

Operation Round-Up Grants

Every fall our Trust board awards grants to several local non-profit organizations that serve our members and our local communities. Below are just a few grant recipients from 2020.



Thank you to our members for Rounding-Up your electric bill, every penny counts!



Redwood Falls Public Library was awarded \$500.00 to fund a Starwatch Program by Mike Lynch that was hosted at Gilfillan. *Pictured: Director, Teri Smith and Library Staff, Jill Deinken and Angie McDougall*





Service Enterprises Inc. was awarded \$1000.00 to help fund job support coaches/staff to help individuals with mental health disabilities and their employers to increase the success of employment. *Pictured: Rachael Buyck, Employment Coordinator and Betty Stancer, Business Manager*

Walnut Grove Fire Department was awarded \$1500.00 to help purchase turnout gear needed for the fireman. *Pictured: Fire Chief, Andy Foster and Fireman/Grant Committee Member, Jason Algyer.*



St. Raphael's School was awarded \$1900.00 to replace and update computers so they are compatible with the new smartboards for the classrooms. *Pictured: Father Phil and Principle, Mrs. Beth Steffl*

Crock Pot CHICKEN & RICE BURRITO BOWLS

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. chicken breasts (about 3 chicken breasts)
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 1/2 cups salsa
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1 packet taco seasoning
- 1 tsp cumin (optional)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 3/4 cups instant rice, brown or white
- 1 (15 oz) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 1/2 cup shredded Colby jack cheese

Suggested toppings:

Sliced olives, sliced green onion and sour cream

Directions:

1. Place chicken and diced onion in slow cooker and add broth, salsa, taco seasoning and cumin. Cover and cook on LOW for about 4 hours or until chicken is cooked to 165°F.

2. Remove cooked chicken and shred with two forks. Add chicken back to slow cooker.

3. Turn slow cooker to HIGH and add instant rice and beans. Stir. Cover and cook for about 40 minutes until rice is tender and liquid reduced. Top with shredded cheese, cover and cook for a few minutes longer until cheese is melted.

4. Serve in a bowl with desired toppings.



SMALL HEATERS=BIGGER BILLS

During winter, for many of us, comfort at home means heat.

While a good central heating system is designed to meet whole house needs, sometimes members turn to space heaters for additional warmth. Some people use one to boost temperatures for a single room where the available heat is inadequate, but their widespread use, over extended periods, can boost winter heating bills.

"Space heaters are not the ideal solution for heating homes," said Brian Sloboda, a senior program manager for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "For every unit of electricity that is consumed by these devices, they produce one unit of heat."

According to analysts at the Environmental Protection Agency, the key is using space heaters in smaller rooms that are occupied infrequently, in conjunction with lower thermostat settings on your central system.

Given a choice between high, medium and low, or an adjustable thermostat, choose the latter. A unit that heats your space to the desired temperature will cycle less, saving you energy, and never overheat the room.

There are currently no space heaters among the EPA's list of ENERGY STAR[®]-rated products. Agency officials said they have evaluated several models but have no plans to include such products in the labeling program in the near future.

Still, high-end space heaters are heavily marketed during the autumn and winter months.

"Most of these units are very similar in design, but the cabinetry or packaging are major selling points," said Sloboda. "Members should consider the wide range of heaters available, and their own taste in features and design before buying one. They should also keep in mind a 1,500 watt heater is a 1,500 watt heater no matter how it looks cosmetically."

"There may be other alternatives to keep warm this winter, like sealing air leaks, adding insulation or tuning up your heating system so it operates more efficiently," said Sloboda. "Those are just a few of the options that won't increase your overall energy use."

How much does it cost to operate a 1,500 watt space heater?

Watts x hours of use/1,000 x cost per kilowatt-hour= Cost of Operation

If a 1,500 watt heater runs 24-hours a day at 11 cents per kilowatt-hour, the cost would be \$3.96 per day and \$118.80 per month in addition to the regular monthly usage. $(1,500 \times 24/1,000 \times $0.11)$





Scholarship and Youth Tour Trip Application Deadlines

DEADLINE MARCH 6, 2020

2020 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Students win an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. June 20-25, 2020

Juniors or Seniors between the age of 16-18 can apply!!!

Each year, rural electric cooperatives across the nation sponsor roughly 1,800 students on the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Students participate in leadership training, engage in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jumpstart their national peer network and tour Washington D.C. The Electric Coops have brought high school students to Washington for the past 50 years and nearly 50,000 students have participated.

Operation Round-Up

Dependent children of REC members that are high school seniors attending college in the fall of 2020 can apply!!!

Operation Round-Up is a volunteer community support program that Redwood Electric Cooperative offers. We feel we should do more than just sell electricity. Our goal is to enhance the quality of life for our members. The "neighbor helping neighbor" concept that built our cooperative over 80 years ago is why we offer this program. This scholarship is for students graduating from high school and plan to continue their education by attending college.

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 7, 2020

Basin \$1000 Scholarship

Dependent children of REC members that are high school seniors or current college students attending college in the fall of 2020 can apply!!!

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a wholesale power supplier to Redwood Electric, has offered this scholarship since 1990. Each

year Redwood Electric takes scholarship applications from throughout our service area. The recipient must be a dependent of a member of Redwood Electric who is enrolled, or planning to enroll, in a full-time graduate or under graduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2020.

Obtain applications from your school counselor, Redwood Electric Cooperative, or our website at www.redwoodelectric.com.

ALL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF REC MEMBERS (Including adopted or step-children)!

Office Hours & Contact Information

Monday-Friday 7:00 AM-3:30 PM Phone: 1-888-251-5100 Email address: office@redwoodelectric.com Web: www.redwoodelectric.com Pay By Phone: 844-846-2696

> OUTAGES 1-888-251-5100 24 HOURS A DAY



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U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at <u>program.intake@usda.gov</u>.

Thanks!