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News Release

WRIGHT-HENNEPIN MEMBERS DONATE MORE THAN \$57,000 TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rockford, MN (November 20, 2019) — Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) members who participate in Operation Round Up (ORU) donated grants totaling \$57,600 in October. ORU has awarded more than \$4 million since it began in 1994.

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 87 percent of WH's members participate in the ORU program and contribute a total of approximately \$19,000 each month. ORU's board manages the generated money, which is held in a trust fund. Through a selection process and review of guidelines, the ORU trust board evaluates funding requests on a bimonthly basis.

The ORU trust board awarded the following donations on behalf of WH members at their October meeting:

- **\$4,000, Annandale Youth First**, funds to provide student-to-student mentorship programs.
- **\$7,500, MN Adult and Teen Challenge**, funds to support the "Know the Truth" drug prevention program.
- **\$3,500, Gifts Anonymous**, funds to purchase gifts for children in the Elk River/Otsego area.
- **\$5,000, Toys for Tots of Buffalo**, funds to purchase toys and gifts for children 0-17 years of age.
- **\$1,500, French Lake Sunshine Club**, funds to support local outreach to assist families in need and to celebrate the birthdays of the residents of Annandale Care Center.
- **\$1,900, Friends of the St. Michael-Albertville-Hanover Library**, funds for the early literacy program.
- **\$7,500, Hope Chest for Breast Cancer**, funds for emergency assistance grants for those with breast cancer.
- **\$5,000, RiverWorks Community Development**, funds to support Lunch Box Fever 2.0 and 3.0 for the Christmas meal program and for students to receive lunches at school when their lunch account is at zero.

- **\$500, Angel Quilters of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church,** funds to purchase quilting supplies for making quilts which are given to the homeless.
- **\$10,000, True Friends,** funds to support furnace needs at Irish Rose cabin and construction of two new cabins.
- **\$500, True Friends Auxiliary,** funds to defray costs of dinner for their annual fundraiser.
- **\$10,000, Wright County Health and Human Services Special Needs Fund,** funds to provide one-time support to get families back on their feet.
- **\$700, Wright County Historical Society,** funds to repair, relight and display the neon sign from the historic Red's Café in Montrose.

Those interested in ORU funds can find an application and learn more about the types of activities ORU supports by visiting WH's website at <http://bit.ly/2Jvv6gv>, sending an email to oru@whe.org or calling Lisa and leaving a message at (763) 477-3000 extension 6126.

Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association is a member-owned, not-for-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 more than 50,000 electric accounts. It is headquartered in Rockford, Minn.

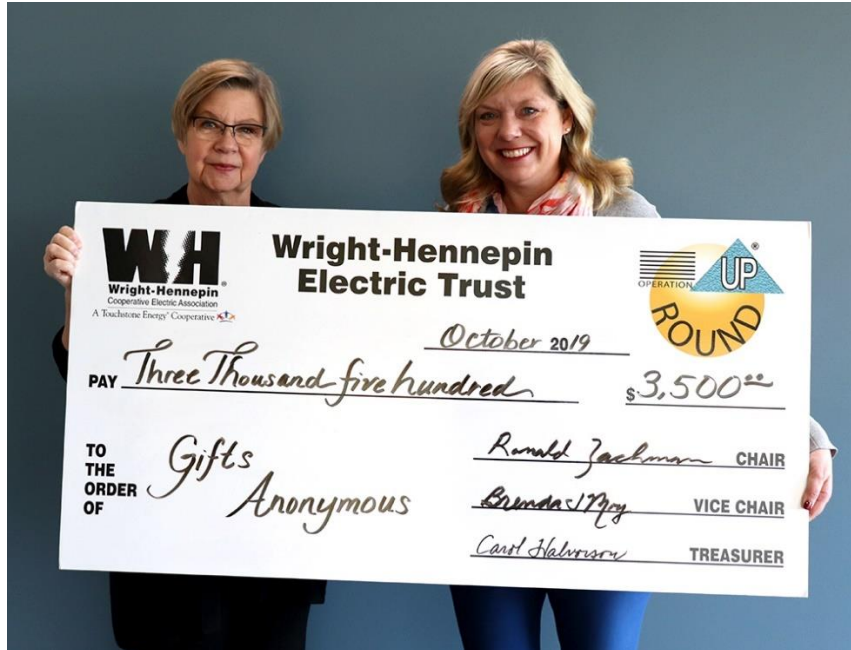
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Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Annandale Youth First in the amount of \$4,000 to provide student-to-student mentorship programs. ORU board trustee Connie Erickson (left) presented the grant to Pam Wurm, coordinator.



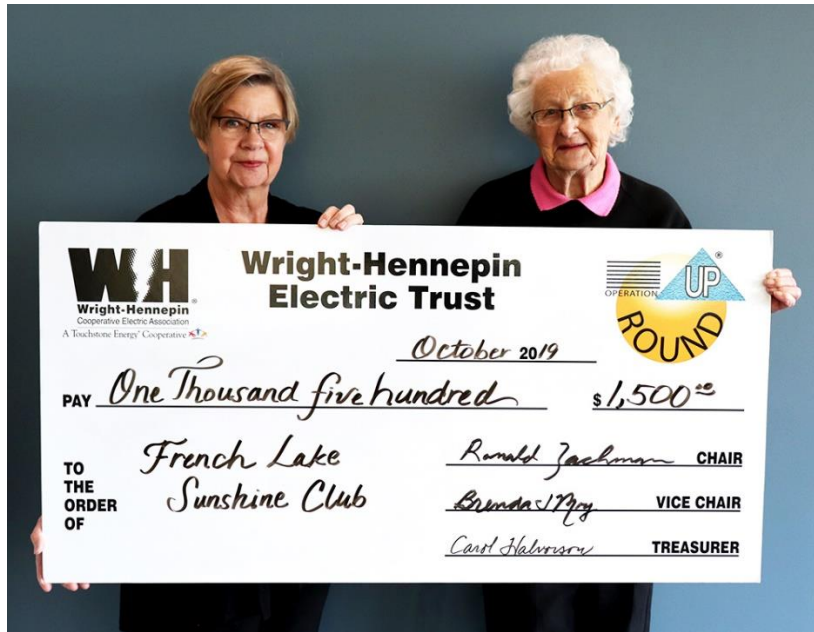
Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to MN Adult and Teen Challenge in the amount of \$7,500 to support the "Know the Truth" drug prevention program. ORU board trustee Connie Erickson (left) presented the grant to Sadie Holland, director of Know the Truth (middle) and Mary Kay Bensen, director of donor relations (right).



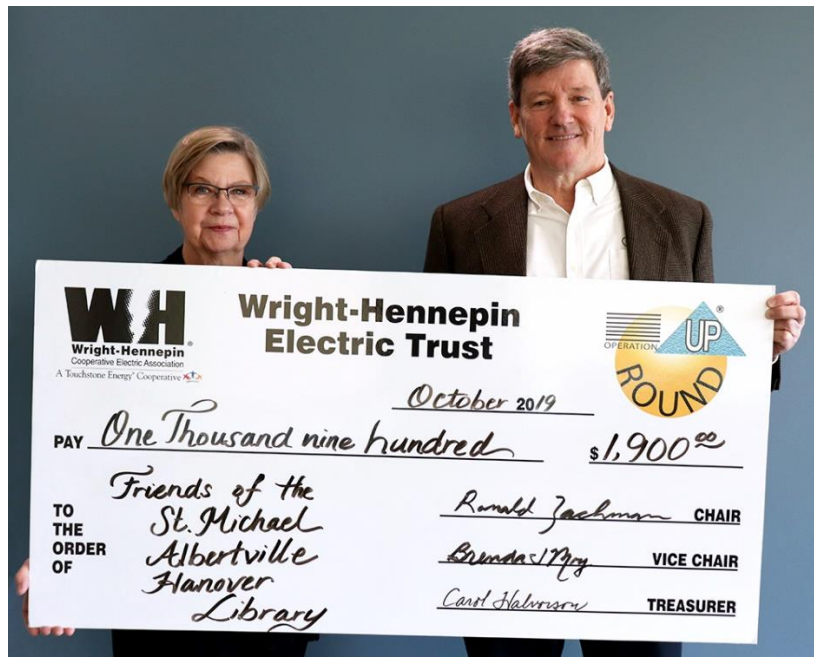
Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Gifts Anonymous in the amount of \$3,500 to purchase gifts for children in the Elk River/Otsego area. ORU board trustee Connie Erickson (left) presented the grant to Jessica Stockamp, chair.



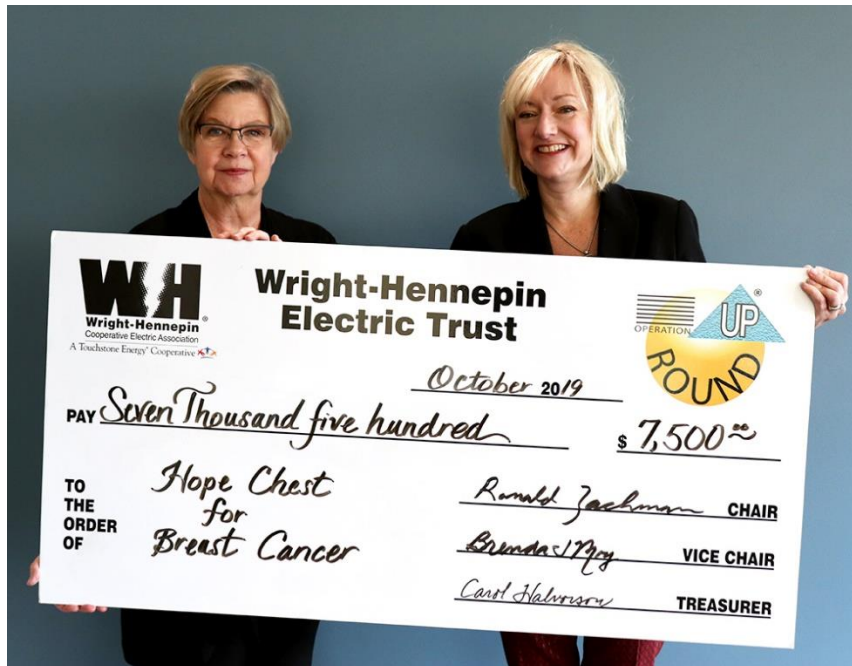
Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Toys for Tots of Buffalo in the amount of \$5,000 to purchase toys and gifts for children 0-17 years of age. ORU board trustee Connie Erickson (left) presented the grant to Jean Carlson, coordinator.



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to French Lake Sunshine Club in the amount of \$1,500 to support local outreach to assist families in need and to celebrate the birthdays of the residents of Annandale Care Center. ORU board trustee Connie Erickson (left) presented the grant to Frieda Gunderson, coordinator.



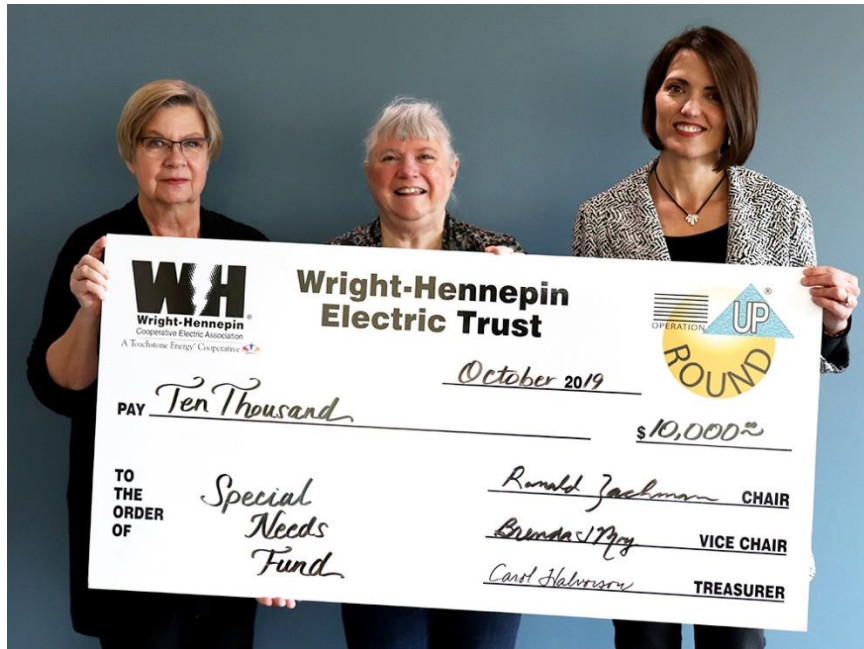
Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Friends of the St. Michael-Albertville-Hanover Library in the amount of \$1,900 for the early literacy program. ORU board trustee Connie Erickson (left) presented the grant to Mike Verhulst, president.



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Hope Chest for Breast Cancer in the amount of \$7,500 for emergency assistance grants for those with breast cancer. ORU board trustee Connie Erickson (left) presented the grant to Jamie Flaws, executive director.



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to True Friends in the amount of \$10,000 to support furnace needs at Irish Rose cabin and construction of two new cabins. ORU board trustee Connie Erickson (left) presented the grant to Brooke Jensen, development officer.



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Wright County Health and Human Services Special Needs Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to provide one-time support to get families back on their feet. ORU board trustee Connie Erickson (left) presented the grant to Marianne Charbonneau, supervisor (middle) and Michelle Miller, manager (right).



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Wright County Historical Society in the amount of \$700 to repair, relight and display the neon sign from the historic Red's Café in Montrose. ORU board trustee Connie Erickson (left) presented the grant to Hannah King, curator.