

## **News Release**

## WRIGHT-HENNEPIN MEMBERS DONATE MORE THAN \$38,000 TO HELP LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

**Rockford, Minn. (January 3, 2013)** — Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association's (WH) Operation Round Up (ORU) participates donated grants totaling \$38,237 in December 2012.

ORU participants allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar. The rounded amount is then used for donations to fund community programs.

ORU's trust board of directors 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 December 2012:

- **\$700, Ambassador Company,** funds to support distribution of books to Rockford schools promoting positive character values
- \$250, Girl Scout troop #10898, Delano, funds for Gold Award project to provide books for the children's section of the Delano Public Library
- **\$1,000, Hillside Hope Thru Hooves,** funds to provide scholarships to eight disadvantaged youth and families
- **\$200, Maple Grove Senior High All Night Grad party,** funds to provide a safe all night graduation party
- **\$2,400, Rachel's Challenge**, to provide a "Rachel's Challenge" program to the Rockford High School

- \$350, Rockford Special Olympics, funds to offset competition fees for bowling
- **\$200, Watertown-Mayer Post Prom,** funds to provide a safe allnight prom party
- **\$2,500, YMCA Camp Ihduhapi**, funds to provide scholarships for day and overnight campers
- **\$3,000, Angel Bears of Hope,** funds to purchase Angel Bears to be given to adults and children with life-threatening diseases
- \$8,137, Catholic Charities Senior Dining, funds to replace kitchen hood and exhaust system in the Maple Lake senior center kitchen
- \$9,500, Cornerstone Women's Center, funds to provide programs to women and families promoting a safe and welcoming environment
- **\$10,000, WeCAN,** funds to assist the needy with emergency assistance

Since the ORU program began in 1994, WH members have donated more than \$2.4 million to programs in need. Each participant annually contributes \$6 on average.

For those interested in applying for funds, the next application deadline is February 1, 2013. To receive an application, visit WH's website at <u>www.whe.org</u>, send an email to <u>info@whe.org</u>, or call Lisa Zipp and leave a message at (763) 497-8189.

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 now provides local home security solutions as well as monitors alarm systems for more than 50,000 customers in 32 states and three Canadian provinces.

-end-