



## News Release

---

### WRIGHT-HENNEPIN MEMBERS DONATE MORE THAN \$27,000 TO HELP LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

**Rockford, MN (August 7, 2015)** — Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) members who participate in Operation Round Up (ORU) donated grants totaling \$27,315 in June 2015.

ORU participants allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar. The rounded amount is then used for donations to fund local programs. More than 80 percent of WH's members participate in the ORU program. ORU's trust board manages the generated money, which is held in a trust fund. Through a selection process and review of guidelines, the board evaluates funding requests on a bimonthly basis.

The ORU trust board approved the following donations on behalf of WH members for June 2015:

- **\$1,000, Jane Goodall Environmental Sciences Academy**, funds to support a water quality monitoring project
- **\$5,000, MN Adult and Teen Challenge**, funds to support the Know the Truth programming for Wright and Hennepin counties
- **\$1,500, Rise**, funds to help people with disabilities secure community-based employment
- **\$5,000, RiverWorks Community Development**, funds to purchase "Pantry Saver," a secure, volunteer and client-friendly system for recordkeeping
- **\$1,000, Rockford Education Foundation**, funds to start project Lead the Way at Rockford Middle School
- **\$2,500, SOAR**, funds to support production of a high school musical

- **\$4,000, True Friends**, funds for a scholarship for a hippotherapy program, which is a treatment that utilizes movements of a horse to provide carefully graded motor and sensory input
- **\$4,000, YMCA Camp Ihduhapi**, funds to start up three environmental education courses to be offered to local schools



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to the Jane Goodall Environmental Sciences Academy in the amount of \$1,000 to fund a water quality monitoring project. ORU Board Director Tami Odenthal (left) presented the grant to Advisor Patrick Ross (left center), Advisor Jess Paulson (right center) and Board member Bob DeBoer (right).



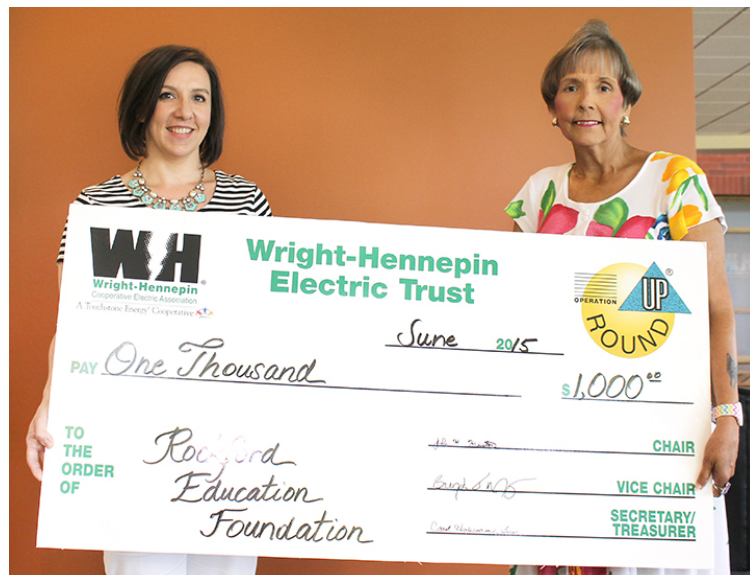
Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to MN Adult and Teen Challenge in the amount of \$5,000 to support Know the Truth programming for Wright and Hennepin counties. ORU Board Director Tami Odenthal presented the grant to Know the Truth Assistant Director Brandi Masso (left) and Grants and Foundation Director Mary Kay Benson (center).



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Rise in the amount of \$1,500 to help people with disabilities secure community-based employment. ORU Board Director Tami Odenthal (right) presented the grant to Development Manager Ian Plitnick (left).



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to RiverWorks Community Development in the amount of \$5,000 to fund the purchase of “Pantry Saver,” a secure, volunteer and client-friendly system for recordkeeping. ORU Board Director Tami Odenthal (right) presented the grant to Food Shelf Director Robin Lafond (left).



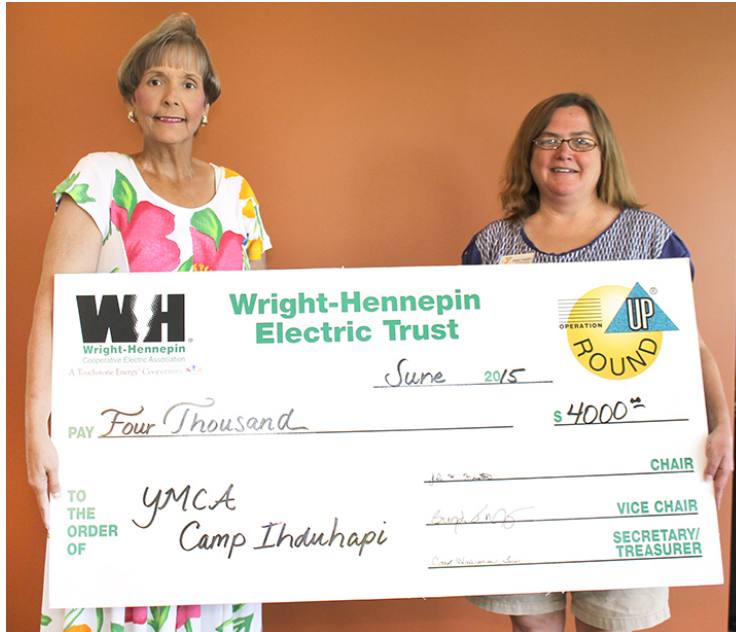
Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to the Rockford Education Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 to fund the start of Project Lead the Way at the Rockford Middle School. ORU Board Director (right) presented the grant to President Jen Boulton (left).



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to SOAR Regional Arts in the amount of \$2,500 to help fund the production of a high school musical. ORU Board Director Tami Odenthal (left) presented the check to TAG Board President Sydney Summers (left center), TAG Board Secretary Katlyn Rohrer (right center) and Vice President Debbie Bishop (right).



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to True Friends in the amount of \$4,000 to fund a scholarship for a hippotherapy program. ORU Board Director Tami Odenthal (right) presented the grant to Development Specialist Lindsey Gunnerson (left).



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to YMCA Camp Ihduhapi in the amount of \$4,000 to support environmental education courses to be offered to local schools. ORU Board Director Tami Odenthal (left) presented the grant to Executive Director Kerry Pioske (right).

For those interested in applying for funds, the next application deadline is September 1, 2015. To receive an application, visit WH's website at [www.whe.org](http://www.whe.org), send an email to [oru@whe.org](mailto:oru@whe.org), or call Lisa and leave a message at (763) 477-3000 extension 6126.

WH is a member-owned non-profit electric utility that provides electric power to Wright County and the western part of Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen in this area since 1937 and currently serves more than 46,000 electric accounts. The utility started its security division in 1989 and provides local home security solutions as well as monitors alarm systems for almost 60,000 customers in 32 states and three Canadian provinces.

**-end-**