

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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801 E. 86th Avenue
Merrillville, IN 46410

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nick Meyer, Manager
NIPSCO Communications
(219) 647-6556

NIPSCO OFFERS GIFT OF WARMTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Individuals Are Encouraged to Make Donations

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) is again offering the Gift of Warmth program to help families in need of assistance during the winter heating season.

Started in 1982, Gift of Warmth offers payment-troubled customers who have exhausted other forms of financial assistance with help in paying their winter heating bills through contributions from customers, communities, social service agencies and businesses across northern Indiana. For every dollar donated, NIPSCO matches the contributions dollar-for-dollar, up to \$500,000.

"Given the current economic condition, we recognize the difficulties our customers are faced with this winter," said Cynthia Jackson, energy assistance program manager for NIPSCO. "The Gift of Warmth program has helped a number of families over the years, and we continually encourage people to donate what they can to help those who need it most."

Since the program's inception, more than \$2.7 million dollars raised through Gift of Warmth has helped qualified families across northern Indiana with electric and natural gas bill assistance. The Gift of Warmth program is expected to assist an additional 1,200 families this year.

Individuals wanting to provide assistance may send donations to any local Winter Warmth agency. Donations are tax-deductible, and funds will be used to help customers that are served locally by the Winter Warmth agency where each donation is made.

A full list of Winter Warmth agencies may be found by visiting www.nipSCO.com.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With more than 712,000 natural gas customers and 445,000 electric customers across the northern third of Indiana, NIPSCO is the largest natural gas distribution company, and the second largest electric distribution company, in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.8 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in seven states. More information about NIPSCO is available at www.nipSCO.com.

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