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News Release

WH MAKE A DIFFERENCE, WRIGHT-HENNEPIN'S NEW COMMITTEE, DONATES TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rockford, Minn. (January 2, 2019) — Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association's (WH) new employee committee, called WH Make a Difference, finished three holiday donation drives in December 2018: a toy drive, food drive and coat drive. The donations were distributed in December to local organizations within WH's service territory.

The toy drive accepted donations from WH employees and the public. More than 270 toys were collected and donated to the Rockford Fire Auxiliary. The food and coat drives accepted donations from WH employees. More than 170 food items and 68 coats were collected and donated to the Hanover Food Shelf.

WH employees also donated \$2,610 to Wright County Community Action. WH matched the first \$1,000, bringing the total donation to \$3,610. The monetary donations will be divided among three different programs: local/mobile food shelves, toy drives and volunteer ride share programs.

"We want to make an impact in our local communities," said Chrissy Piekarski, one of the spokespeople for WH Make a Difference. "WH and its employees feel it is important to give back to the communities we serve. These three donations mark the start of this committee's goal to make a difference in our communities."

WH Make a Difference is a committee of 10 employees, which organizes event and fundraiser opportunities for WH employees. The committee selects organizations within WH's service territory for the donations to be given to. The goal of WH Make a Difference is to give back to the local communities WH serves through employee contributions.

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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WH Make a Difference is a committee consisting of 10 Wright-Hennepin employees. Back (from left): Stacie Nielsen, Matthew Kangas, Bev Peitz, Brenda Wilson, Kristina Manes and April Fornoff. Front (from left): Chrissy Piekarski and Ryan O'Connor. Not pictured: Janet Cafferty and Darrell Erickson.



The WH Make a Difference toy drive collected more than 270 toys which were donated to the Rockford Fire Auxiliary. Pictured are three members of the Rockford Fire Auxiliary, along with three WH Make a Difference committee members: April Fornoff (front left), Chrissy Piekarski (front right) and Darrell Erickson (back row).



WH Make a Difference food and coat drives collected more than 170 food items and 68 coats and donated them to the Hanover Food Shelf. Committee members Chrissy Piekarski (left) and Kristina Manes (right) dropped off the donations with Helen Skutley (center), Director of the Hanover Food Shelf Community Board of Directors.



WH Make a Difference collected a total of \$3,610 in monetary donations from employees and Wright-Hennepin's \$1,000 match. The money was donated to Wright County Community Action (WCCA) to be divided among three different programs: local/mobile food shelves, toy drives and volunteer ride share programs. Committee members Kristina Manes (right) and Chrissy Piekarski (left) presented the check to Jay Weatherford (center), Executive Director of WCCA.