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Helping Vermonters Stay Warm *Fuel Dealers Contribute to VFDA's Neighbor-in-Need*

As Energy Costs Rise Vermont Fuel Dealers Answer the Call

Vermont's heating fuel retailers are continuing a proud Vermont tradition of giving back to the communities where they work and live. The Patch/Chit Neighbor-in-Need program has collected more than 6000 gallons in pledges. Cash and fuel donations by VFDA members add up to more than \$16 thousand dollars .

DONATE

Patch Chit/
Neighbor-in-need
Fuel Assistance
Program



The program creates and places pledges, or "chits," usually in 100 gallon fuel increments, in a pool for the use of the Department of Social Welfare's Emergency Fuel Program and other similar programs. For over twenty years, the program has been used as a statewide "safety net" to address the emergency fuel needs of low income Vermonters. None of the funds are used for the administration of the program.

VFDA's Fuel Assistance Program is one of several efforts by Vermont's heating fuel retailers to help those who need assistance the most during the cold winter. VFDA works with community action agencies, Habitat

for Humanity, the Vermont Heating Assistance Program, low income advocates and the Vermont Military Families Assistance Fund to distribute fuel to those in need.

VFDA members that have donated fuel and/or cash include:

Allen Brothers Fuels, Dog River Alternative Fuels, Sevca Weatherization, Jack F. Course, Deerfield Valley Energy, Cocard, Gillespie Fuels, Bourne's Fuel, Cota & Cota, Gay's Fuel Service, Parker Oil, Northern Petroleum, Dead River, Suburban Fuel, Vermont Boiler Specialists, Blanchard Oil Company, Leonard's Gas and Electric Service, Perry's Oil Service, Fyles Brothers, Hart & Mead, Merrill Gas, Energy Co-Op of Vermont, Ted's Gas Service, Owner Services, Wheldon Coal, Patch Petroleum, Hutchins & White, Bixby's, Proctor Coal, Amerigas, Black River Mechanical Services, Patterson Fuels, Ferriter Oil Company, Fred's Plumbing, Hugh Duffy Coal & Oil Company, Market Place Insurance, and Heating, CV Oil, Stantec and Trust Company of Vermont.

VFDA's Patch/Chit Program was created in the 1980s by the Vermont Oil Heat Institute (VOHI) in honor of the late David Patch of Rutland. David, the owner of Patch's Petroleum, was a dedicated and generous community servant. The program is a statewide resource for those in dire need of heating assistance. In the 1990's, the Neighbor-in-Need Program was created by the Vermont Propane Gas Association. In 2001, the programs were combined following the merger of VOHI and VPGA to form the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association (VFDA). In 2004, VFDA expanded the scope of the program to include assistance to Military Families.