



August 21, 2008

Dear John Baldacci,

As we embrace another Maine winter, we are all concerned about the cost of fuel oil. We are aware that many people will be at risk this winter - hard working people who simply cannot afford the high cost of fuel. There will be many residents who will go through the winter with little heat or by utilizing dangerous methods of heating. Currently, there is no program in the greater Bath area that provides sufficient heating assistance to residents. To address this issue, the community must be proactive and work together to prevent unnecessary suffering and serve those who need help the most.

We have created an initiative called **"Fuel for Friends,"** a collaborative project to raise money for heating assistance for people who cannot afford fuel. The goal is to raise tens of thousands of dollars in emergency support money and distribute it to people in need.

Money for **"Fuel for Friends"** will be donated by individuals and businesses, and channeled to residents through Midcoast Maine Community Action (formerly CED). Key businesses, organizations, and individuals will work together to solicit donations from the community. The funds will be dedicated to purchasing heating fuel for residents in the towns of Bath, West Bath, Phippsburg, Woolwich, Arrowsic, and Georgetown. Assistance to residents outside the area will be available for extreme need cases who don't have access to other support. Midcoast Maine Community Action will distribute the funds and create guidelines for assistance that will enhance other programs, such as LIHEAP. The Times Record has agreed to provide regular coverage of the **"Fuel for Friends"** initiative, including features, human interest stories, listing of donors, and featuring the project on their website.

We hope that you or a key representative from your agency or organization can participate in a press conference to launch the program, held at **209 Oak Street in Bath on August 28 at 11:00 am.**

Together, we must make sure that all of our citizens are safe and warm. We look forward to your ideas and commitment.

Sincerely,

Bill Giroux
City Manager, Bath

William C. Shuttleworth
Superintendent, RSU #1

For questions, please contact Kimberly at Midcoast Maine Community Action, at 442-7963 x216.