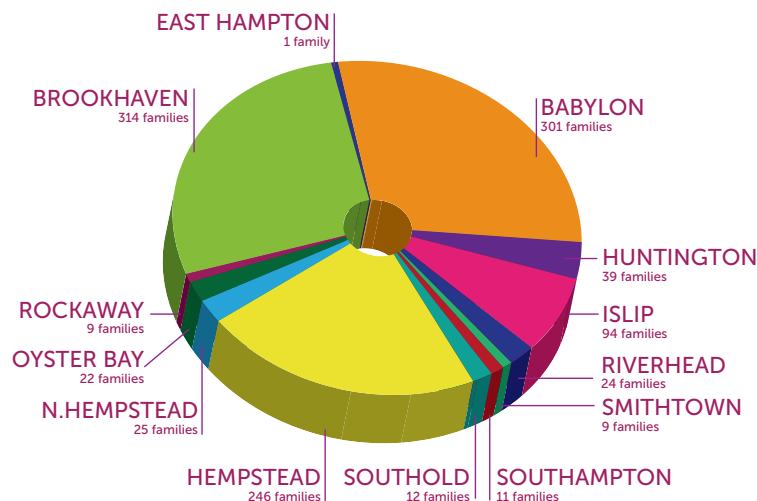
A big thank you to United Way's Project Warmth Committee and all of our donors for your collective support in helping over 3,200 children and adults, including seniors and veterans, who were facing financial insecurities relating to their heating bills. While Project Warmth is winding down, thousands of other resources are available throughout the year by contacting United Way's 211 helplines by dialing 2-1-1 or outside of Nassau and Suffolk counties at 1-888-774-7633, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or visit [www.211longisland.org](http://www.211longisland.org).

*Project Warmth Committee Members: (far right) Craig Fligstein of United Way of Long Island with Project Warmth Fuel Fund Committee members (left to right) Richard Blake of GEICO, Ed Gomez of Petro Home Services, Dennis Galvam of Eversource, Erin Mullen of PSEG Long Island, Kathleen Wisniewski, Kelly Rubbins and Robert DeMarinis of National Grid, Brian Tymann of Ørsted, Cliff Hochhauser of Carbo Industries, Gary Zanazzi of Swezey Fuel and Fligstein. (Project Warmth Committee members not seen) Gene Bernstein of Northville Industries and Rocco Lacertosa of NYS Energy Coalition.*



Jack Kzouz, CEO of NICE Bus and Alexander Bateman, Partner, Ruskin Mosou Faltishek P.C. and United Way of Long Island Board Chair, with NICE Bus Placards that were displayed in 275 NICE buses from January - March 2021.

## FAMILIES SERVED BY PROJECT WARMTH 2021-2022



## Project Warmth Community Partner Agencies

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

## Project Warmth Committee Members

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

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### Sustaining Supporters

Brookhaven Science Associates • Capital One • Carbo Industries • Esquire Bank • Flushing Bank  
GEICO • The Horace & Amy Hagedorn Fund at NY Community Trust • Island Outreach Foundation  
J-Power USA • Matthew T Mellon Foundation • The Randi and Clifford Lane Foundation  
M&T Bank • National Grid • NICE Bus Foundation • NYS Energy Coalition  
Northville Industries • Ørsted/ Eversource • Petro • Swezey Fuel • UPS

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