



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Heating Homes for the Holidays** *ACCC and Arlington Assistance Task Force Help Families Together*

Newton, MA – December 20, 2005 – American Consumer Credit Counseling (ACCC), a non-profit organization, has announced a donation to The Arlington Assistance Task Force as part of its ongoing Partnership for the Advancement of Financial Literacy Program.

“As the song goes, ‘the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful’ but it’s only true if there is fuel to light the fire.” Jack Bowler, Chair to the Arlington Emergency Assistance Task Force, stresses the importance of charitable giving during the holidays, and graciously accepts the \$2,500 donation from ACCC. “Many Arlington families with limited income are not only struggling to meet their day-to-day living expenses but must now cope with exorbitant fuel prices. This is a potentially serious situation which will have negative consequences for the health and welfare of some children and their families in our community unless this problem is addressed or mitigated.”

The Arlington Assistance Program helps Arlington families with critical utility emergencies and provides them with fuel to heat their homes as well as financial education training and material to help them gain control of their lives. The Arlington Assistance Task Force, in conjunction with the Board of Youth Services, is committed to providing aid to families who have children and elders to care for, and until now the Arlington Assistance Program only had funding to help fifty families in the community. With the generous donation from American Consumer Credit Counseling, twelve to fifteen additional families will live in a comfortably heated home, which is especially important considering this winter’s expected increase in heating oil. Additionally, the Arlington Assistance Program is further in line with the mission and goals of ACCC in that each recipient of heating aid is required to participate in one-on-one financial education tutoring with local volunteers. Together, the Arlington Assistance Task Force, the Board of Youth Services, and American Consumer Credit Counseling are giving local families a fighting chance as well as promoting financial literacy in the community.

### **ABOUT ACCC:**

American Consumer Credit Counseling is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to empowering consumers to regain control of their lives through financial education, counseling and debt management to the community. ACCC provides individuals with practical solutions for solving financial problems and recognizes that consumers’ financial difficulties are often not the result of poor spending habits but more frequently from extenuating circumstances beyond their control.