



2016 United Way campaign

Xcel Energy chairman, president and CEO Ben Fowke and his wife, Kathleen Fowke, have been named co-chairs for the 2016 Greater Twin Cities United Way campaign. Last year, the organization celebrated its centennial with record-breaking results in terms of pledges and volunteerism, and plans are in place to make sure the GTCUW's second 100 years gets off to a strong start.

The United Way believes that our community is at its best when everyone can reach their full potential, and that can only happen if everyone participates—as donors, volunteers or involved community members. Together we are unstoppable.

Ben and Kathleen have chosen early childhood education and resources for domestic violence victims as particular causes they wish to champion this year during their speaking engagements and agency site visits. The Xcel Energy United Way campaign will start in the fall. Watch for additional information, and thanks in advance for helping us invest in humankind.

2016 Day of Service

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Retiree volunteers make such a difference in our communities, especially when teaming up with current employees, family and friends at the annual Day of Service. In fact, at last year's Day of Service, more than 700 volunteers participated in Minnesota, donating 2,100 hours of their time. This year, we hope to make a bigger impression so make sure you save the date—Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

"Day of Service is one of the biggest ways we demonstrate we're more engaged than ever with our customers, communities and policymakers and retiree support is a valuable part of that," said Laurel Boerger, manager, Minnesota Community Affairs. "We love having our retirees, their families and friends joining us and helping to make an even bigger impact in our communities."

There's no shortage of volunteer opportunities to choose from. Whether you're organizing supplies in a daycare, clearing out weeds from a local park or preparing food at a homeless shelter, you'll be making a difference that will be appreciated. You'll also be enjoying the day with friends and family, and ending the day with a luncheon to celebrate a job well done. Three quick hours is all it takes.

In June you'll be able to learn which volunteer opportunities are available in your area at xcelenergymndos.iVolunteer.com.



Recognition for making a difference

PIPS featured in the American Gas Association newsletter

The Pioneers in Public Service program was recognized in the American Gas Association's May newsletter for outstanding community service and retiree engagement. Two retiree volunteers, Bill Kaphing and John Lazar, were interviewed along with current Community Affairs senior representative and soon-to-be retiree Ceace Haagensen. See the full article at www.amga.org/retiree-returns.

The article details how PIPS was formed nearly 30 years ago, amidst the corporate social responsibility movement of the 1980s. But PIPS has excelled where other retiree volunteer programs have started to wane and now has about 300 retiree volunteers who donate their time on multiple occasions each month. Throughout those 30 years, PIPS volunteers have volunteered more than 80,000 hours, which equates to more than \$1.7 million of in-kind service.

Haagensen credits the success of the program to the fact that volunteers get as much as they give. "We make sure that all groups have a good time," said Haagensen. "They always have fun. They work hard, but they all walk away with a sense of satisfaction, having accomplished something in their time with one another. It's a win-win."

The AGA also noted the wide range of nonprofits that PIPS have dedicated their time and resources to throughout the years including Bridging, Inc., Habitat for Humanity and PIPS' very own Kitchen Appliance Marking Program for the visually impaired, and so many more.

For retiree volunteers like Kaphing and Lazar, PIPS is more than giving back to their communities – it's a way to stay connected to their colleagues and the company they dedicated so many years to. Kaphing, who worked for Xcel Energy for 35 years before retiring in 2014, says, "It's also great exposure for Xcel Energy in the community. It's where we all live and worked, so we want to make it a better place."

"Yes, I will become a PIPster," Haagensen said in her AGA interview with a laugh. On June 3, she's set to "spread her wings" as she enters retired life after her 44-year career with Xcel Energy. Pictured below, Haagensen releases a rehabilitated eagle back into the wild as recognition of her retirement and dedicated years of volunteerism with the University of Minnesota Raptor Center.





Summer safety

Be prepared and stay informed before, during and after severe weather incidents

As summer and storm season approach, it's important to keep safety in mind. As a company, Xcel Energy is taking storm response and communication very seriously so customers are able to report outages and stay informed. The hazards storms can present are numerous, especially when it comes to downed power lines and power outages.

That's why Xcel Energy has made it a priority to remind customers to be prepared for a potential emergency situation in the event of severe thunderstorms or tornados, and remember that the company is prepared to respond quickly and safely when outages occur. To report an outage please call **800.895.1999**.

Keep the following in mind during this storm season:

- **Sign up for outage notifications –**

When an outage occurs, stay informed using our outage notification system, available on xcelenergy.com through the My Account feature. You can now get text, email or phone notifications about outages affecting your area and estimated restoration times. Also available on the website are outage maps so you can view the area affected.

- **Stay away from downed power lines –**

If you come across a downed power line, leave the area immediately and report it by calling **800.895.1999**.

- **Keep an emergency kit in your home –**

Xcel Energy recommends assembling an easily accessible kit that you can rely on in the event of a power outage. Useful items include:

- Battery-powered radio or television
- Flashlights, batteries and backup phone chargers
- Bottled water and nonperishable food
- First aid kit

Digging in the yard? Call 811 first

Are you planning on doing yard work this summer? If you're planning to dig even just a few inches, stay safe by calling 811 first—besides, it's the law. Accidentally digging into the utility lines that run under your property could present serious safety risks to you and your neighbors.

Wait two business days after making the call. Your property will be marked for utility lines that run under your property—everything from electric and natural gas to fiber optic cables.

For more information, visit **Call811.com**.



Questions? Ideas? Contact one of our project coordinators

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Questions? Email us at volunteer@xcelenergy.com, or call **612.215.4621**.

Volunteer with one click

Learn about volunteer opportunities and sign up at home by visiting **XcelEnergyMN.iVolunteer.com**.

Make the site a favorite link.

Go to **xcelenergy.com/Retirees**, then select "Retiree Volunteer Program (PIPS)" for more information.

Stay in the Know

At Xcel Energy, we believe our employees are the best in the industry. We also believe our retired employees and their spouses are among the most public-spirited and community-minded members of our communities. Keep up with company news on the Xcel Energy Retirees webpage: **xcelenergy.com/Retirees**.

