

Press Clippings - 3/17/2023

– Daily Herald –

Nicor Gas Foundation makes four-year \$1 million commitment to United Way of Metro Chicago

March 16, 2023

By Allison Gregoire

The Nicor Gas Foundation has made a four-year \$1 million commitment to United Way of Metro Chicago in support of the expansion of their Neighborhood Network Initiative, with a special focus on growing workforce development through these Networks.

The commitment was announced on Wednesday, March 15, at the Elgin Neighborhood Network launch event with lead partner agency Alignment Collaborative for Education.

The establishment of this Neighborhood Network empowers local leaders to identify and solve issues important to their community.

"The Nicor Gas Foundation is honored to join United Way of Metro Chicago to advance equity in education through this network with a multiyear commitment," said Wendell Dallas, president and CEO of Nicor Gas. "As the founding supporter of the Elgin Neighborhood Network, we are proud to work in partnership with Alignment Collaborative for Education to provide workforce training opportunities and job readiness programs to better prepare high school students to pursue fulfilling careers."

As a leading supporter of community-driven efforts, United Way of Metro Chicago launched its Neighborhood Network Initiative in 2013 as an "inside-out," place-based approach to neighborhood transformation.

A decade later, this community-led strategy has gained momentum and garnered millions of dollars in support from philanthropic partners, including Nicor Gas. Nicor Gas and its foundations partner with nonprofits across Illinois to make a meaningful impact by supporting families' basic needs, enabling economic opportunity and protecting the environment.

At the Elgin Neighborhood Network, Alignment Collaborative for Education will lead the

vision and work to address critical student needs in **Elgin Area School District U-46**.

The **district** estimates that more than 30% of its students live through multiple adverse childhood experiences and approximately 60% of its students are low income.

Backed by the Nicor Gas Foundation's investment, Alignment will address these issues by guiding the Network's focus on increasing early education preparation, building trauma-informed care school cultures and ensuring students leave high school prepared for the global workforce.

To learn more about Nicor Gas' commitment to the community, visit www.nicorgas.com/community.

– Elgin Courier-News – Powerful partnership Nicor, United Way join forces on program to pour funds into Elgin early education, job training efforts

March 17, 2023

By Gloria Casas - Courier-News



Nicor Gas President and CEO Wendell Dallas speaks Wednesday at an **Elgin High School event at which it was announced that Nicor and the United Way**

*of Chicago were expanding their Neighborhood Network Initiative into Elgin.
Gloria Casas/Courier-News*



Three Elgin High School students work on a vehicle in the school's automotive laboratory. The Elgin Neighborhood Network Initiative will help fund programs that will train students in skills such as auto repair. School District U-46

United Way of Metro Chicago and the Nicor Gas Foundation are expanding their Neighborhood Network Initiative into Elgin, making a \$600,000 investment in local community education efforts.

Elgin became the 14th Neighborhood Network Initiative in the Chicago area, with money pledged to increasing early education preparation, building a trauma-informed care school culture and ensuring students leave high school prepared for the global workforce, officials announced Wednesday.

They will be working with the Elgin-based Alignment Collaborative for Education to distribute funds — \$150,000 annually for four years — to programs that help achieve those goals.

“United Way has a longstanding relationship and partnership with the Elgin community,” Sean Garrett, CEO/president of United Way of Metro Chicago, said in announcing the program.

“Along with the Nicor Gas Foundation, we are thrilled to work with our partners at Alignment Collaborative for Education to launch the Elgin Neighborhood Network and reaffirm United Way’s commitment to the residents of Elgin,” he said. “Our goal is to continue to work together to build a community where everyone can reach their potential and thrive.”

The nonprofit agency’s Neighborhood Network Initiative launched in 2013 as a community-led approach to transforming neighborhoods. The United Way works with private partners, like Nicor Gas Foundation, to fund the effort.

“Today is exciting,” Nicor President/CEO Wendell Dallas said at the **Elgin High School** event.

“I just want to say thank you very much for allowing us to share our passion about this.”

The Alignment Collaborative for Education will work to address critical student needs in **School District U-46**, including preparing teens for the workforce, officials said.

Dallas said he had experience in workforce development as a supervisor when he began his career with Nicor 25 years ago.

Dallas recalled there were a lot of candidates for jobs, but only a few had the necessary skills, he said.

U-46 has made training students for the workforce a priority, something Dallas lauded.

“These are life-changing skills. These are life-saving jobs,” he said.

Elgin Mayor Dave Kaptain also spoke at the event, which included a tour of **U-46’s Automotive, Health Care and Welding programs**.

He founded the Alignment Collaborative for Education in 2015 as a means of creating the future workforce Elgin will need, he said.

“If we can’t have an educated workforce in our city, our city will fail,” Kaptain said.

Gloria Casas is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

– Elgin Courier-News –

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Courier-News 2022-23 All-Area Team

March 17, 2023

By Paul Johnson for Beacon-News First Team

Cassidy Arni, Geneva, senior, forward: Second team all-state. Averaged 12.2 points, 5.5 rebounds and 2.6 assists. Four-time all-conference. Committed to Wisconsin-Parkside.

Brooke Carlson, Batavia, junior, guard: First team all-state. DuKane Conference’s player of the year. Averaged 19.7 points, 4.1 rebounds and 3.2 steals.

Alyssa Hughes, St. Charles North, senior, guard: Third team all-state. Averaged 18 points, 3.0 assists and 2.5 steals. Set program’s single season and career 3-point records. Committed to Washington-St. Louis.

Baylei Johnson, Larkin, senior, center: Special mention all-state. Averaged 19.3 points and 12 rebounds. Surpassing 1,600 points and 1,100 rebounds for career.

Mia Moore, East Aurora, senior, guard: Two-time player of the year by the Upstate Eight Conference. Third team all-state. Averaged 25 points, 8.0 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 5.0 steals.

Second team

Taylor Curry, Waubonsie Valley, senior, guard: Led Warriors to two straight regional titles. Averaged 16.2 points, 4.2 rebounds and 2.6 assists.

Leah Palmer, Geneva, junior, forward: Averaged 15 points and 5.5 rebounds. Special mention all-state. Paced Vikings to third place in Class 4A.

Reagan Sipla, St. Charles North, junior, guard/forward: Special mention all-state. Averaged 17 points, 6.0 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 3.0 steals.

Lauren Slagle, Geneva, senior, forward: Averaged 14.6 points, 6.8 rebounds and 1.7 assists. Third team all-state. Committed to Grand Valley State.

Aspen Weeks, West Aurora, senior, guard: Averaged 18 points, 4.5 rebounds, 1.1 assists and 1.7 steals. Surpassed 1,000 career points. Committed to Flagler.

Third team

Kendra Brown, Kaneland, sophomore, guard: The future for young Knights. Averaged 13.5 points, 4.4 rebounds and 2.3 steals.

Riley Cwinski, Aurora Central Catholic, sophomore, forward: Helped lead Chargers to second straight regional title. Averaged 16.4 points, 7.0 rebounds and 2.0 steals.

Page Erickson, Burlington Central, senior, guard: Blossomed in final high school season. Averaged 13.4 points, 4.6 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 2.0 steals.

Danyella Mporokoso, Waubonsie Valley, freshman, guard: Burst onto the scene as varsity rookie. Averaged 15.9 points, 5.8 rebounds and 1.9 steals.

Raina Yang, South Elgin, senior, guard: Averaged 14.1 points, 5.5 assists and 3.6 steals. Six **Storm** player to surpass 1,000 career points.

Honorable mention

Anastasia Bellamy, East Aurora, junior, center; Sofia Corral, Aurora Central Catholic, sophomore, guard; Lexi DiOrion, St. Charles East, junior, guard; Anna Herrmann, Hinckley-Big Rock, freshman, guard; Ashley Herzing, Hampshire, junior, guard; **Chloe Kmiec, South Elgin**, senior, guard; Maggie Lewandowski, Oswego East, sophomore, guard; **Amadea Montijo, Bartlett**, junior, guard; Samantha Origel, Burlington Central, senior, guard; Kailey Plank, Kaneland, senior, guard; Josephine Rader, Somonauk, junior, guard; Khaliah Reid, Waubonsie Valley, senior, guard; Alex Stewart, Yorkville,

senior, guard; Whitney Thompson, Hampshire, junior, guard; Isabella Turner, Indian Creek, sophomore, guard.

– Elgin Courier-News –

Local Scoreboard

March 17, 2023

By From Staff Reports

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

GIRLS SOCCER

Barrington 2, Naperville North 0

Bartlett 0, Streamwood 0

Carmel 3, Grayslake Central 2

Genoa-Kingston 3, Marengo 1

Genoa-Kingston (1-0): Samantha Wendt goal, assist.

Grayslake North 7, Crystal Lake South 0

Grayslake North (1-0): Morgan Flynn 2 goals Quinna Sheets 5 saves.

Jacobs 3, Rockford Guilford 0

Jacobs (1-0): Delaney Lukowski, Delaney Roimiser, Maggie Body goal apiece.

Kaneland 10, Sterling 0

Lake Zurich 3, Lakes 0

Lake Zurich (1-0): Lauren Bailey 2 goals.

Libertyville 1, Hersey 0

St. Laurence 8, Cristo Rey 0

St. Laurence (1-0): Perla Guzman 3 goals.

South Elgin 0, West Chicago 0

Wauconda 0, Vernon Hills 0

SOFTBALL

Andrew 5, Evergreen Park 0

Andrew (1-0): Tegan Gutsch CG, 2 H, 15 Ks.

Bartlett 8, Waubonsie Valley 7

Bartlett (1-0): Addison Koth GW RBI in bottom 7th.

Waubonsie (0-1): Gia Cobert 2-for-3, double, run, 2 RBIs.

Benet 9, Mother McAuley 6

Benet (1-0): Angela Horejstriple, 3 runs, RBI. Nina Pesare 2-for-4, 2 runs, RBI.

McAuley (0-1): Taylor Curran 3-for-4, double, HR, run, 3 RBIs. Kiera Jarrett 2-for-3, triple, 3 runs, RBI.

Bolingbrook 11, T.F. South 6

Carmel 4, Vernon Hills 2

Carmel (1-0): Madison DeBennette CG, 13 Ks. Grace King 3-for-3, double, 2-run HR.

De La Salle 19, Back of the Yards 1 (4 innings)

De La Salle (1-0): Samara Agredano 2-for-2, HR, 3 runs, 4 RBIs. Delilah Lincoln 2-for-4, double, HR, 3 runs, 3 RBIs.

Joliet Central 19, East Aurora 8

Lockport 9, Oswego 8

Lockport (1-0): Jill Zodrow triple, 2 runs, 2 RBIs. Kylie Ryan 3-for-4, triple, 3 RBIs.

Oswego (0-1): Corrin Kennedy 2 runs, RBI.

Newark 10, Woodland 0 (6 innings)

Newark (1-0): Kaitlyn Schofield CG, 2 H, 10 Ks; 2-for-3, HR, 2 runs, 3 RBIs.

Plano 13, Lisle 12

Plano (1-0): Alyssa Dubinski 3-for-3, HR, run, 4 RBIs. Lindsey Cocks 3-for-4, double, 4

RBI.

Woodlands 13, Round Lake 3 (5 innings)

Yorkville 12, Kaneland 0 (6 innings)

Yorkville (1-0): Madi Reeves CG, H, 15 Ks. Kayla Kersting 2-for-3, HR, 2 RBIs.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

GIRLS SOCCER

Benet 3, Wheaton Academy 0

Benet (1-0): Johanna Caliendo, Ashley Donovan, Sadie Sterbenz goal apiece.

Metea Valley 4, Oswego 2

Minooka 5, Yorkville 0

Mother McAuley 9, Thornwood 2

McAuley (1-0): Calli Edwards 4 goals.

St. Charles East 3, Fremd 1

St. Charles East (1-0): Grace Williams, Ella Stehman, Ally Saviano goals. Sidney Lazenby 10 saves.

St. Charles North 4, Crystal Lake Central 0

Streamwood 1, Dundee-Crown 0

West Aurora 2, East Aurora 0

West Aurora (1-0): Isabella Vargas 2 goals. Abigail Dietlin 6 saves.

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

To read the full article, click [here](#).