## Humane Indiana Shelter and Adoption Center

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NIPSCO Giver Back

## 2023 CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP REPORT

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Northern Indiana neighbors,

At NIPSCO, being a responsible corporate citizen is at the core of who we are. For more than a century, we have proudly served northern Indiana, ensuring homes and businesses have safe and reliable natural gas and electric service. Our employees are dedicated to supporting worthwhile organizations across northern Indiana.

In 2023, NIPSCO donated over \$2.4 million to more than 250 local non-profits and community organizations and volunteered more than 2,700 service hours. Donations were focused on identified areas of need, including Basic Needs, Economic Development, Environmental Stewardship, Public Safety, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathemetics) Education and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives. These donations are made possible by NIPSCO, its shareholders, the NiSource Charitable Foundation and direct employee contributions—not by the rates paid by customers for their service.

From providing learning and bonding opportunities for members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, to fundraising for local chapters of the American Heart Association, to donating holiday toys to more than 1,000 children across our service area, we believe that by coming together, we can improve the lives of those who need it most. Northern Indiana is our home, and we're committed to building a better future.

To learn more about NIPSCO's tradition of giving back to the communities we are privileged to serve, visit <u>NIPSCO.com/GivesBack</u>.

Sincerely,

#### Rick Calinski

NIPSCO Director of Public Affairs and Economic Development



NIPSCO employees supported the American Heart Association's 2023 Heart Walk in Lake County.

### **EMPLOYEE-LED GIVING**



#### CHARITY OF CHOICE 800 VOLUNTEER HOURS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Charity of Choice program is a collaborative initiative led by employees, aiming to make a meaningful impact through volunteer work in diverse community projects throughout NIPSCO's service area. In partnership with the NiSource Charitable Foundation, NIPSCO team members volunteered nearly 800 service hours to local organizations and helped to create strong and sustainable communities where employees and customers live and work.

#### ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED INCLUDE:

- Boys & Girls Club of Fort Wayne
- · Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana
- United Way of Cass County
- Humane Indiana
- Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, Inc.
- · Habitat for Humanity of Kokomo
- Sojourner Truth House Inc.
- St. Jude House
- · Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry in Fort Wayne
- TradeWinds Services, Inc.

#### HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS \$150,000 TO HOOSIERS IN NEED

In its 11th year, NIPSCO's Hope for the Holidays campaign provided more than \$150,000 to community-serving organizations throughout northern Indiana. Contributions were made possible through employee and company donations. Additionally, NIPSCO employees donated more than 1,000 toys to eight Toys for Tots organizations throughout the NIPSCO service area.

#### ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED INCLUDE:

- · Blessings in a Backpack of Fort Wayne
- · Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Indiana
- Community Harvest of Northeast Indiana
- · Community Help Network in Crown Point
- Gary YWCA
- Kokomo Urban Outreach
- · LaPorte County Sherriff's Christmas Program
- Make a Kid Smile of Northwest Indiana
- Managed East Chicago Housing Authority
- Miami County Helping Hands
- North Calumet and Calumet Township Trustees Offices in Lake County
- Salvation Army of Northwest Indiana
- Shop with a Cop in Michigan City
- St. Joe Sheriff Lodge 155
- · St. Jude House Domestic Violence Shelter in Crown Point
- Tradewinds in Merrillville



NIPSCO employees clean and organize the Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana.



NIPSCO employees re-painted the Salvation Army's red kettles that are used during the holiday season.



NIPSCO volunteers gather to distribute 1,000 donated toys to Toys for Tots.

"It is wonderful for us to go out in the community and support these deserving organizations. Our NIPSCO teamfinds it so rewarding to work with these organizations, and we are committed to making a positive impact in northern Indiana." *Mike Hooper, NIPSCO President* 

## **TARGETED GRANTS**



#### **PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT** \$66,000 TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In its sixth year, NIPSCO helped fund 16 organizations' safety and training project initiatives throughout northern Indiana. These projects were geared towards community and youth public safety education as well as training for first responders, police and fire departments. The safety of our customers and employees is NIPSCO's top priority. These important safety initiatives benefit the communities we are privileged to serve.



Public Affairs Manager Karen McLean presents Public Safety Grant funds to Cass County Emergency Management Agency to support its Lithium Ion Battery Response Training.



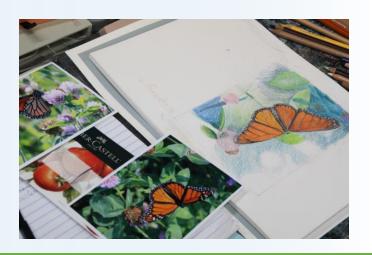
The East Chicago Fire Department used their Public Safety Grant funds to provide carbon monoxide detectors and educational training to East Chicago residents.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GRANT \$60,000 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Since 2016, NIPSCO's Environmental Grant has donated \$499,000, helping 124 projects come to fruition across northern Indiana. Last year's projects focused on Monarch butterflies, habitat restoration, youth outdoor nature education and sustainability programming. Many of the 15 funded projects and programs in 2023 included a significant volunteer and community engagement component, encouraging community members to give back through environmental stewardship projects.



Wayne Area Council/Boy Scouts of America used their funds to teach youth how to increase biodiversity by identifying and removing invasive species and planting native plants and shrubs that best support wildlife.



The Arts Barn School of Art, Inc. used their funds to develop a Monarch butterfly habitat along with related educational art programs.

## **CATALYST PROJECTS**

#### WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THE NISOURCE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION TO HELP CREATE STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

In 2023, NIPSCO and the NiSource Charitable Foundation provided funding to organizations focused on making positive contributions to the communities we are privileged to serve.

#### \$100,000 TO UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

The United Way of Northwest Indiana received funds for its collaborative partnership with the Center of Workforce Innovations to develop two handicap-accessible mobile resource centers. This project combines resources from both agencies to make a strong impact in our communities.

#### \$50,000 TO BELIEVE IN A DREAM

Believe in a Dream received funds to scale up its Pave The Path program. The program focuses on youth development, empowering high school students across Northeast Indiana to discover their strengths, and personal brand, and explore leadership experiences through community connections.

#### \$50,000 TO HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Funds will be used to build the Hilltop Mission Kitchen, a community soup kitchen to serve meals to food-insecure people living in Valparaiso and provide cooking and life skills classes for clients. NIPSCO manager and Hilltop board member, Ryan Hutnick, leveraged this donation with a volunteer event to install board siding on the facility.

#### \$35,000 TO PURDUE NORTHWEST

Purdue Northwest used their funds to host the Summer INnovation Makers Camp in July 2023. This week-long camp introduced Northwest Indiana sophomores and juniors to entrepreneurship and experiential learning through inventing, building a business and pitching investors with access to the maker lab's cutting-edge technology.

#### \$25,000 TO THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Funds were used to create an outdoor pavilion and two public viewing platforms to support Kankakee Sand's Welcome Center and bison viewing initiative. There are over 100 bison grazing and roaming in the Kankakee Sands Reserve, supporting biodiversity and restoring northwest Indiana's prairie. NiSource Vice President of Environmental Policy & Sustainability, Kelly Carmichael, serves as board secretary and chair of the climate committee for The Nature Conservancy in Indiana.









## **IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS**



Through impactful partnerships, NIPSCO provides multi-year funding for innovative programs and projects that are experimental in nature. This partnership allows organizations to have the bandwidth to create, test and measure the success of their program or project, building a business case toward sustainable funding.

#### BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NORTHEAST INDIANA: CONSERVATION BUDDIES

The Conservation Buddies program includes a series of interactive activities for Bigs and Littles to engage and connect in the outdoors and learn about wildlife restoration and environmental preservation and protection. Through activities like greenhouse gardening, fishing, kayaking, archery, rifle safety and campouts, matches and memories are made, and the next generation is connected to nature, the environment and the community.

#### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY: THE MUFFET MCGRAW WOMENS BUILD

The Womens Build unites and empowers women from all backgrounds to build a home for a family in need. NIPSCO volunteers rolled up their sleeves and rolled paint on the walls during September's Charity of Choice volunteerism campaign.

#### KOKOMO YMCA: STEM CAMP

STEM education is delivered through summer camp at Camp Tycony in Howard County. Balloon-powered cars, egg drops, hurricane houses and cardboard boat races engage campers while teaching scientific methods and encouraging discovery of how things work.

#### IVY TECH LAKE COUNTY: POWER YOUR FUTURE

The Power Your Future program engaged 100 diverse middle and high school students to explore energy and industrial technology career pathways. Through workshops, demonstrations and digital career awareness, 10 NIPSCO employees spent time in the classroom sharing their career journeys.

#### COMMUNITY AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS

NIPSCO sponsored and attended hundreds of community and nonprofit fundraising events throughout northern Indiana. Some of the organizations supported included: Habitat for Humanity St. Joseph County's Community Partnership Luncheon, Ivy Tech's Dueling Pianos, Little River Wetlands Frogapalooza, Meals on Wheels' Dine with a Chef, Opportunity Enterprises Annual Gala, Science Central Mixology, and Urban League of Northwest Indiana's Diversity Equity Inclusion Luncheon.

# Learn more about NIPSCO's commitment to corporate citizenship at <u>NIPSCO.com/GivesBack</u>.





