

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Suffolk Business Delivering More Than Just Propane; Fueling Cancer Awareness and Funding American Cancer Society Programs**

**SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA – December 19, 2012** - As winter approaches and temperatures dip lower, residents across Hampton Roads turn up their thermostats to keep their homes warm. What they might be surprised to learn is that for every gallon of propane delivered to their home from local provider, Griffin Oil & Propane, a donation of one cent is made to the American Cancer Society.

In the past year, the business has delivered about 260,000 gallons of propane in a truck painted with a pink ribbon to increase breast cancer awareness. Representatives from Griffin Oil & Propane recently gave a check for \$2,600 to the Society to support its mission of eliminating cancer as a major health problem.

Since September 2010, Griffin Oil & Propane has used their delivery truck as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and a method for sharing the importance of breast cancer awareness. Last year the company made a \$3,100 donation to the Society. This year's warmer temperatures may have contributed to a lesser need for propane and a reduced donation. While the donation total varies each year, the company is committed to helping area residents.

"We really feel like we are fueling more than people's homes," said Christiaan Pond, vice president of Griffin Oil & Propane. "We're delivering cancer awareness in communities across Suffolk and Isle of Wight, Prince George, Southampton, Surry and Sussex counties."

This increased awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer and ways to reduce risks and prevent other types of cancer is helping to save more lives from the disease.

"We are constantly looking at how we can reduce cancer mortality rates and educating our community is one of the first steps," said Elisa Wills, area executive director for the American Cancer Society. "We're proud to see businesses like Griffin Oil & Propane going beyond just offering their product or service, but they're also trying to help their customers live healthier."

The company's donation allows the American Cancer Society to continue helping local residents who are diagnosed with breast cancer or any type of cancer. Whether a newly diagnosed patient is referred to the Society by their health care provider or reaches out to the organization on their own, the non-profit responds with information, programs and services to help the patient better understand their diagnosis, manage their cancer treatment and find the physical and emotional support they need. And best of all, the help is at no cost to the cancer patient.

"It's the generosity of our donors that make it possible for us to help people facing cancer each day," said Wills. "Their financial support benefits our community. We can help a growing number of people facing cancer access transportation to treatment, lodging, clinical trials and more."

On a daily basis, local American Cancer Society offices throughout Hampton Roads and across the nation provide one-on-one support for thousands of cancer patients and their caregivers, and Society staff work with area hospitals, health centers and community programs to help patients cope with cancer. Trained cancer information specialists are available to speak with cancer patients, caregivers or anyone with questions about the disease via the Society's toll-free phone number, 1-800-227-2345, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The organization's website, [cancer.org](http://cancer.org), provides details on the disease, coping with a diagnosis and access to local information.

### **About the American Cancer Society**

The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end cancer for good. As a global grassroots force of three million volunteers, we fight for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. We save lives by helping you stay well by preventing cancer or detecting it early, helping you get well by being there for you during and after a diagnosis, by finding cures through groundbreaking discovery and fighting back through public policy. As the nation's largest non-governmental investor in cancer research, contributing more than \$3.8 billion, we turn what we know about cancer into what we do. As a result, an estimated 13.7 million people in America who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will be celebrating birthdays this year. To learn more about us or to get help, call us anytime, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org](http://cancer.org). For cancer news in your community, visit [sacancernews.org](http://sacancernews.org).

### **About Griffin Oil & Propane**

Griffin Oil & Propane is a leading family owned fuel and propane distributor serving western Hampton Roads since 1938. Our company delivers heating oils, diesel fuels, gasoline, propane, and lubricants through our own fleet of modern service and tank trucks. Griffin Oil & Propane serves its core residential, commercial, and agricultural customers from offices in Suffolk and Wakefield and bulk plants in Suffolk, Franklin, Wakefield, and Surry. Our goal of providing the most reliable and fair service is accomplished through great employees and loyal customers. For more information, please visit [www.suffolkenergies.com](http://www.suffolkenergies.com).

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**Photo available of check presentation.** Caption: Christiaan Pond from Griffin Oil & Propane (l) and Mary Beth Taylor from the American Cancer Society (r) stand in front of Griffin's pink ribbon truck that raises cancer awareness and funds for the Society.