

2018 Fishing for a Cure Fact Sheet

- The 2018 tournament, scheduled for **Saturday, May 12**, will represent our 17th year at hosting our annual “Fishing for a Cure” fundraiser. The charity team bass tournament takes place on Braidwood Generating Station’s cooling lake.
- In 2002, Braidwood Generating Station (a nuclear generating plant in rural Braceville, Ill., and owned by Exelon Corp.) sought to initiate positive publicity through a philanthropic activity that combined strong local impact, use of existing resources and employee engagement. At the same time, the station was looking for a way to welcome back anglers after the station’s cooling lake was closed for security reasons following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The station launched a professional/amateur charity bass fishing tournament on the lake.
- The annual tournament raises money for a local charity selected each year by employees. The charity must have a connection to a Braidwood employee and the local community. Exelon pays the cost of staging the event, allowing 100 percent of the \$150-per-boat entry fee, prize drawings and silent auctions to go directly to the charity. The 2018 charity will be the Ronald McDonald House Charities, which helps millions of families with sick children as they seek medical care away from home. This year’s donation to Ronald McDonald House will be designated for the organization’s Chicago area chapter.
- In its first 16 years, “Fishing for a Cure” raised more than \$500,000 for charity. Past benefitting charities were the Beth Ann Miller Foundation in its fight against Bacterial Meningitis (2002), Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (2003,) Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Center (2004), Multiple Sclerosis Society (2005), Citizens United in Research of Epilepsy (2006), Make-a-Wish Foundation of Illinois (2007), Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (2008), Autism Speaks (2009), Operation MOMS Cookies, Inc. (2010) Wounded Heroes Foundation (2011), four local food pantries (2012), Alzheimer’s Association of Greater Illinois (2013), Coal City/Diamond Disaster Relief Fund (2014), three not-for-profit area hospices in Grundy, Kankakee and Will counties (2015), Easter Seals Joliet Region (2016) and the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (2017).
- Competing fishermen will have a chance to have some fun and win some impressive cash prizes totaling \$10,000. The first place team will reel in \$4,000, with second and third place netting \$2,500 and \$1,000 respectively. In addition, 4th-, 5th- and 6th-place finishers will win \$500 and teams finishing 7th through 10th each will win \$250.
- Interesting statistics:
 - 2002 – 2006 (5-fish maximum) = 16.03 (2006)
 - 2007 – 2012 (3-fish maximum) = 11.10 (2012) – John Novak of Shorewood and Jim Rura of Morris
 - Biggest Bass – 2012 – John Novak of Shorewood (5.64 lbs.)
 - Biggest Catfish – 2014 – Steve Smith and Ed Withaeger (7.84 lbs.)