

## BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY

### All the ways we build better communities

The ability to affect the lives of people in a very positive way is something we take very seriously at Nicor. Throughout the year, we go out into the communities where we live and serve to make a real difference – not just with our checkbooks, but with paint brushes, rakes, new books and even our walking shoes. We know that by supporting communities through volunteer activities, scholarship programs and financial donations to local charities, we are strengthening communities throughout northern Illinois.

“Being a good corporate citizen is extremely important to our company, and in these tough economic times there is a greater need for help,” said Russ Strobel, Nicor’s chairman, president and chief executive officer. “Volunteerism and charitable giving are part of Nicor’s corporate culture. Our employees are truly dedicated to working together to make the communities we serve better places to live.”



Brookfield Zoo visitors received Nicor green bags as part of the “Party for the Planet” celebration in May.

### DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 2010, NICOR IS PROUD TO HAVE ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING:

#### Energy by Design: *April 15-21, 2010 award presentations*

2010 marked an increase in submissions to our *Energy by Design* poster contest which was developed by Nicor and the National Education Foundation to help students learn more about how to use energy wisely. 1,400 entries were received from students in 53 northern Illinois communities – 600 more entries than last year. Judging took place at the end of April, yielding 12 student winners and three teacher winners.

#### March of Dimes: *Sunday, April 25, 2010*

More than 370 Nicor employees and family members laced up their tennis shoes for the annual *March for Babies* walk, raising an estimated \$60,000 for the March of Dimes’ fight against birth defects.

#### Brookfield Zoo’s Party for the Planet: *Sunday, May 2, 2010*

Nicor is a proud sponsor of the Brookfield Zoo and as part of our partnership we participated in the Zoo’s second annual *Party for the Planet* event, which is designed to promote environmental sustainability. Nicor hosted a booth that featured its new *Energy Efficiency Program* and company volunteers passed out “green” Nicor shopping bags and coloring books to more than 17,000 visitors.

#### United Way: *Friday, May 14, 2010*

Nicor was recognized as #19 in the Top 25 Corporate Citizen rankings from the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. Nicor also received the “Employee Support” Pillar Award from the organization, given to the company that best provides employees opportunity to invest in their community, and was recognized for providing \$50,000 for the challenge grant for the African American Initiative.



Nicor volunteers promote the company’s new *Energy Efficiency Program* at the Kane County Cougars’ “Halfway to Halloween” event in May.

#### Nicor’s Volunteer Day: *Saturday, May 15, 2010*

2010 marked another successful *Volunteer Day*, with more than 1,000 employees, family members, elected officials and community members participating in 23 projects in 21 northern Illinois communities. Projects were completed for food pantries, a homeless shelter, a shelter for abused women and children, senior citizen homes, Boys Club of America, Habitat for Humanity, and river cleanup.

#### Kane County Cougars “Halfway to Halloween”: *Saturday, May 15, 2010*

Nicor was the exclusive sponsor for this successful inaugural event at the Kane County Cougars stadium. Our volunteers provided eco-friendly “trick or treat” tote bags to nearly 8,000 attendees and hosted a booth highlighting our new *Energy Efficiency Program*.

#### Adventures in Reading with Nicor

It was a successful wrap up to the 2009-2010 school year as spring assemblies and book distributions were held at all three *Adventures in Reading with Nicor* elementary schools. The program has yielded impressive results, with over 7,000 students reading more than 207,000 books and more than 21,000 books distributed to children in need.



## 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 **State Governmental Relations**, please contact Dorothy Foster at 630 388-2546.

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

For our **guidelines on grants and donations**, visit [nicor.com](http://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.

**Nicor Inc.**  
P.O. Box 3014  
Naperville, IL 60566-7014

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