

## *Our Neighbors in Need Tell Their Stories*

### **‘I am So Grateful People are Willing to Donate to Help Others in Times of Need’**

“I have a spinal cord injury and am in a wheelchair, and my bill was significantly more than normal because of excessive charges for usage during the pandemic and being afraid to leave the house due to my underlying condition. I tried hard to keep up with multiple payments of \$100, \$80, or whatever I could afford. When I received a notice stating I had to pay nearly \$800 of my bill at once or risk shut off, I didn’t know what else to do. I saw a commercial for this program and applied with a hope and a prayer. I have felt a weight lifted off my shoulders the last two days since finding out I was approved. This alone had made the worst year ever much better.” - *Danielle*



“I recently had to stop working to be home with my youngest child; school is constantly having my older kids stay home because of COVID or the weather, so being able to provide has been made difficult at the moment. I really appreciate being chosen.” - *Michelle*

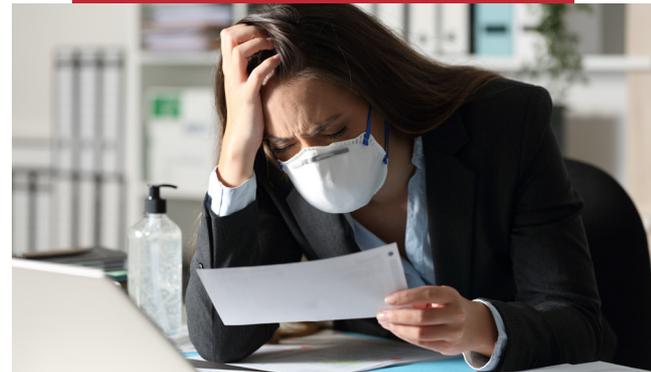


“I am so grateful to receive assistance with my gas and light bill at this time. I lost my job in June of 2020. Things have been really tough. On top of that, my unemployment was cut. Looking forward to contributing as soon as I’m on my feet.” - *Alex*



“As I write this, I am currently at home taking care of my wife and daughter, both of whom are positive with COVID-19. This benefit you have notified my family and I that we will be receiving will be a tremendous help. Due to the pandemic, in June I was furloughed one day a week, greatly reducing my income. A mere three weeks later, I was notified that my position would be eliminated. With the spike in Eversource rates in June and July coinciding with my furlough, we quickly fell behind on

our electric bill. With the layoff on the heels of the furlough, we never had a chance to catch up. This grant will help bring us to a place where we can negotiate an affordable payment plan with Eversource going forward.” - *John*



“Thank you so much for assisting me in regards to my electric bill. This has been so hard, I have never asked for assistance before. I cannot thank you enough, and I will be sure to pay it forward once we are back on our feet.” - *Lori*



“I was furloughed and then laid off from work due to COVID-19. These are very bleak times, and it is very hard to pay all of the household bills on unemployment. I am a single mother and a widow, so I am the sole provider, and things have been quite difficult to manage. Operation Fuel came to my rescue.” - *Kelly*

# Advocacy and Public Policy

You know Operation Fuel provides emergency utility and energy assistance, but did you know that we also advocate at the legislative and administrative levels on behalf of people in need?

Operation Fuel's policy team follows state agency policy, public utilities regulation, and legislative initiatives related to energy affordability, independence, and efficiency.



Environment Committee Public Hearing - March 19, 2021



Energy and Technology Public Hearing

We recognize that environmental justice, housing, transportation, water, and other issues impact the low- and moderate-income clients we serve in Connecticut.

You can follow our public policy updates at [operationfuel.org/advocacy](https://operationfuel.org/advocacy). Here are some highlights of our recent activity:

- The Connecticut General Assembly session opened in January 2021. Operation Fuel has testified in favor of a housing energy efficiency bill, a transportation safety bill, and a bill to expand Connecticut's bottle deposit system.

- In February 2021, Operation Fuel submitted comments to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regarding the state's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).
- In June 2021, our director of policy and public affairs, Gannon Long, will present at the National Energy and Utility Assistance Coalition (NEUAC) conference on transportation, housing, and energy affordability in the state of Connecticut.

“ **Why We Give ...** ”

**“I am very thankful for you and your staff and the very necessary program you have of Operation Fuel. You help so many people. I appreciate you very much!”**

– Chris, Kensington

**“It is my pleasure to be able to help out, to help a needy soul to stay warm this winter.”**

– Fran, Cheshire



**How You've Helped Power Families**

Operation Fuel's assistance highlights, July 2020-April 2021:

**4,313**

households helped with utility bills and energy costs

**\$2.7m**

distributed to families for emergency grants

**1,100**

applications submitted through our new online portal



**Plug Into Operation Fuel on Your Social Media!**



# Thank You, Friends and Funders, for Using Your #PowerForGood

- Hartford Foundation For Public Giving, \$200,000
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Technology Grant, \$50,000
- AVANGRID Foundation, \$25,000
- Fairfield County Community Foundation, Inc., \$20,000
- Travelers Foundation, \$20,000
- Wayne Eisenbaum Charitable Foundation, \$20,000
- Hartford Foundation For Public Giving COVID-19 Reopening, \$17,500
- Connecticut Community Foundation, \$15,000
- Ion Bank Foundation, \$15,000
- Renee B. Fisher Foundation, \$15,000
- The William and Alice Mortensen Foundation, \$15,000
- Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation, \$12,500
- Ann Thomas, \$10,000
- Connecticut Health Foundation, \$10,000
- Elizabeth Horrigan, \$10,000
- ERJ Fund, \$10,000
- Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, \$10,000
- HCC Global Financial Products, \$10,000
- Lena Benas Fund, \$10,000
- Norma and Natale Sestero Fund, \$10,000
- Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund, \$10,000
- Virginia De Lima, \$10,000
- William C. Graustein, \$10,000
- Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation: Jean Shiro-Zavela, \$9,693
- Alexander and Elizabeth Wood, \$9,261
- Marion Isabel Coe Fund, \$9,000
- Susan Surova, \$9,000
- Dominion Foundation, \$8,000
- Ruth Woodford, \$8,000
- Broadview Church, \$5,000
- Bruyette Family Foundation, \$5,000
- Budd Family Fund, \$5,000
- Chelsea Groton Foundation, \$5,000
- Dime Bank Foundation, Inc., \$5,000
- Jackson-Batchelder Family Fund, \$5,000
- Kristian and Nancy Jensen Charitable Fund, \$5,000
- Laura J. Niles Foundation, Inc., \$5,000
- R. S. Gernon Trust, \$5,000
- Thomas Atkins Memorial Fund Trust, \$5,000
- Joan Baer, \$4,000
- Karen Lambert, \$3,000
- Marta Lawrence, \$3,000
- Phyllis Pierson, \$3,000
- Richard Buel, \$3,000
- Rosalie Sorenson, \$3,000

## Charity Navigator Awards Its Highest Rating to Operation Fuel

“ Only 16% of the charities we evaluate have received at least 5 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Operation Fuel outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets Operation Fuel apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness.”

- Marc VanVooren, \$2,750
- Claire L. Helsing Foundation, \$2,500
- Gavin M. Rush, \$2,500
- Jennifer Estabrook, \$2,500
- UIL Holdings Corporation, \$2,500
- Katherine Owsley, \$2,425
- Barbara Gorman, \$2,000
- Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation: Elizabeth Shiro, \$2,000
- Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation, \$2,000
- Gary Carter, \$2,000
- Lauren Bergman, \$2,000
- Peter Herbert, \$2,000
- St. John's Episcopal Church, \$2,000
- The Seabird Foundation, \$2,000
- David Feist, \$1,500
- Dornam Foundation, \$1,500
- Emanuel Lutheran Church, \$1,500
- Marc Rousset, \$1,500
- Robert Peitzsch, \$1,500
- Steve Nightingale, \$1,500
- Rolfe Gjellstad, \$1,300
- Virginia Spencer, \$1,250
- Martin Gosman, \$1,200
- Beverly Harris, \$1,000
- Bruce Burchsted, \$1,000
- Catherine Daly, \$1,000
- Christine Frederick, \$1,000
- Christine Michaud, \$1,000
- Dutch Point Credit Union, Inc., \$1,000
- Frank Siver, \$1,000
- Franklin Conklin Foundation, \$1,000
- H. Miller, \$1,000
- James Ditzkoff, \$1,000
- James Hamilton, \$1,000
- Joseph Roach, \$1,000
- June Roy, \$1,000
- Kate Emery, \$1,000
- Louis Pear, \$1,000
- Markley Suthers, \$1,000
- Mary Eberle, \$1,000
- MassMutual Financial Group Matching Gifts, \$1,000
- Paulson Training Programs, Inc., \$1,000
- R. Kingsbury Chase, \$1,000
- Robert Lindberg, \$1,000
- Robert Spaulding, \$1,000
- Susan Ayers, \$1,000
- Violet West, \$1,000
- William Wynne, \$1,000



**OPERATIONFUEL.org/give**



TRAVELERS  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**MAKE A 115% DIFFERENCE!**



Donations now til June 27 matched 15%! Go to [operationfuel.org/give](https://operationfuel.org/give)



Help us help those in the Greater New Haven Area: [thegreatgive.org](https://thegreatgive.org)



Are you looking to make your generous donation to Operation Fuel go even further to help more people? You can with these special online giving opportunities!

**Birdies for Charity now till June 27**



Operation Fuel is grateful to once again be a recipient of the Travelers Championship Birdies for Charity program – which means that any donations made online until June 27, 2021 at [operationfuel.org/give](https://operationfuel.org/give) to Operation Fuel will be matched with an additional 15% by Webster Bank's Bonus Bucks Pool!

**The Great Give May 4-5**



On May 4 and 5, you can donate to Operation Fuel as part of The Great Give benefiting residents of the Greater New Haven area and help us earn prizes and matching funds. Simply choose Operation Fuel at [thegreatgive.org](https://thegreatgive.org) and donate from 8 a.m. on May 4 until 8 p.m. May 5.

Every month, people have to make painful choices: too many bills vs. too little income. Your gift at [operationfuel.org/give](https://operationfuel.org/give) helps ease the burden. Thank you!

