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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park Does it Again! Local Charities To Benefit

Carloads of Holiday Entertainment Translates Into Stronger Community

(ST. PAUL, MN – FEBRUARY 9, 2010) – For the second year in a row, IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park has provided family friendly holiday entertainment that has translated into thousands of dollars of donations to local charities. The event, in its second year at Phalen Park from Nov. 24 through Dec. 31, attracted almost 11,000 carloads of spectators who enjoyed the holiday lights with family and friends. The chosen charities for IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park - Second Harvest Heartland, Union Gospel Mission, St. Paul Parks Conservancy and UnderConstruction - have received thousands of dollars from this year's efforts.

“Our event focused on raising funds for these local charities while providing an affordable means of holiday entertainment, and that's exactly what we were able to accomplish,” said Vicki Sandberg, Marketing Director for IBEW. “The support from the community is what made this event a success. We want to thank the community for making Holiday Lights a part of your holiday tradition and look forward to seeing you again in 2010.”

Visitors enjoyed a spectacular array of holiday lights and animated displays as they took a leisurely drive through Phalen Park. The tour was approximately a half mile along Saint Paul's Lake Phalen and Phalen Golf Course. Money raised came from the entrance fees that ranged from \$8.00 Sundays – Thursdays and \$10.00 on Fridays, Saturdays and holidays. Second Harvest Heartland and Union Gospel Mission each received \$7,500 while St. Paul Parks Conservancy and UnderConstruction were given \$5,000 apiece.

“In addition to our visitors, I'd like to thank the local community members who gathered to volunteer support at the event. With more than 230 volunteers from King of King's Church in Woodbury, and IBEW electricians from across the Twin Cities, these volunteers helped to ensure success of IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park,” said Sandberg.

All net proceeds of the event were distributed to the following local charities in the Twin Cities:

Second Harvest Heartland: *The Upper Midwest's largest hunger-relief organization, working to end hunger through community partnerships. SHH distributes more than 48*

million pounds of food annually to more than 980 member agencies and programs in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Each \$1 donated provides \$9 in grocery products to our neighbors in need.

Union Gospel Mission: *Working to meet the physical, emotional, spiritual, and educational needs of the economically disadvantaged men, women and children of the Twin Cities, through a variety of life-changing programs and services.*

Saint Paul Parks Conservancy: *Securing resources to enhance parks and recreational opportunities throughout Saint Paul.*

UnderConstruction: *Teaching youth what it takes to be an employable worker. Introducing high school students to the construction trades to explore the possibilities of a construction career.*

For more information about the event, charity recipients or sponsors, please visit:

www.lightsinthepark.org

About The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

The IBEW of the greater Twin Cities is proud to be the "Presenting Sponsor" for the second year. IBEW professional electricians are your neighbors who live in the communities they've worked so hard to build. IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park provides an opportunity to continue their long-standing tradition of giving back. To learn more about the IBEW Power of Professionalism visit www.ibewpros.org.

About King of Kings Lutheran Church, Woodbury

Partnering with IBEW to assemble a family-friendly holiday event, King of Kings shares leadership in event management, community outreach, and volunteer coordination. For more information, please visit www.kingofkingswoodburymn.org

Editor's note: *Interviews with IBEW Holiday Lights members, sponsors or partners are available by contacting Monique Weiss at 651-307-8194 or mweiss8194@gmail.com*

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