

BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY

2009 PHILANTHROPIC SUMMARY

We're in your neighborhood

At Nicor, we feel it is a privilege to be a part of your community. We live here, we work here and we will continue to do our part to be a valued corporate citizen. We know that by supporting communities through volunteer activities, scholarship programs and financial donations to local charities, we are strengthening communities throughout northern Illinois.

In this publication we are pleased to share our 2009 giving results, which benefited 1,200 worthy causes.



ABC-7 News reporter, John Garcia, was a guest reader and joined Super Reader in congratulating a student reader at an Adventures in Reading assembly in Cicero.

Below is a summary of our 2009 philanthropic activities.

Community Service

Nearly 1,000 employees, friends and family members participated in our annual *Volunteer Day*, completing 24 service projects in 22 communities.

Donating Time and Money

More than 450 Nicor walkers signed up to participate in the *March for Babies* walk. Employees raised nearly \$60,000 in donations for the March of Dimes, ranking Nicor 8th in the state of Illinois for 2009.

Promoting Literacy

The *Adventures in Reading with Nicor* program continued to flourish at Cicero West Elementary School in Cicero, Sykuta Elementary School in Country Club Hills, and Smith Elementary School in Aurora. The program encouraged students at these schools to read approximately 50,000 books during the 2008-2009 school year.

Financial Assistance

Together, Nicor Gas, its employees and customers helped keep people warm by contributing more than \$460,000 to the *Sharing Program*. Administered by the Salvation Army, Sharing provided financial support to nearly 2,000 customers in 2009.

Providing Grants

Nicor employees utilized the company's *Matching Gift* program to generate a combined \$121,500 in donations to support various local and national non-profit organizations. And, Nicor gave \$22,200 in *Volunteer in Partnership* grants in support of its employee volunteer efforts.

Promoting Volunteerism

Nicor is the founding corporate sponsor of Community Resource Network's *chicagovolunteer.net*, a Web site that brings together volunteers with more than 4,200 volunteer opportunities each day. With Nicor's support, the Web site received more than 1.1 million hits in 2009.

Fundraising

Employees donated \$560,000 – exceeding our fundraising goal by nearly \$20,000 – to Nicor's annual *United Way* campaign, with 76 percent of employees participating. Nicor was also honored to be named, for the first time in the company's history, to the United Way's list of Top 25 Corporate Donors in 2009.



Nicor sponsored a cook out to generate enthusiasm among employees for the company's 2009 United Way campaign.



HOW TO CONTACT NICOR

Nicor has **Community Relations Directors** that represent every community we serve. To get in touch with the director for your community, please contact Margi Schiemann at 630 388-2689.

For more information on Nicor's **philanthropic outreach** in your community, please contact Julian Brown at 630 388-2763.

For **Governmental Relations**, contact Scott Lewis at 630 388-3147.

To reach our **Customer Care Center**, please call 1 888 Nicor4u.

For our **guidelines on grants and donations**, visit nicor.com and click on "Nicor in the Community."



This publication is intended as part of an ongoing dialogue between Nicor and the business and community leaders and other stakeholders whose opinions we value. Periodically, we will issue this publication to address topics that you identified as important during our most recent Nicor Community Issues and Priorities Survey.

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