NAR GAME CHANGING IDEA
To go where no Association has gone before......

Submission of the Chicago Association of REALTORS®

REALTORS® TO THE RESCUE

Chicago Association of REALTORS®
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Chief Executive Officer
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Submiting Association:

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Request Date: 09-20-09

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Game Changing Idea Name: REALTORS TO THE RESCUE

Topic Addressed [please check]:

- Planning
- Finance/Administration/Facilities
- Committees
- Marketing/Promotion
- Membership/Customer Service
- Events/Community [X]
- Education/Training
- IT/MLS/Web
- Networking
- Leadership Development
- Social Media
- Commercial/International Services
- Other

Explain your Game Changing Idea (attach any material you wish to the application):

Development of a program whereby REALTORS® work with local law enforcement groups; local government and animal shelters as well as victims of foreclosed properties to find homes for animals rather than seeing victims of foreclosure abandon them.

Individuals who have gone through the foreclosure process and are being evicted are going through a catastrophic and life changing moment in their lives. Our role in educating public officials with REALTORS® to the Rescue in Chicago as well as lenders and others involved in the process will go a long way in mitigating this significant public policy problem in the future.

Through REALTOR® to the Rescue education on the issues related to animal abandonment during foreclosure is the key. Our program thus far has opened doors for education by those involved in the process from the beginning such as utilities operators and the sheriffs department; the media; public policy makers; lenders and most importantly for those going through foreclosure. Many states have severe fines and penalties victims may not be aware of.

There are life safety issues for REALTORS® in REO properties. Some REALTORS® we have spoken to are prepared for entering foreclosed and abandoned properties with food in tow – so they can feed the animal or distract the animal until they kind find safety.

We are now providing members and the public with great resources – where households with pets facing foreclosure can find help. They can find access to the Free Behavior Hotline; Pet Food Bank’s; Temporary...
Housing and Finding a New Home for Your Pet

We are also utilizing this idea to bring forward additional pet and real estate centric programs.

This program is scalable at preferably at the state level as the lead, but as we will show a large local or regional board could also engage in this program

**Direct Member Benefit:**

- Access to information for clients about where they can leave an animal if they are victims of foreclosure. Access to information for clients about established pet friendly buildings and shelters.
- Access to information on how to volunteer with shelters.
- Access to information on local laws and regulations relative to animal endangerment.

**Value to the Association:**

Positive public relations. Volunteer opportunities. Strong community and governmental relations opportunities.