



## 40 under 40

Crain's  
2006



*Photo: Stephen J. Serio*

Neal S. Zucker  
Co-founder, executive vice-president

Corporate Cleaning Services Inc.

Neal Zucker isn't one for introspection. He doesn't have time.

Partner in one of the city's largest window-washing companies and son of sports agent Steve Zucker, Mr. Zucker is perhaps best known as a whirling dervish on Chicago's philanthropic scene.

In eight years, the gregarious Mr. Zucker has been on a crusade to get Generation Xers involved in charity, putting his prodigious Rolodex to work to raise money mainly for city beautification projects -- a pet cause of Mayor Daley.

"If you get involved at a young age, you're hooked," he says. "If you look around, there are so many young people in this city, and they have the resources to (contribute)."

And a huge number of them seem to be close, personal friends of Mr. Zucker.

"Some people have a few friends; Neal has a thousand friends," says Gerald Roper, president and CEO of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.

Since Mr. Zucker entered the workforce in 1988 as a LaSalle National Bank bond broker, his civic activism has been nearly constant -- from his founding of the Junior Board of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation to his co-chair role this year for the Art on the Block party with Maggie Daley for the Chicago Cultural Center's Gallery 37 project.

He is involved, too, with the annual Green Tie Ball, which attracted 2,500 people this year, more than double the 1998 total, and raised more than \$150,000 for the Gateway Green Committee, a civic beautification group.

His philanthropic zeal began as a way to help his younger brother, who was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes as a boy. It mushroomed from there, and even Mr. Zucker doesn't quite know what makes him such a tireless fund-raiser, other than a love for Chicago and a drive for success.

"We're here on borrowed time, and we've got to make the most of it," he says.

STEVE DANIELS