



## *National Fuel Funds Network*

1010 Vermont Ave., NW, #718

Washington, DC 20005

202 824-0638 (fax), 202 824-0660 (phone)

[info@nationalfuelfunds.org](mailto:info@nationalfuelfunds.org) [www.nationalfuelfunds.org](http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org)

November 20, 2006

### **Energy Safety Net Bulletin #100**

Dear Member: This issue of the Energy Safety Net Bulletin is a milestone for the NFFN's Energy Safety Net Program. The first issue of the Energy Safety Net Bulletin was published November 17, 2000.

In six years of publishing, the Energy Safety Net Bulletin has become an important means of communication for the NFFN, providing members with information about administrative innovations, creative fundraising, and useful resources.

The Bulletins have also kept members informed of federal government actions involving the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, state and Tribal energy assistance initiatives. And the Bulletin has updated you on our Annual Conferences, Washington Action Day for LIHEAP and other NFFN activities.

The Bulletin continues to grow but it relies heavily on information provided by our members. So once again we ask that you keep us informed of what is going on within your program, your community and your state. Please call, email, write or fax us.

#### **New National Campaign**

- The NFFN has become a member of a new energy efficiency campaign led by the Alliance to Save Energy. The campaign called "6 degrees of Energy Efficiency Challenge" is designed to increase the public's use of energy efficient products and practices.

The campaign held a kick off press conference last week in Washington, D.C. at a home that was being fitted with an array of energy saving and energy efficient products.

More information about this new campaign can be found on the internet at [www.6degreechallenge.com](http://www.6degreechallenge.com).

## Fuel Fund Activity

- Energy Outreach Colorado has been named to the Charity Hall of Fame compiled by Charity Navigator, an independent charity evaluator that annually ranks the financial health of more than 5,000 charities across the country.

In addition to being named to the Charity Hall of Fame, Energy Outreach Colorado was Charity Navigator's highest rated social services organization and received the organization's top 4 star rating for the fifth consecutive year.

The complete Hall of Fame list can be viewed at [www.charitynavigator.org/holiday](http://www.charitynavigator.org/holiday).

- Energy Services in Wisconsin reported that it is receiving about 250 calls for assistance a day in Rock County compared with 150 calls a day last winter. Tim Bruer, executive director of Energy Services, said the increase in demand would result in the one time crisis grant decreasing from \$411 to about \$250.

"Heat, a basic necessity, has become an unaffordable luxury for thousands of Janesville and Rock County families who are barely hanging on," Bruer said.

## Utility Actions

- Reliant Energy has delivered \$2 million in bill payment assistance funds to four social service agencies that administer the company's CARE program in the Houston area.

The funds were made possible by a rate case settlement with CenterPoint Energy and the agencies will distribute the funds through the Community Assistance from Reliant Energy (CARE) program.

- AmerenUE and the St. Louis Rams have teamed up to raise funds for Dollar More. Customers who contribute to Dollar More will be entered in a contest to win a road trip with the Rams.

On December 30, the first-prize winner and a guest will accompany the Rams to Minneapolis on the team charter jet and stay at the team hotel. The winner will also receive two tickets and pre-game field passes for the December 31 game with the Vikings.

- The number of Rhode Island residents who have lost their utility service for not paying their bills this year has risen 12 percent over last year, according to the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. The data showed the largest increase occurred in households that did not receive federal energy assistance.

Through October, 25,054 customers in the state were without electricity or natural gas service, according to the state. Shutoffs among households that received no federal energy assistance jumped 14.6 percent while shutoffs among customers that did receive assistance increased 3.4 percent.

### Resources

- The Home Energy Affordability Gap, which calculates the dollar amount by which “actual” home energy bills exceeded “affordable” home energy bills on a county by county basis for the entire country, has a new website.

This useful resource, compiled by Roger Colton of Fisher, Sheehan & Colton, can now be found at [www.HomeEnergyAffordabilityGap.com](http://www.HomeEnergyAffordabilityGap.com).

- The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is making available community outreach kits dealing with the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. These tax credits can be extremely beneficial to low income households. According to the Center, the Earned Income Tax Credit is now worth as much as \$4,536 for a low-income worker raising two or more children. The Child Tax Credit is worth \$1,000 for each qualifying child 17 years of age and under.

For more information about these tax credits and how to order the kits visit the Center’s website -- <http://www.cbpp.org/eic2006/index.html>.

**NFFN’s Washington Action Day for LIHEAP  
Thursday, February 1, 2007**

This year Action Day is even more important to keeping LIHEAP a viable, effective program because of the change in control of the Congress from the Republican to the Democratic Party.

The new Congress will have new leadership and many new members. Explaining the importance of LIHEAP to these decision makers will be a key element of this year’s lobbying activities.

To register online visit

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=146872676291>.