

NEWS



Bright Ideas Winners

12



Youth Tour
Application Time!

14

Manager's Message:

Small Change Can Change Lives

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That's because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of Tri-County EMC, you help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our Operation RoundUp program, your donations help local families, individuals and non-profit organizations in need of assistance. RoundUp is voluntary, but for a very small amount of money you can do so much for those in need in our communities.

When you "round up" your monthly bill from Tri-County EMC and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life. You are helping to meet an immediate, critical need, but just as importantly, you are telling this person the community cares.

Over the years, our community-focused programs have supported local schools, organizations, youth sports programs, enabled families in need to keep the lights on and so much more.

Tri-County EMC also participates in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where our community's brightest young people travel to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors.



J. Michael Davis

General Manager



You've likely heard me say that the cooperative principle "concern for community" is part of Tri-County EMC's DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to this community in 1940, the quality of life improved. But other things also need to be addressed and through the years, this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing improvements to the quality of life in this community.

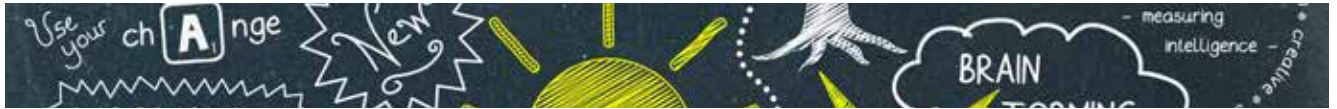
It's why we created Operation Round Up. To date, with your help, we've given **\$2,489,883.43** back to local families, individuals and non-profit organizations through this program. And across the country, more than 350 electric co-ops have an Operation Round Up program, and together, we've raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in this community. We hope you will think of Tri-County EMC as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

I hope all our members have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright!

Closed for the Holidays

Tri-County EMC will be closed on Dec. 23 and Dec. 26 to celebrate the Christmas holiday. Payments after office hours and on holidays can be placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to tcemc.com. You may choose to call the numbers listed below to pay by phone. To report a loss of power or an emergency, please call 1-800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.



Tri-County EMC Awards Grants to Educators for 'Bright Ideas'

Tri-County EMC awarded \$92,073.65 in Bright Ideas education grants to 110 educators to fund engaging classroom learning projects. Thousands of students at schools in Duplin, Wayne and Lenoir will participate in Bright Ideas projects funded by Tri-County EMC this year.

Educators were awarded on Nov. 10 at a walk-thru celebration hosted at Tri-County EMC Corporate office. "Teachers go above and beyond for their students daily, Tri-County EMC is thrilled to provide funding to help teachers make learning more fun for students," said Deidra

Grantham, manager of Marketing and Communications of Tri-County EMC.

In addition to awarding teachers, Tri-County EMC also granted \$500 to Northwest Elementary, Pink Hill Elementary, E.B. Frink Middle and North Lenoir High School for having the greatest number of Bright Ideas winners in their individual counties.

Since the Bright Ideas grant program began in 1994, Tri-County EMC has contributed \$1,882,281.62 to fund 2,122 creative projects to local teachers.

Bright Ideas grant applications are collected each year through mid-September, and winning proposals are selected in a competitive evaluation

process by a panel of judges. The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2023.

To find out more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit tcemc.com or the Bright Ideas website ncbrightideas.com. Become a fan of "Bright Ideas Education" on Facebook to receive regularly updated news about the program.



The following is the list of this year's winning teachers, along with their school:

Heather Sloan.....	Banks Elementary	Kari Racobaldo.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Brenda W Griffin.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Weil Sawyer.....	Banks Elementary	Lara W Colie.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Sherri Grubbs.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Keeda Darden.....	Banks Elementary	Allyson Heath.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Amy Taylor.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Kimberly Smith.....	Banks Elementary	Cassidy Kennedy.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Brandy Hardin.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Sarah Rivers.....	Banks Elementary	Glenda H. Kennedy.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Leigh Anne Hall.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Melissa Acevedo.....	Beulaville Elementary	Valerie Blokland.....	Mount Olive Middle	Nephi A Lawson.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Tammy Vail.....	Charles B Aycock High	Jenny Sasser.....	North Duplin Elementary	Jami Finch.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Stephanie Grimes.....	Charles B Aycock High	Daisha Herring-Yates.....	North Lenoir High	Leyha Murphy.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Edward Anthony Coggins.....	Charles B Aycock High	Katherine Long.....	North Lenoir High	Jean Turner.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Jason D. Smith.....	E B Frink Middle	Christy Burkett.....	North Lenoir High	Aaron Christopher Murdock.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Latoria A Best.....	E B Frink Middle	Heather Kennedy.....	North Lenoir High	Julie Rouse.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Chadwick Stokes.....	E B Frink Middle	Michelle Taylor.....	North Lenoir High	Betsy Mercer.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Lauran Smith.....	E B Frink Middle	Stephanie Harrell.....	North Lenoir High	Jennifer McLawhorn.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Pauline Lindo.....	E B Frink Middle	Ashley Holland.....	North Lenoir High	Shanella Roberts.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Jonathan Smith.....	E B Frink Middle	Harley Smith.....	North Lenoir High	Timila Perry Lane.....	South Lenoir High
Marian C. Holloway.....	E B Frink Middle	Breonna Baker.....	North Lenoir High	Margo Harper.....	South Lenoir High
Pamela Pate.....	E B Frink Middle	Samantha Newcomb.....	North Lenoir High	Jodi S Maxey.....	South Lenoir High
Tammy R Derksen.....	Fremont Elementary	Kim Hipkiss.....	North Lenoir High	Melanie Smith.....	South Lenoir High
Amber Sauls.....	Fremont Elementary	Hope M Mauney.....	North Lenoir High	Ryan C Gardner.....	South Lenoir High
Michelle Hope.....	Grantham Elementary	Rebecca Hawkins.....	North Lenoir High	Jessica Hill, RN.....	South Lenoir High
Kasey Ezzell.....	Grantham Elementary	Doris M Newton.....	Northwest Elementary	Sheree Casias.....	South Lenoir High
Rebecca Richards.....	Grantham Elementary	Franki Sasser.....	Northwest Elementary	Scott Radford.....	South Lenoir High
Sharon Hinnant Cox.....	Grantham Elementary	Kathy Harris.....	Northwest Elementary	Guenevere Boney-McKinney.....	South Lenoir High
Robyn Sutton.....	Kenansville Elementary	Crystal Boose.....	Northwest Elementary	Sarah York.....	South Lenoir High
Lindsey Marshall.....	Kenansville Elementary	Crystal Hester.....	Northwest Elementary	Terry Smith.....	Spring Creek High
Alicia L Davis.....	LaGrange Elementary	Debra Smith.....	Northwest Elementary	Dona Briggs.....	Wayne Country Day School
Jessica Stanley.....	LaGrange Elementary	Courtney Howell.....	Northwest Elementary	Casey Stephens-Chudy.....	Wayne Country Day School
Sarah Winnie.....	LaGrange Elementary	Sarah Williamson.....	Northwest Elementary	Patty Daughtry.....	Wayne Country Day School
Caroline Casey.....	LaGrange Elementary	Jennifer Tingen.....	Northwest Elementary	Catherine Hooks.....	Wayne Country Day School
Katherine T Sowers.....	LaGrange Elementary	Stephanie Bridgers.....	Northwest Elementary	Elizabeth Dove.....	Wayne School of Technical Arts
Georgia Ellen Tingen.....	LaGrange Elementary	Sheila Wolfe.....	Northwest Elementary	Jessica Lima Jones.....	Woodington Middle
Travis Towne.....	Lenoir County Early College High	Sherry Waters.....	Northwest Elementary	Joshua Wallace.....	Woodington Middle
Porsha Bell.....	Lenoir County Early College High	Lindsay Marshburn.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Julie Adams.....	Woodington Middle
Wesley T Letchworth.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Madison Howard.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Monica J. Johnson.....	Woodington Middle
Lindsay Howard.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Stephanie M Kollock.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Lauren Ashley Moore.....	Woodington Middle
Melissa G Small.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Breanna Tyndall.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Melissa Perritt.....	Woodington Middle
Meredith Sanderson.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Selina Gray.....	Pink Hill Elementary		

ChristmasWatts: The Perfect Christmas Gift for Anyone

Each year, Tri-County Electric Membership offers the ChristmasWatts program for its members. ChristmasWatts is a gift that anyone can use, and what could be more practical than helping someone pay their electric bill during the holiday season?

When you give ChristmasWatts, you purchase kilowatt hours of electricity for someone you love or care for and reducing the amount of next month's electric bill for the person you select. The amount of ChristmasWatts purchased will be credited to the electric bill of the selected person.

To purchase ChristmasWatts, complete the request form below, clip and mail the form with

your check, money order or credit card information to Tri-County EMC. You may also purchase ChristmasWatts by stopping by our office located on Highway 117 Alternate in Dudley. Credit card orders may also be placed by calling 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869. Additional request forms may be obtained by calling the above numbers.

**Request must be received by
December 19, 2022.**

Order your ChristmasWatts today and make the holiday season bright and warm for someone special!

CHRISTMASWATTS REQUEST FORM

I would like to purchase ChristmasWatts in the amount of \$ _____

FOR _____
(Name of Tri-County Member)

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If possible, please provide account number, meter number or location number _____

Please mark (X) one of the following payment methods

() Check enclosed () Money Order enclosed () Credit Card payment authorization
I wish to pay this with () VISA () Mastercard

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____ Zip Code _____

FROM _____ Telephone Number _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CLIP OUT this request form and mail with your check, money order, or credit card payment to:
ChristmasWatts | Tri-County EMC | PO Box 130 | Dudley, NC 28333

High School Students: Apply to Spend a Week in Washington, D.C.

Are you a high school student interested in spending a week in Washington, D.C., learning about government, U.S. history and the cooperative business model, while building your leadership skills and making new friends from across the state and nation? If so, we invite you to apply for the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour! Tri-County EMC is currently accepting applications from local students to attend the weeklong trip June 17-23, 2023.

Youth Tour gives high school students the opportunity to experience Washington, D.C., and learn more about how they can make a difference as young adults. Tourists will learn about the cooperative business model and values, pay their respects at historic monuments and memorials, meet with North Carolina's members of Congress on Capitol Hill and tour a variety of Smithsonian museums, all while building a peer network with young leaders from across the country.

Tri-County EMC will sponsor two local students to join North Carolina's delegation on the 2023 trip. The all-expenses-paid tour is hosted by electric cooperatives nationwide and is a tradition more than 50 years strong. About 1,800 students from more than 40 states are expected to participate in 2023, with North Carolina sending approximately 45 students to represent our state's electric cooperatives.

"If you're a high school student who wants to grow as a leader and experience a trip of a lifetime, Youth Tour is



the perfect opportunity," said Deidra Grantham, manager of Marketing and Communications of Tri-County EMC. "There's no better way to visit the Nation's Capital and learn more about how your cooperative works for you."

Rising juniors and seniors are eligible to attend and are encouraged to apply through Tri-County EMC. Delegates will be selected based on completing an application and writing a short 500-word essay. Applications for Youth Tour are available online at tcemc.com. Applications are due Jan. 6, 2023.



**Tri-County Electric
Membership Corporation**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation in Dudley, N.C., was chartered May 8, 1940.

Mission Statement:

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation is a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

**We are here to serve you 24 hours a day,
7 days a week and 365 days a year.**

For Outages or Emergencies:
919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869

tcemc.com

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Patrick Lynch

Randy McCullen

Amanda Murphy

Worth Overman

Employee Ready to Serve You



Seth Johnson

Seth Johnson is one of 48 employees ready to serve you. Seth has worked with Tri-County since Jan. 18, 2021, as an Apprentice Lineman. Seth resides in Goldsboro.