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News Release

WRIGHT-HENNEPIN MEMBERS DONATE MORE THAN \$60,000 TO HELP LOCAL ORAGNIZATIONS

Rockford, MN (March 28, 2016) — Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) members who participate in Operation Round Up (ORU) donated grants totaling \$60,830 in February of 2016.

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 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 February 2016:

- **\$2,000, Alzheimer Association**, funds to support Alzheimer Association programs
- **\$1,000, Annandale-Maple Lake Area Special Olympics**, funds to support Special Olympic athletes participating in bowling
- **\$1,800, Autism Allies**, funds for a resource fair
- **\$1,050, Boy Scout Troup #547**, funds to support a scholarship for Grey Wolf leadership camp and Eagle Scout projects
- **\$500, Buffalo Community Orchestra**, funds to offset expenses related to concerts
- **\$30,000, Food Shelf Donation**, funds to replenish food supplies during MN Food Share Month in March

- **\$200, Osseo Grad Party**, funds to support an all-night safe party
- **\$5,000, Pay It Forward Fund**, funds for breast cancer victims to pay for utilities, housing, medical needs, transportation, phones or food
- **\$3,000, Rivers of Hope**, funds to support 24-hour crisis line
- **\$580, Rockford Special Olympics**, funds to support Special Olympic athletes participate in bowling and track
- **\$500, Rockford Rockets Special Olympics**, funds to support Special Olympic athletes participate in bowling and track
- **\$2,500, TreeHouse Inc**, funds to support the cost of one van for three months of the year
- **\$200, Watertown Mayer Post Prom Party**, funds to support an all-night safe party
- **\$10,000, Wright County Community Action**, funds to assist Wright County residents who are in crisis and would otherwise not be able to receive assistance through an energy assistance program
- **\$3,000, YMCA Camp Ihduhapi**, funds to support scholarship for day and overnight camping programs



Operation Round Up recently awarded grants totaling \$30,000 to local food shelves. They presented to the following representatives: front, left to right: Sandy McClurg, Monticello; Helen Skutley, Hanover; Michelle Repp, Westonka; Margaret Florek, Maple Plain; Jeanie Pilarski, Delano. Back, left to right: ORU Board Chair John Meister; Ed Skomoroh, Annandale; Carmen Pouliot, Elk River; Shirley Legatt, Waverly; Ann Maass, Wayzata; Elizabeth Johnson, Maple Grove; Tom Hammer, Clearwater; Rod Erickson, Cokato; Robin Lafond, Rockford; ORU Secretary Sharon Glessing.



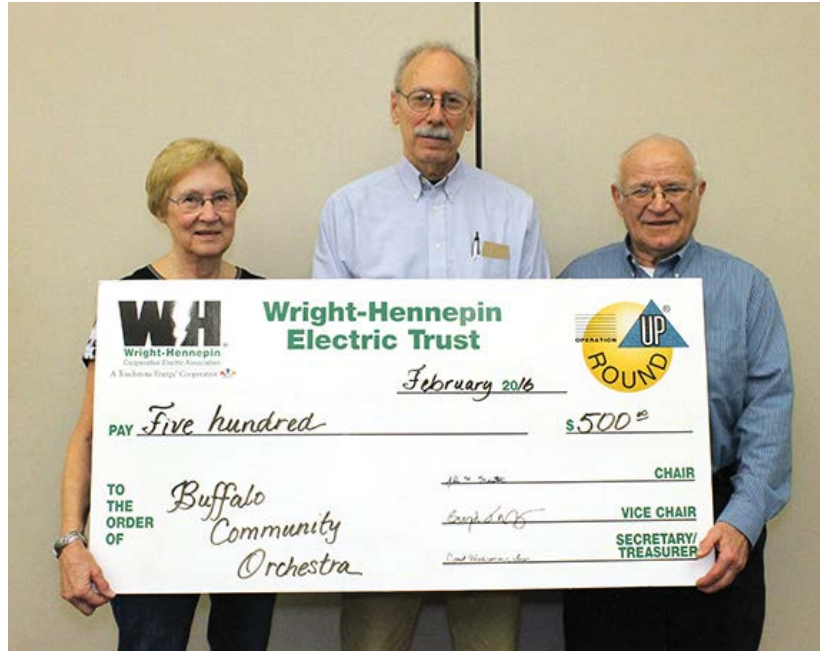
Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Alzheimer Association MN – ND in the amount of \$2,000 to support Alzheimer Association programs. ORU Board Chair John Meister (left) and Secretary Sharon Glessing (right) presented the grant to Diane Dockery.



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Autism Allies in the amount of \$1,800 to support a resource fair. ORU Secretary Sharon Glessing (left) presented the check to Volunteer Christina Aberle; Board Member Bernadette Aberle; President Roger Strege and Board Chair Richelle Kramer.



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Boy Scout Troop #547 in the amount of \$1,050 to support a scholarship for Grey Wolf leadership camp and Eagle Scout projects. ORU Secretary Sharon Glessing (left) presented the grant to Assistant Scout Master Jim Otte.



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Buffalo Community Orchestra in the amount of \$500 to offset concert expenses. ORU Secretary Sharon Glessing (left) and Board Chair John Meister (right) presented the grant to Jeff Burns.



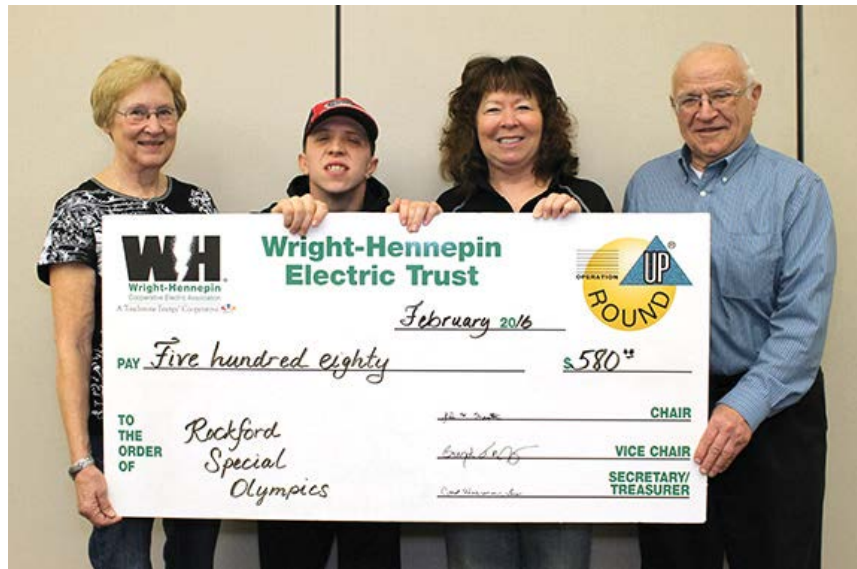
Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Pay It Forward Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to help breast cancer victims pay for utilities, housing, medical treatments, transportation, phone expenses and food. ORU Board Chair John Meister (left) and Secretary Sharon Glessing (right) presented the grant to Cofounder Scott Bissen.



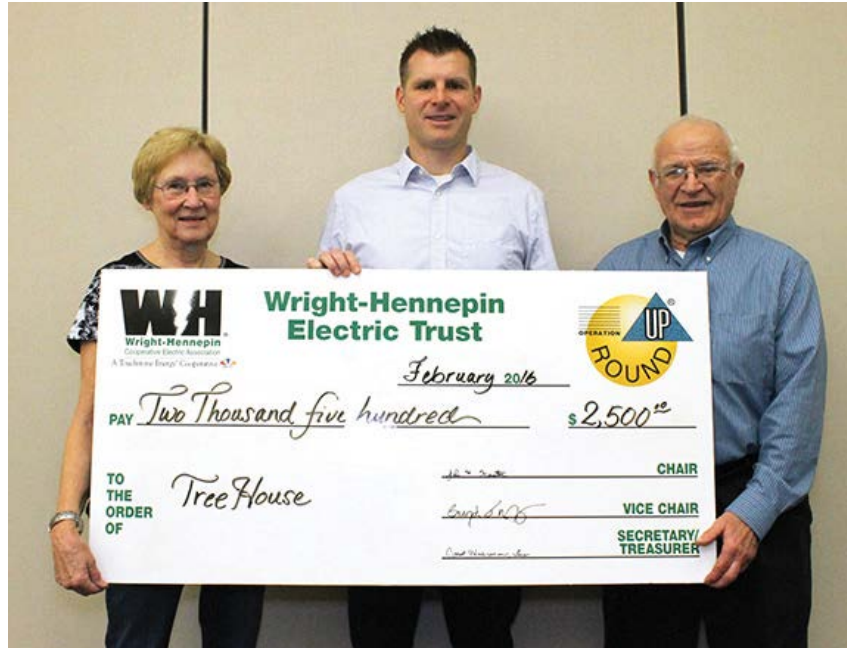
Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Rivers of Hope in the amount of \$3,000 to support a 24-hour crisis line. ORU Board Chair John Meister (left) and Secretary Sharon Glessing (right) presented the grant to Wright County Advocate Laurel Thompson (left center) and Fund Development Jody Mowry.



Operation Round Up Recently awarded a grant to Rockford Rockets Special Olympics in the amount of \$500 to help Special Olympic athletes participate in bowling and track. ORU Secretary Sharon Glessing (left) presented the grant to, from left to right: Athlete Lilly Peitz, Coach Diane Peitz, Coach Bonnie Wilts and Athlete Aiden Wilts.



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Rockford Special Olympics in the amount of \$580 to help Special Olympic athletes participate in bowling and track. ORU Secretary Sharon Glessing (left) and Board Chair John Meister (right) presented the grant to Athlete Ryan Bolduc (left center) and Coach Connie Bolduc.

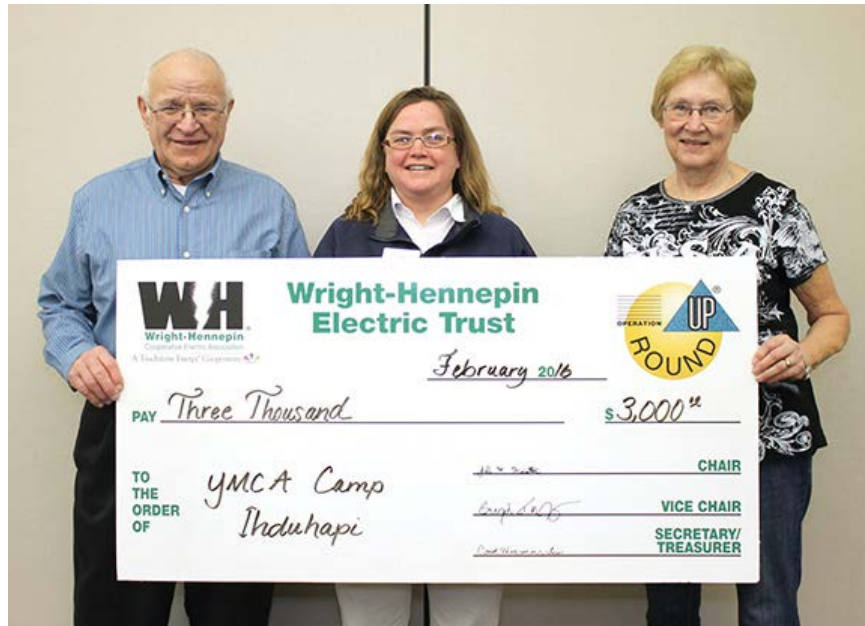


Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to TreeHouse Inc. in the amount of \$2,500 to support the cost of a van for transportation. ORU Secretary Sharon Glessing (left) and Board Chair John Meister (right) presented the grant to Vice President of Advancement Andy Swanda.



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Wright County Community Action in the amount of \$10,000 to assist Wright County residents who are in crisis and would otherwise not be able to receive assistance through energy assistance programs. ORU

Secretary Sharon Glessing (left) and Board Chair John Meister (right) presented the grant to Housing Manager Larry Howard.



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to YMCA camp Ihduhapi in the amount of \$3,000 to support a scholarship for day and overnight camp programs. ORU Board Chair John Meister (left) and Secretary Sharon Glessing (right) presented the grant to Kerry Pioske.

For those interested in applying for funds, fill out an application. To receive an application and to see what types of activities Operation Round Up supports – visit WH’s website at <http://goo.gl/ZkLMQr>, send an email to oru@whe.org, or call Lisa and leave a message at (763) 477-3000 extension 6126.

Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association is a member-owned, non-profit electric utility that provides power to rural Wright County and western Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen to the area since 1937 and currently serves almost 50,000 electric accounts. It is headquartered in Rockford, MN.

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