



Press Release

For Release: Immediate

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Berkshire Gas Employees Support Local Food Programs

448 Pounds of Food Donated to BCAC Food Pantry

Greenfield Family Inn Benefits

Pittsfield, MA – May 11, 2009, Berkshire Gas employees came to the aid of those in need over the course of a winter long food bank conducted at Berkshire Gas facilities in Pittsfield, North Adams and Greenfield.

Employees in Pittsfield and North Adams combined their efforts for the benefit of the clients of the Berkshire Community Action Council's food pantry. Collections began with the onset of cold weather in November and wrapped up on May 1, 2009. Over the course of the drive, employees donated a total of 448 pounds of non-perishable food items and ready to eat meals. BCAC's food distribution and nutrition program serves 1500 working poor, elderly and low-income families yearly from the agency's five-pantry sites in Berkshire County.

Additionally, Berkshire Gas employees in Greenfield collected non-perishable food items that were donated to the Greenfield Family Inn located on Federal Street in Greenfield. The Family Inn provides shelter for homeless clients and works with them to help them address their situation.

Commenting on the winter long food drive, Berkshire Gas President Karen Zink expressed her appreciation for the employee efforts stating, "I am so proud of this employee initiative. Everyone came together to do what they could during this particular time of real need. We look forward to future opportunities to be helpful to the communities that we serve – but the real credit for this goes to our employees and I am thankful for their support."

Berkshire Community Action Council Executive Director Donald P. Atwater also thanked the Company and its employees for their support noting, "So many people have reached out to be helpful this past winter at a time when many in need have never been in need before. I thank the Berkshire Gas employees for their contributions and the Company for sponsoring this project."

About Berkshire Gas

Berkshire Gas is a subsidiary of Energy East Corporation, a super-regional energy services and delivery company in the Northeast. We serve approximately 36,000 natural gas customers in western Massachusetts, 27,200 in Berkshire County and 8,800 in Franklin and Hampshire Counties. By providing outstanding customer service and meeting our customers' energy requirements in an environmentally responsible manner, we will continue to be a valuable asset to the communities we serve. For more information about Berkshire Gas, visit berkshiregas.com.

About Berkshire Community Action Council, (BCAC)

The Berkshire Community Action Council (BCAC) was incorporated in 1966 as a non-profit human service organization. In 1968, BCAC was designated the anti-poverty Community Action Agency for Berkshire County, Massachusetts. Its mission is to assist the low-income, elderly and working-poor people of Berkshire County to achieve self-sufficiency through uniting the private and public sectors.

The administrative office is located at 1531 East Street in Pittsfield. BCAC also has satellite offices at 85 Main Street in North Adams and 8 Castle Street in Great Barrington.

About the Greenfield Family Inn

The Greenfield Family Inn is the oldest of the three programs administered by Franklin County Shelters, having opened in 1987. Our goal is to offer a harmonious, home-like environment in which people may address issues that have contributed to their homelessness. Through positive relationships that develop between staff and guests, people are able to address their situation with dignity and begin to heal from the trauma and upheaval caused by homelessness.