

December 10, 2019

Concern for Community

REC Provides Helping Hand to Needy Students and Families

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) and its employees show great concern for the communities REC serves. As an example of that, REC recently made a community donation to the **Warren County Schools Special Services Department**.

This department **supports students** who are **homeless** or **not living in a full housing unit** and need many supplies they cannot afford on their own. To help, REC employees shopped for supplies like **soap, laundry detergent, first aid kits** and much more.

“At REC, we provide **more than just electric service**,” said **Josh Johnson**, REC’s key accounts executive. “We have a vested interest in all of our communities to be the best corporate citizen we can be and to give back to help those in need in our communities.”

These supplies come at a time of the year when it is needed the most, and the department was very thankful for REC’s help so they can accomplish their mission to support local students.

“**Community-based partnerships** are crucial, because without them there are many resources the school would not be able to provide,” said **Jenny Dunivan, Warren County Public Schools’ Family Engagement Coordinator**. “Community partnerships enhance existing school-based service delivery models and help fill in the resource and service gaps based on the needs of the school.”

The supplies that REC provided help families that often go without because there are a lack of funds and first they need to pay for groceries, rent, and other necessities. The supplies will benefit needy students and families, **from Pre-K through 12th grade** in Warren County. In addition, REC donated **\$500 in financial support** for overdue lunch accounts to alleviate the stress of families having to find money to satisfy their child’s account.

“When we dropped off the items, the **look of surprise on their faces spoke volumes** about what it meant to them to have been provided with these items,” Josh continued. “REC’s willingness to help those in our communities that need it the most really does provide the community with a way to thrive.”

-Report by Casey Hollins, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative.



REC employees provided essential supplies like soap, laundry detergent and first aid kits to local students in Warren County.

PVEC Employees Brighten Lives at Area Nursing Homes



Powell Valley Electric Cooperative employee Sandra Smith (center) pauses in her care bag distribution as she stands with Claiborne Health & Rehabilitation Center activity coordinator Ashley Collett (left) and activity assistant Jeanella Straup.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative (PVEC) employees spent some quality time recently preparing over **500 care bags** for distribution to those living inside county **nursing homes** as part of the **Tennessee Electric Co-op Day of Service**. Cooperative representatives traveled throughout **Claiborne County**, meeting with nursing home personnel as they handed off the **bounty of bags for the residents**.

“We have a mission to **improve life in the communities we serve**, and that mission goes far beyond simply keeping the lights on,” said **Randell Meyers**, general manager of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. “Our employees call northeast Tennessee and southwest Virginia home, too, and they were excited to give back to the communities that they love.”

The Tennessee Electric Co-op Day of Service is coordinated by the **Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association**. As part of the 2019 installment of this annual event, **28 separate community service projects** were completed by more than **450 electric co-op employees from across the state**, who devoted more than **1,000 volunteer hours** to this special event.

In the three years that this program has been in effect, more than **1,200 co-op employees** have volunteered **3,100 hours** to complete **75 community projects**.

-Report by Jessica Smith, PVEC Member Services Representative.

Environmental Stewardship

CVEC Recognized for Habitat Management

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) performs extensive work each year to **cut and maintain rights-of-way** for new and existing electric lines along its **4,500-mile system**. Well-maintained rights-of-way are essential to providing **reliable and safe electric service** as well as ideal **habitats for wildlife** and low-growth vegetation.

Recently, CVEC was awarded a **“Habitat Partners Certificate”** from the **Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF)** for work done to **maintain rights-of-way**. The certificate is awarded as part of the **DGIF’s Corporate Habitat program** and is open to businesses and industries interested in **habitat improvement projects** on their lands which will make a **substantial contribution** to the **welfare of wildlife** communities.

CVEC was awarded the certificate for recognition of its **large-scale habitat management** efforts in its rights-of-way to control invasive **exotic species**, **minimize mowing and herbicide applications**, and promote the growth of **native perennial flowers, grasses**, and **sedges**, which support a great diversity of wildlife species such as **pollinators and quail**.

In an effort to protect **milkweed plants** and **honeybee hives** in/near the rights-of-way, CVEC uses its vegetation management software to map areas where the plants or hives are located, ensuring they are not disturbed by crews or contractors working in the area. CVEC also made use of its vegetation management system to remove trees that are crowding and shading plants vital to pollinators, including **milkweed – the Monarch butterfly's plant of choice**.

CVEC’s vegetation management efforts promise **positive results** for both the **environment** and CVEC’s **service reliability**. CVEC invests **\$2.5 million annually** in its vegetation management system in order to **increase reliability** for its members and to **remove danger trees** from areas near the electric lines.

-Report by Melissa Gay, Communications and Member Services Manager, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative.



He's Making A Capital Credits List, and Checking It Twice.....

Delaware Electric Cooperative's "Santa Bill" Andrew (r), who also serves as DEC's CEO, and Lineman Shane Payne brightened the lives of 60,000 Delaware Electric Co-op members as DEC returned \$6.3 million in capital credits this month to those who were members in 2008. The returns were delivered via billing credit, check...and, it's rumored, via chimney to be placed under the trees of DEC members who are young, or young at heart!



-Report by Jeremy Tucker, Delaware Electric Cooperative Manager of Marketing & Communications.