



BENCO Electric Cooperative Link

NOVEMBER 2023

OPERATION ROUND UP GRANTS OVER \$28,000

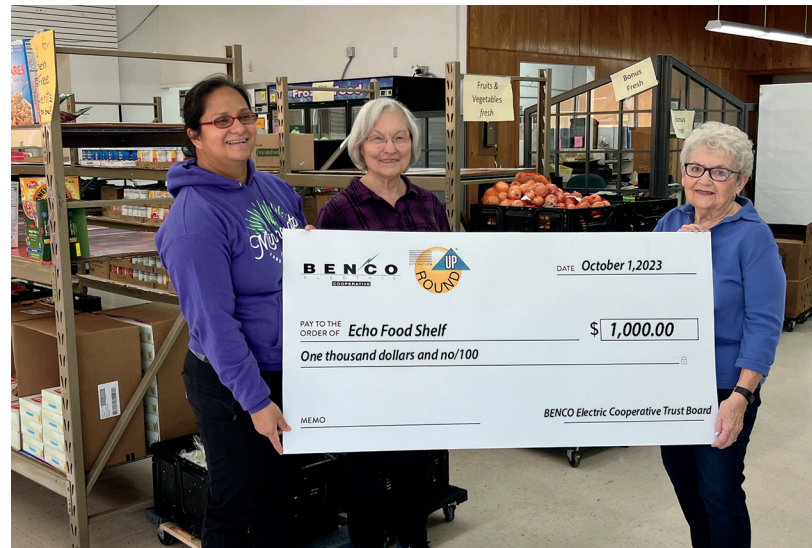


The Operation Round Up Trust Board gathered in September when 17 grants, totaling \$28,030.00 were awarded to the following non-profit organizations: Kiester Library, Wishes & More, Nicollet Public School,

Kiester Fire Relief Association, Mapleton Fire Department, Mankato & North Mankato ACT on Alzheimer's, Friends of Learning Back to School Project, Echo Food Shelf, Feeding Our Communities Partners (FOCP), Faribault County Food Shelf, Janesville Food Shelf, Kiester Food Shelf, Lake Crystal Area Food Shelf, Maple River Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf, St. Peter Food Shelf, Wells Area Food Shelf and the Winnebago Food Shelf.

Operation Round Up is an organization through BENCO Electric Cooperative where members' utility bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar. The "rounded up" amount goes into the BENCO Electric Cooperative Trust that is then allocated to non-profit organizations throughout the year. The non-profit organizations receiving grants are organizations that impact people within the BENCO service territory.

Since the program's inception in 2002, Operation Round Up has donated over \$368,000 to organizations benefitting the BENCO service territory. BENCO members serving on the Operation Round Up Trust Board include:



Echo Food Shelf was an Operation Round Up recipient in September. The organization aims to provide food to over 120 Blue Earth and Nicollet County families on a daily basis.

District 1 - Allan Muehlhausen; District 2 - Sheila Opsal; District 3 - Darlyne Deopere; District 4 - Matt Starkey; District 5 - Ruby Isebrand; District 6 - Dawn Gilman; District 7 - Matt Zebro; District 8 - Nancy Jenkins; District 9 - Dennis Koziolk. The Operation Round Up Trust Board disperses funds twice per year.

Do you know of a worthy non-profit organization that benefits the members of BENCO Electric Cooperative? If so, please encourage that organization's representatives to apply online by visiting our website at www.BENCO.org/operation-round-up. Interested organizations can also print the application, complete and mail to: Operation Round Up Trust Board, PO BOX 8, Mankato, MN 56002.

CEO CORNER

As the 2023 construction season comes to a close, I would like to reflect on BENCO's very successful construction season that included many upgrades and new lines.

We continue to see development in residential, commercial and agricultural services. This year we installed 20 three-phase transformers. This is attributed to new services and many service upgrades.

Construction of the new Rush River substation is nearing completion. This new substation will add necessary capacity, reliability, sustainability and new technologies to the northern area of our service territory.

Some larger construction projects include Nicollet County Road 15 where crews transferred eight miles of overhead lines to underground. In Blue Earth County, crews worked to convert three miles of

single-phase lines from overhead to underground on County Road 16. Our line crews also worked on extending and adding three-phase lines by the southern most point of our service territory, near the Iowa border. Crews have also begun a project for next year on Blue Earth County Road 13 near Good Thunder.

Overall, we have installed over 100 miles of underground cable this year.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Happy Thanksgiving!

Cooperatively yours,



FROM THE BOARD

September 28, 2023
Brad Leiding Presided

The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the August 31, 2023 board meeting.

Abby reported on communications with the MN Dept. of Revenue about property tax appeal.

Directors attending reviewed the NRECA Region 5/6 Meeting.

Director attending reviewed the Fall Legislative Visit.

The board approved the Nominating Committee and Chair for Districts 1, 4 and 9.

The board approved the GRE NextEra Energy Resources - Amended Terms for Dodge County Wind Energy Purchase.

PCA UPDATE

ACTUAL PCA FOR OCTOBER

\$0.0226

ESTIMATED PCA FOR NOVEMBER

\$0.0334

ESTIMATED PCA FOR DECEMBER

\$0.0366

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is due to changes in the monthly wholesale rate from our power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE).



Merry Christmas!

BENCO Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1 to observe the Christmas and New Year holidays. Please continue to report power outages by calling 507-387-7964.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS FOR HOUSEHOLDS OF MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL

An electric cooperative cannot disconnect a residential customer for nonpayment of electric bills if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station during the period of active duty, deployment or for a permanent change in duty station, if such a residential customer meets income criteria specified by law. To receive this protection from disconnection, the residential customer must request and reach agreement with the cooperative on a payment plan.

Verification of income is required unless the member is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility.

The member has the right to appeal when the utility and residential customer are unable to agree on the



establishment, reasonableness or modification of a payment schedule, or timeliness of payments under a payment schedule.

If denied, an appeal must be made within seven working days after the utility has deposited first class mail notice. Service cannot be disconnected during an appeal.

For more information or to apply for shut-off protection, call our office at 507-387-7963 or visit <https://www.BENCO.org/financial-assistance>.

WHERE, OH WHERE?

The following is a list of former BENCO members who have unclaimed capital credit checks or credit balances on their inactive account. Please contact Angie at 387-7963 with any information on locating the former BENCO members.

M

Gina L. Miller, Loveland, CO
Glenn E. Miller, St. Peter
Greg Miller, North Mankato
James A. Miller, Mankato
James A. Miller, Belle Plaine
James P. Miller, Maple Grove
James R. Miller, Greeley, CO
Jason E. Miller, Mankato
Jay Miller, Wells
Jeff A. Miller, Mankato

Jim J. Miller, Mankato
John A. Miller, Mankato
John M. Miller, Wells
John S. Miller, Mankato
John T. Miller, Tulsa, OK
Justin Miller, Willoughby, OH
Kenneth Miller, Madelia
Kristen A. Miller, Mankato
Malissa A. Miller, Mankato
Michael A. Miller, Mankato
Mike H. Miller, Mankato
Nathan Miller, Madison Lake
Paul L. Miller, Winnebago
Peggy Miller, North Mankato
Rick D. Miller, Brooksville, FL
Robert D. Miller, Mankato
Ronald A. Miller, Clear Lake, IA
Ruth C. Miller, St. Peter
Scott W. Miller, Mankato
Shelley Miller, Mankato

Steven K. Miller, Mankato
Theodore W. Miller, North Mankato
Therese L. Miller, Burnsville
Tina J. Miller, Lake Crystal
Vicki Miller, North Mankato
W C Miller, Waldorf
Warren W. Miller, Wells
Wendy L. Miller, Brooklyn Park
Yvonne C. Miller, Mankato
Elizabeth A. Miller-Bennett, Helena, AL
Manuel Millerbernd, Glencoe
Jon Milliard, Sleepy Eye
Howard Millmann, Delavan
David W. Mills, Cokato
Gene R. Mills, Payson, AZ
Todd Minkel, Sartell
Shannon R. Minkinen, Plymouth
Henry Minks, Minnesota Lake
Minnesota Valley Minerals, Mankato
Lee Mischke, Westbrook



Touchstone Energy®

P.O. Box 8
Mankato, MN 56002-0008

what's cooking?

Receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill if your recipe appears in the newsletter.



PEACH REFRIGERATOR DESSERT

From the Kitchen of: Dorothy Olson

Crust Ingredients:

- 1/2 C butter
- 1 C flour
- 1/2 C chopped nuts
- 1/4 C brown sugar

Crust Directions:

Blend and pack the ingredients in a 9x13 pan. Bake 8 - 10 minutes at 400 degrees. Cool.

Filling Ingredients:

- 1 large pkg. vanilla pudding (not instant)
- 1 large peach jello
- 4 C water
- 8 oz. Cool Whip
- 3 - 4 peaches sliced

Directions:

Combine jello, pudding and water. Cook until clear. Cool until it begins to thicken like jello. Fold in Cool Whip and add peaches. Pour over crust. Can add a little sugar if using fresh peaches. If using canned peaches, drain before adding. Refrigerate for several hours.



This newsletter is published monthly by BENCO Electric Cooperative.

Office Hours: Mon -Fri - 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Phone: 387-7963 or 1-888-792-3626

Outages/After Hours:
387-7964 or 1-888-792-3626

Kathy Gerber - Member Services Manager
Chelsea Germa - Editor

Board Meetings:

Board meetings are held the last Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to contact directors with items of interest in advance of the meeting or if they wish to attend. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Board of Directors:

- Brad Leiding** - President - District 3
- Marilyn Lynch** - Vice President - District 5
- Scott Johnson** - Secretary - District 9
- Terry Genelin** - Treasurer - District 1
- Don Westphal** - District 2
- John Wells** - District 4 - MREA Director
- Blake Meshke** - District 6
- Gary Stenzel** - District 7 - GRE Director
- Duane Ehrich** - District 8
- Dave Sunderman** - CEO
- Christopher M. Roe** - Attorney

ENTER TO WIN. SEND YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE TO:

BENCO Electric Cooperative, Attn: Chelsea, PO Box 8, Mankato, MN 56002