

Connection

Communicating local energy news to Four County Electric members

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Four County EMC Members Raise \$3 Million for Operation Round Up®

The Four County Electric Membership Corporation Care TRUST also known as Operation Round Up® has been in existence since 1994. As of January 18, 2018, the program has awarded over three million dollars to families and non-profit organizations in need.



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Get the Scoop



In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counterclockwise direction. This will create a cool breeze. Remember: Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room.

The motto of Operation Round Up® is “small change changes lives.” This is a fantastic motto for a program that truly transforms lives by using small change collected from the members/owners of Four County EMC. The program works by members voluntarily rounding up their power bill to the next dollar. For example, if a member’s power bill is \$150.60 then the bill would be rounded up to \$151.00 and the additional \$0.40 goes into a fund called Operation Round Up®. The money that is “rounded up” is used to provide assistance to cooperative members in crisis situations and non-profit organizations serving the Four County EMC area.

This program has truly changed people’s lives over the course of its twenty-four years.

“Working with Operation Round Up® really makes you appreciate the important things in life such as



Sidney, son of Four County member Amberlina Brock from Garland enjoyed refreshments during the Operation Round Up® celebration.

food and shelter. Everyone that contributes to Round Up can have the joy of knowing they are helping their neighbors meet some of life’s basic needs,” stated Round Up Chairman William Pickett.

There have been several situations where families lost everything in a house fire or flood and Operation Round Up® was there to provide them the means to buy new clothes and food to help them in their time of need. Several local

non-profit organizations have received blessings from Operation Round Up®—food pantries, fire departments and Special Olympics.

It is nothing short of amazing to see the way this program transforms our communities for the better. All of these things are only possible with the strong support from the members of Four County EMC that elect to round their bill up each month.

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Local Students Honored at Wolfpack Women's Basketball Game

Local middle-school students Madalyn White (Cape Fear Middle School) and Maegan Burney (Clarkton School of Discovery) received recognition during a Wolfpack Women's basketball game at North Carolina State University on Saturday, Feb. 10. Madalyn and Maegan earned a Touchstone Energy scholarship from Four County EMC to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp last summer.

"Winning a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship is a tremendous accomplishment," said Gay Johnson, Director of Corporate Communications of Four County EMC. "We commend Madalyn and Maegan for their hard work, and we're proud to recognize their achievement."

Both students stood with fellow scholarship winners at mid-court to be recognized as a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship recipient. Each student's family received free tickets to the game and attended a pre-game luncheon, where each camper accepted a certificate of accomplishment.

Four County EMC accepted applications for the 2018 Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships through March 31.



Madalyn White (top) and Maegan Burney.

HVAC/Heating and Cooling System Financing Available to Qualifying Members

Four County offers a variable rate loan called "The Comfort Loan" to qualifying members to assist in upgrading or replacing their old heating and cooling system with a NEW high efficiency heat pump. Also, the Comfort Loan program makes funding available for insulation. This program gives mem-

bers a cost-effective way to make improvements to their home by using low-interest funding.

With the summer months soon approaching, now is a good time to take action to ensure your home will provide and maintain comfort in an efficient manner.

What items can be financed through the comfort loan program?

- Insulation
- Replacement of existing heating and/or cooling system(s) with all-electric high-efficiency heat pump or central air conditioning unit

How much money is available through the comfort loan and what are the interest rates?

- Maximum amount for an all-electric high-efficiency (14 SEER) heat pump or central air conditioning unit is \$6,500 at 6% interest.

- Maximum amount for an all-electric high-efficiency (15 SEER) heat pump or central air conditioning unit is \$6,500 at 5% interest.
- Maximum amount for an all-electric high-efficiency (16 SEER or higher) heat pump or central air conditioning unit is \$6,500 at 4% interest.

Save with Rebates

Heat pump rebates are available for any member that installs a 16 SEER or greater heat pump. This applies to new construction or retrofits. The rebate is \$100 per ton. Proof of purchase is required in order to receive the rebate.

How Do I Get Started?

Contact your Four County Office at www.fourcty.org or 1-888-368-7289 for more details on the program and rebate information.





**LINEMEN
CARE
ABOUT
THE
COMMUNITIES
THEY
SERVE.**

#ThankALineman

#ThankALineman on Lineman Appreciation Day!

Four County EMC as well as electric cooperatives across North Carolina and the nation will recognize the many contributions of our linemen by celebrating Lineman Appreciation Day on Monday, April 9. Join us in thanking the hard-working men and women whose diligent efforts and skilled expertise keep the lights on for our members.

“All our cooperative employees do a phenomenal job every day to serve our members, but we couldn’t carry out our mission without the daily dedica-

tion of our linemen,” said Mitch Keel, CEO of Four County EMC. “It’s a demanding job on the front line of our co-op that often requires working around the clock in challenging conditions to serve our members and communities. We can’t thank them enough for all they do.”

Electricity travels along a network of wires and poles to power our homes and businesses. Most of the time this is a seamless journey, but occasionally that connection is interrupted by

obstacles like fallen trees and branches, animals or an equipment malfunction and linemen are charged with restoring that connection no matter the weather or time of day.

“Linemen literally bring us through some of our darkest hours, and we count on them to power our lives day in and day out,” Keel said.

On April 9, remember to show your gratitude to our dedicated crews using the hashtag #ThankALineman!

Four County EMC members raise \$3 million for Operation Round Up, *continued from page 29*

“We are all one unexpected crisis away from needing a helping hand. Although we hope that we never have a need for such assistance; it’s reassuring to know that the members of our communities care about one another enough to contribute to this program,” said Franklin Williams, Four County EMC Board Chairman.

This program is truly “members helping members” in a time of need. To thank our members/owners for their contributions over the years, Four County hosted small celebrations in each of the three Four County office locations— Rose Hill on February 20, Burgaw on February 21 and Elizabethtown on February 22. A booth was set

up in the lobby with program information and light refreshments. Piggy banks imprinted with the milestone as well as hand sanitizers were given away to members that visited the offices.

Winning Recipe

from the editor



- 1 cup mashed strawberries
- Fresh strawberries, halved
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 2 Tbsp. strawberry jello
- 1 baked pie crust (cooled) or graham cracker pie crust
- Cool Whip

Line pie crust with fresh strawberries. Mix mashed strawberries, sugar and cornstarch together. Cook over medium heat until mixture is thick. Remove from heat and stir in

Easy Strawberry Pie

Prepare this scrumptious dessert during the upcoming strawberry season.



jello. Pour mixture in pie crust over strawberries and refrigerate until it gels. Top with Cool Whip and garnish with fresh strawberries before serving. Enjoy!

Educators: Apply now to fund your Bright Ideas!



Bright Ideas

EDUCATION GRANTS

Do you have an idea for an innovative classroom project? Here at Four County EMC, April marks the official kickoff of the Bright Ideas education grant program. The Bright Ideas grant program is offered by all 26 of North Carolina's electric cooperatives and supports educators in need of funding to implement creative, hands-on learning projects. NC Teachers in K-12 classrooms are encouraged to apply for a grant of up to \$2,000.

As a member-owned cooperative, Four County EMC is committed to supporting local communities, and last year, Four County EMC awarded \$19,860 in Bright Ideas funding to local teachers. Since 1994, educators statewide have received more than \$11.5 million in Bright Ideas grant funding, and well over 2.2 million North Carolina students have participated in approximately 11,000 Bright Ideas projects.

Grant applications will be accepted beginning Sunday, April 1 through Sept. 28. It could pay to apply early: all teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of Wednesday, Aug. 15 will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

Teachers can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects. To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit www.NCBrightIdeas.com.

Four County Electric

Our Mission

To provide highly reliable electric service, innovative energy solutions and outstanding service to our Members and Communities.

Our Values

- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Excellence

Our Vision

To be an advocate for our Members by:

- Exceeding members' expectations
- Utilizing well trained, motivated employees
- Achieving excellence
- Operating efficiently
- Maintaining hometown values

Four County Connection

Gay Johnson, Editor

Published monthly by Four County Electric Membership Corporation, P.O. Box 667, Burgaw, NC 28425, as a service to our members like:



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