

Other Co-ops



Caring for the Community

National Cooperative Bank and Its Family of Companies, Washington, D.C. Concern for community is deeply embedded at the National Cooperative Bank. Each year, the bank conducts a fundraising campaign called “Your Giving Campaign” and participates in the Cooperative Development Foundation’s United Co-op Appeal. The money raised from both appeals gets matched by the Bank dollar for dollar to be used to finance the Corporate Contributions Committee’s charitable activities throughout the year. In January 2004, CCC began its year with more than \$65,000 in its disbursement account. Meeting once a month, the committee, made up of employees across the NCB family of companies, has distributed so far this year over \$34,000 to 40 non-profit charitable organizations, with a geographic reach that extends to Alaska, California, Connecticut, New York, Illinois, Ohio, and metropolitan Washington, DC.

NCB employees volunteer their time with such programs as:

Food and Friends “Groceries to Go” program—On the fourth Saturday of each month, NCB employees prepare grocery packages for this Washington, DC-based organization that provides canned and frozen foods to their clients with HIV/Aids and other life threatening conditions.

Habitat for Humanity—NCB employees will volunteer two days in October to help build houses in a local low-income neighborhood in Washington, DC.

“Healthcare for the Homeless”—An NCB created program working with the non-profit Unity Healthcare, Inc. Throughout the year, NCB employees fill empty shoe boxes with a variety of every day personal amenities like socks, gloves, toiletries, rain ponchos and nonperishable snacks. Unity Healthcare then distributes these boxes around the city to homeless men and women.

5K Race for Cooperative Development—NCB participates as a team each year. In October 2003, NCB employees raised \$21,221 in support of the race sponsored by the Cooperative Development Foundation. The event raises funds to support the cooperative development work of CDF.

Caring for the Environment

ACE Hardware, Chicago, Illinois. Striking a blow for energy efficiency, ACE Hardware teamed with General Electric to sell 800,000 energy-efficient fluorescent light bulbs over the course of a year. Its “Change a Light, Change the World” campaign involved more than 450 ACE retailers in eight Midwest states. The coordinated marketing program featured store displays and sales rebates. The Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency recognized the program last fall with an Energy Star Award.

Recreational Equipment, Inc., Sumner, Washington. To protect the environment and promote outdoor activities, REI donates \$2 million to the communities in which it does business. Grants are made to organizations, programs, and projects that protect and restore the environment, increase access to outdoor activities, and encourage involvement in muscle-powered recreation.

Committed to Children

Carpet One, Earth City, Missouri. Wanting to do something about child literacy, Carpet One in 2001 launched its Magic Carpet Time Tour. The program sends troupes of actors to grade schools where children are engaged in creative storytelling. The co-op’s member retail stores customize the program for their communities. The program received a Silver Anvil award for community relations from the Public Relations Society of America.

Unified Western Grocers, Commerce, California. The co-op sponsors an annual summer youth employment program in which high school students work for the co-op while they learn the grocery distribution business. In addition to attending seminars on various aspects of Unified’s business, students tour the company’s facilities and its members’ retail grocery stores. Students also have the opportunity to win scholarships to further their education.