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News Release

WRIGHT-HENNEPIN MEMBERS DONATE MORE THAN \$104,000 TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rockford, MN (April 30, 2021) — Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) members who participate in Operation Round Up (ORU) recently donated grants totaling \$104,635 in April. ORU has awarded more than \$4.7 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. Approximately 89% of WH's members participate in the ORU program and contribute a total of approximately \$19,500 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 April meeting:

- **\$300, Watertown-Mayer Post Prom Committee**, funds for drug-free, safe, all-night party.
- **\$6,000, Toys for Tots**, funds to supplement the toy donations received in the age groups that are short.
- **\$2,500, TreeHouse, Inc.**, funds to support the cost of one van for three months of the year.
- **\$1,500, C.A.S.T. for Kids**, funds to purchase fishing equipment for kids with disabilities.
- **\$1,735, Joe Weitalla Fishing Expo**, funds to purchase fishing equipment for 4th graders.
- **\$5,000, Pay It Forward Fund**, funds for breast cancer victims to pay for utilities, housing, medical transportation, phones and food.
- **\$5,000, Salvation Army HeatShare**, funds to support energy assistance programs for WH's service area.
- **\$5,000, Children's Home Society of MN**, funds for adoption programming.
- **\$2,000, Alzheimer Association, MN-ND**, funds to support Alzheimer Association community education and support programs.
- **\$6,000, Can Do Canines**, funds to support an assistance dog.

- **\$7,500, Hope Chest for Breast Cancer Foundation**, funds to provide financial assistance to breast cancer patients.
- **\$2,000, MN Firefighter Initiative**, funds for firefighter education and support.
- **\$10,000, WeCAN**, funds to assist those in need with emergency assistance.
- **\$30,100, Local food shelf**
- **\$10,000, Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County**, funds to provide low-income energy assistance.
- **\$10,000, Wright County Community Action**, funds to assist Wright County residents with energy assistance.

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 the Administrator to the Trust, 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 55,000 electric accounts. It is headquartered in Rockford, Minn.

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