In today’s economy, it seems like everything costs more; even the most basic necessities are putting a strain on family budgets. This winter, your friends and neighbors in need who don’t qualify for government financial assistance may have a difficult time paying their heating bill. The Nicor Gas Sharing Program can help…but we can’t do it without YOU.

Helping those in need

Established in 1983, the Nicor Gas Sharing program has helped more than 70,000 of its customers stay warm during the winter, thanks to $12 million in generous contributions from customers, the general public and our own employees.

Administered by the Salvation Army, the program provides one-time annual grants of up to $450 to qualified residential customers which is used to assist them with paying their natural gas bill. Nicor Gas matches contributions dollar-for-dollar, up to $175,000 annually.

Customers can make one-time donations by simply checking the appropriate box on their monthly gas bill payment stub and adding the amount to what is owed.

If you pay your natural gas bill electronically, call 1-888-Nicor4u (1-888-642-6748) to pledge a Sharing Program contribution that will be automatically added to your bill each month. You can also send a check made out to:

Sharing c/o The Salvation Army
P.O. Box 30049, Chicago, IL 60630-0049.

Can’t make a donation right now? Another simple way to help is through our annual Shop & Share Days. Please see the story on back regarding this exciting program.

Who benefits from the Nicor Gas Sharing Program?

During the winter months the need for Sharing contributions is greatest for the basic reason that more natural gas is used to heat families’ homes during the colder months. Many are not eligible for government assistance, but still need help. The Sharing Program helps fill in the gap, giving those in need a little extra help in making ends meet. The profiles for those in need are vast, yet, examples of the people you’d be helping include:

- A single mother supporting her children
- A senior couple on a fixed income
- A family of four with a wage-earner recently laid-off
- An uninsured person with an illness
- A person on temporary disability
- A recent widow/widower

You or someone you know may also be one financial setback away from needing help to get by. We hope you will consider reaching out to your friends and neighbors this winter by giving the gift of warmth.
Shop & Share Days

If you shop at Jewel-Osco during the dates below, they will donate five percent of your purchases to the Nicor Gas Sharing Program. This is a great way to help others without tapping into your personal budget... and participation is easy. Cut out the coupon below and hand it to the cashier when you make a purchase at Jewel-Osco on any of the following dates:

• November 3-5, 10-12 and 17-19

Please help those in need by shopping on our designated Shop & Share Days. It will warm their homes while warming your heart. If you plan to shop on more than one day, please make photocopies of the coupon or print additional copies from our Web site at nicorgas.com. Thank you for helping those in need this winter!

SHOP & SHARE IDENTIFICATION SLIP

Group: Salvation Army - Sharing
Your Shop & Share Days: November 3-5, 10-12 & 17-19, 2008

Financial assistance is available through LIHEAP

Depending on several factors, including income, household size and location, you may be eligible for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is administered by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and helps low income households pay for energy services. Qualifying households can receive grants to pay their energy bills. For more information or to apply, call 1 877 411-9276 or visit the “Financial Assistance” section of nicor.com.

Please note: LIHEAP funds are limited. The disabled and those over 60 years of age can apply now. Enrollment for the general public begins November 1.

October Natural Gas Cost

Every month, Nicor Gas files a gas supply charge with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). It is the price customers pay for gas purchased from Nicor Gas during that month. As a regulated utility, Nicor Gas does not profit from the sale of natural gas. The price we pay for gas is passed on to our customers without markup. Visit nicor.com/gascost to use our “Bill Planning Guide” to get an idea of what your next month’s bill might be.

*At press time, this was the price Nicor Gas filed with the ICC. Under ICC rules, the price may be changed up until the first of the month in which it is effective.

Your new bill has arrived!

As a customer service improvement, we’ve changed our bill to an easier-to-read format. For more information on the bill’s features, visit nicor.com/newbill.