



Kathleen and Ben Fowke are serving as co-chairs for this year's Greater Twin Cities United Way campaign.

"I've asked our employees to raise the bar, especially this year, and I have the same request for our dedicated retirees who do so much for the community. Give generously if you can to help everyone in our community reach their full potential. Thanks for your support."

—Ben Fowke, co-chair Greater Twin Cities United Way campaign

Worth the investment

Giving to the United Way makes a difference

As active members of PIPS, you know firsthand what it means to give back to the community. Thanks to all Xcel Energy retirees who participated in the 2016 Day of Service earlier this month. Your efforts make a meaningful difference in our community.

In addition to volunteering, we also appreciate those who can give financially to strengthen communities through the United Way. Last year, our retirees collectively pledged more than \$190,000 to Invest in Humankind—helping to provide job training and education, reducing homelessness and ensuring pre-k children are prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Combined with the 50 percent match by Xcel Energy, the full impact of retiree donations was nearly \$286,000 to strengthen our communities. Your contributions were part of a record-breaking campaign that, including the company match, totaled \$5.2 million.

Xcel Energy chairman, president and CEO Ben Fowke and his wife, Kathleen Fowke, are serving as co-chairs for the 2016 – 2017 Greater Twin Cities United Way campaign. They've chosen early childhood education and resources for domestic violence victims as causes they're championing during speaking events and agency site visits.

"Giving to the United Way is like donating to the greatest community mutual fund that is well-managed, diverse and focused on delivering the most meaningful impact," says Ben Fowke. "One hundred percent of your donations to GTCUW stay in our nine-county Greater Twin Cities region."

These donations are critical as more than a half-million people in the Twin Cities live in poverty, defined as \$44,000/year for a family of four. The GTCUW is the largest non-government funder of health and human services. They attack poverty's root causes and provide interconnected solutions to address the complex challenges that come with experiencing poverty.

Donation forms

Xcel Energy retirees received a letter from Ben and a United Way pledge form earlier in September. Simply complete the form and return it by Oct. 21, the end of the campaign. Remember, you can designate your gift to a specific nonprofit agency and the company match stays with the United Way. If you need a donation form please contact the campaign hotline **612.330.6200**.

Help Wanted

Volunteer opportunities are available all year-long. Join other PIPS—get connected and have fun while serving. Complete and return the enclosed reply card to let us know what you're interested in or contact one of our project leaders to get involved today. Here are a few options:

Kitchen Appliance Marking Program (KAMP)

Apply raised, colored markings to appliances of blind and visually impaired customers.

Contact: Dan Gagliardi at **651.757.5570**

Bridging Inc.

Unload, build or repair furniture. Volunteer days are scheduled once per month.

Contact: John Lazar at **763.493.5637**

Salvation Army

Holiday gift wrapping for children on Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Marilyn Gomez at **612.330.2955**

Sensational Stitchers

Knit or crochet blankets, hats, scarves or other items to donate to charities in the Twin Cities area. Group day scheduled Oct. 15 in St. Paul or complete projects at home and donate finished items.

Contact: Marilyn Gomez at **612.330.2955**

Card Making

Create homemade cards for The Salvation Army. Annual card making date scheduled for Dec. 6 at Maple Grove Service Center.

Contact: Kathy Remmers at **612.718.6183**

Fun and fulfillment on Day of Service

Xcel Energy employees, retirees, their families and friends volunteered in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota during Day of Service. Volunteer projects included preparing school supplies, painting classrooms, planting wildflowers, trees and shrubs, sorting food donations and preparing The Salvation Army red kettles for the winter campaign, among many others.

"Each year we see enthusiasm for this event grow with additional service opportunities and more volunteers," said Laurel Boerger, manager, Community Affairs. "The employee and retiree volunteers for this signature event are wonderful examples of our company's commitment to the communities we serve."

Watch the highlight video:

[youtube.com/xcelenergyvideo](https://www.youtube.com/xcelenergyvideo)

- More than 600 employees, retirees, contractors and their families and friends volunteered
- 25 projects across Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota
- More than 1,800 hours of service
- Volunteer hours valued at more than \$46,000



Retirees Ramona and Rafael Rodriguez volunteer for Day of Service with their grandchildren at Dodge Nature Center.



PIPS volunteers celebrate making holiday cards at the Maple Grove Service Center.

Building homes, benefiting lives

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes and preserve homeownership in our communities. Sherco retiree Gary Hoffmeister has been coordinating build days since 2004 because he enjoys the opportunity to connect with former colleagues while making a difference for aspiring homeowners.

“Building at Habitat is a way to give people a start or a second chance,” said Hoffmeister. “It brings me joy to attend a house dedication and see the families in an affordable home.”

Volunteers frame wall panels for new homes at the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity’s Northeast Minneapolis facility or work at local build sites to apply finishing touches such as hanging sheet rock, putting up trim, or installing doors, windows, siding and more.

If you’d like to get involved, contact Gary Hoffmeister at **651.238.8662** or John Lazar at **763.493.5637**.

PIPS volunteers working at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity’s Northeast Minneapolis facility.



PIPS Habitat volunteers at the site of their latest project. Front row, left to right: John Lazar, Gary Hoffmeister, Roger Johnson, Jerry Kuennen, Dave Hagman. Back row, left to right: Ken Krinke, John Wazlawik, Dan Blomgren.

Questions? Ideas? Contact one of our project coordinators

Dan Gagliardi	Kitchen Appliance Marking Program	651.757.5570	gdandy777@comcast.net
Marilynn Gomez	Special Projects Leader	612.330.2955	marilyn.gomez@xcelenergy.com
Gary Hoffmeister	Habitat for Humanity	651.238.8662	ghoff81@gmail.com
Dee Johnson	Special Projects Leader	651.552.1021	
John Lazar	Special Projects Leader	763.493.5637	jjplazar8808@comcast.net
Kathy Remmers	PIPS Program Leader	612.718.6183	kathy11239@comcast.net
Ramona Rodriguez	Special Projects Leader	651.308.3066	rr1325@centurylink.net

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

Winter is coming

Home and water heating are two of the biggest energy users in a typical home. Keep these tips in mind and save during the winter months.

Insulate your water heater to reduce heat loss by applying an insulation blanket for about \$20. This is an inexpensive way to improve energy efficiency and save you money each month.

Let the sun shine in by opening the blinds and allowing natural sunlight to heat your home during the sunny hours of the day.

Get smart with a smart thermostat or programmable thermostat that allows you to optimize temperatures when you're away from the home or asleep. Receive a \$50 instant rebate at xcelenergystore.com.

Save with rebates for home insulation installation, a new natural gas furnace or a new water heater and more. For details visit xcelenergy.com/homerebates.

Gently remove ice and snow from natural gas meters and rooflines above it. Always keep a clear path to the meter, don't use a snow blower, rather carefully shovel around it and move snow away.

Volunteer with one click

Visit xcelenergymn.ivolunteer.com.



**WE CARE ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY
AS IF IT WERE OUR HOME,
YOU KNOW, BECAUSE IT IS.**

[Learn More](#)




ALWAYS delivering.

Meet the Delivery Guy

You may have already seen some new Xcel Energy advertising around town or heard it on the radio. These new advertising spots feature the "Delivery Guy" bringing energy and everything else we do to your door. Our goal is to make the invisible visible, and let customers know Xcel Energy is always delivering.