

Small change changing lives

BY PRICE SMITH, OPERATION ROUND-UP BOARD CHAIR

Operation Round-Up is a program in which Nolin RECC members can voluntarily agree for their electric bills to be “rounded up” to the next dollar. Local nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply to receive those funds. The Operation Round-Up volunteer board selects recipients of community impact grants from among applicants annually.

The idea of Operation Round-Up was first developed in South Carolina in 1989. Nolin RECC chartered Operation Round-Up in 2006. Since that time, the number of members that participate in the program has grown to more than 6,300. The average member donation works out to about \$6 per year. Through Nolin member donations of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, Operation Round-Up has awarded more than \$293,000.

Our mission is to disburse funds for charitable purposes in Hardin, LaRue and other counties served by Nolin RECC. Past recipients of grant funds include American Red Cross, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Feeding America, Community Health Clinic, Hardin County Schools, LaRue County Schools, Shepherd’s Pie Food Pantry and Wesley Hilltop House. This is just a sampling of the groups that have been awarded funds from Operation Round-Up. Overall, 62 groups and organizations have received community impact grants ranging from \$200 to \$10,000.

The long-term goal has been to make a more significant investment in a project that can make an even bigger impact

across the community than what we can do with the traditional grants. When Operation Round-Up started, Mickey Miller, then CEO of Nolin RECC, recommended that the Operation Round-Up board invest half of the funds received each year to grant to a worthy project in the future.

That brings us to when we first learned about the vision of Warm Blessings Community Kitchen.

In February, Dr. Donielle Lovell, Warm Blessings board chair, was interviewed about the group’s mission. The newspaper article emphasized the need in our community for a 24/7 shelter with transitional housing and other services. The article got the board’s attention and we connected with Lovell and Dawn Cash, director of Warm Blessings, and asked if they would meet with us to speak about their programs and needs.

The Operation Round-Up board was impressed with their vision of a new facility dedicated to the concept of transitional housing, coupled with intensive case management and job readiness training—a long-term, community-wide need Warm Blessings is attempting to meet.

Since that meeting, the Operation Round-Up board committed \$100,000 to the Warm Blessings capital campaign for the new facility.



Representatives of Operation Round-Up and Warm Blessings met at the Warm Blessings location in Elizabethtown for the official check presentation in October. Photo: Sarah Fellows

This grant is evidence of Operation Round-Up’s commitment to our community and the faith that we have in Warm Blessings. This project is an investment in our community’s future and in the lives of those that are touched by Warm Blessings. We are excited to be a partner in this vision. With Operation Round-Up leading the way, we hope other groups step up and help support this effort.

Thank you to each Nolin RECC member who rounds up each month to help their neighbor. We acknowledge the confidence you place in us to direct that money where it can do the most good. Through our community impact grants, teacher grants and now this grant for the future of Warm Blessings, your change is changing the lives of those in our community.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



SARAH FELLOWS

Nolin RECC Wide Open Utility Service, Steven Vittitoe, crew leader, vegetation management, two years of service.



SARAH FELLOWS

Nolin RECC Wide Open Utility Service, Jay Sanders, senior trimmer, vegetation management, two years of service



Office closure:

Our offices will be closed December 23 and 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday. We will also close for the New Year holiday on January 2.

Cooperative principle: Education

Investing in tomorrow

Supporting our local schools not only invests in students today, but also in leaders for tomorrow. In addition to our yearly scholarship program and Washington Youth Tour experience, Nolin makes a donation to each area high school. This fall, we delivered checks for schools to use to serve the needs of their students. Not pictured, Fort Knox Middle High School.



Elizabethtown High School Principal Thad Elmore



John Hardin High School Counselor Chad Lewis and Assistant Principal Tiffany Jones



LaRue County High School Principal Chris Price



North Hardin High School Assistant Principal Dan Mahon



Central Hardin High School Assistant Principal Dan Corley

PHOTOS: SARAH FELLOWS

Learning is lifelong

Education is a core principle of cooperatives and learning doesn't stop when we graduate from school. So, while we invest in our area youth, we also value education for our members of all ages. From the time cooperatives were first formed in the late 1930s, we have educated our members on technology that uses electricity, like appliances and farm machinery. In more recent years, we have explored smart home technology, like programmable thermostats.

In that same spirit, we have added an electric vehicle (EV) to our Nolin fleet to help members learn more about EV ownership. Electric vehicles may not be for everyone, but some of our members have questions we would like to help answer. To that end, we have a resource page on our website and a blog we recently launched that chronicles our experience of using an electric vehicle regularly.

We installed a level 2 EV charger in our Elizabethtown office parking lot. And, our subsidiary, Wide Open Utility Service, is working with the City of Elizabethtown to install level 2 chargers at Freeman Lake and the Elizabethtown Sports Park.

If EVs are of interest to you, we encourage you to visit NolinRECC.com/electric-vehicles. If you have a question about EV ownership, send it to comments@nolinrecc.com.



A level 2 EV charger is available at the Nolin office in Elizabethtown. Photo: Sarah Fellows

Help children stay safe this holiday season

Before the holiday bustle begins, talk to children in your home about staying safe during the holidays—around hot stoves, flickering fireplaces, and electric lights and decorations.

The U.S. Fire Administration reports that deaths from fires caused by children spike during the winter, and twice as many kids die or are injured by fires during the holidays than at any other time of the year.

Some cautions:

- Electrical accidents involving children are far more likely to happen when no adult is supervising the kids.
- The holidays come with safety risks that might not be present during other times of the year: more electrical cords, extension cords in high-traffic areas, electric lights on the tree,

burning candles and fires in the hearth.

- Keep children away from cords and decorations to prevent shocks and burns. Avoid decorating the bottom limbs of the tree, where children can easily reach.
- Don't leave children alone with a lighted fireplace, candles or an operating space heater.
- Every time you leave the kitchen, turn off the stove, even if you're not finished cooking. Move hot pots to back burners.
- Teach your children that hot things can burn them. When they're old enough, teach them how to cook and to use the stove safely.
- Choose battery-powered toys instead of electric versions for children younger than 10.



NATALIAEB/ADOBE STOCK

- Buy electrical toys only if they have a safety label from UL or another credible testing agency.
- If you bring your children to visit someone else's home, do a visual sweep for potential hazards, like exposed electrical outlets and cords or lighted candles

2022 Kentucky Lineman's Rodeo

Congratulations to all the Nolin RECC line technicians who competed in the 2022 Kentucky Lineman's Rodeo in Paducah in September. Several of our linemen brought home awards.

Josh Hess:

- 3rd place, Pin Type, Individual, Senior
- 3rd Place, Mystery Event, Individual, Senior
- 3rd place, Overall Individual Senior

Brad Camp:

- 1st place, Lightning Strike, Individual, Senior
- 2nd place, Mystery Event, Individual, Senior

Team—Daniel Disselkamp, Tyler Hornback, Ryan Ray:

- 3rd place, Crossarm Tag, Team
- 3rd place, Overall Team



Nolin line technicians, from left, Ryan Ray, Daniel Disselkamp and Tyler Hornback placed third overall in the team competition.



Brad Camp placed in two individual events at the Kentucky Lineman's Rodeo.



Josh Hess placed third overall in the individual senior rodeo competition. Photos: Sarah Fellows



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

How to reach Nolin RECC

ELIZABETHTOWN OFFICE

411 Ring Road | Elizabethtown, KY 42701
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Fri | (270) 765-6153

RADCLIFF OFFICE

101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd.
Radcliff, KY 40160
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Fri

TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS

1-888-637-4247

PAY DIRECT BY PHONE TOLL FREE

1-855-356-6359

FOR EMERGENCIES

(270) 765-6153

www.NolinRECC.com

Email: Comments@NolinRECC.com

PRESIDENT/CEO

Greg Lee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David P. Brown
Gene Straney
A.L. "Buddy" Rosenberger
Lawrence Ireland
R.E. "Rick" Thomas
Linda Grimes

ATTORNEY

John J. Scott

EDITOR

Sarah Fellows, CCC



Download our SmartHub App



MAC meeting

This October, we were excited to have our first in-person Member Advisory Council (MAC) meeting since the start of the pandemic. MAC members gathered at the Hardin County Extension Office for a meal and an update on co-op business. Nolin's board of directors, president & CEO, executive staff and others were on hand to talk with members about current issues impacting the co-op as well as economic development in the region. The guest speaker was Brad Thomas who serves as manager of economic development for Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

Anyone interested in being more involved in their co-op can apply to be on the Member Advisory Council by calling (270) 765-6153.



Nolin RECC Crew Leader Kenny Brown provides a electrical safety demonstration at the MAC meeting. Photos: Sarah Fellows



Nolin RECC District 5 Director Linda Grimes talks with MAC members Joel and Kitty Dixon.



Right-of-way work schedule

To keep our members informed, we are providing an overview of where our right-of-way crews plan to work each month. This information is subject to change.

December 2022: Vertrees Substation, Hardinsburg Road, Constantine Road, Pierce Mill Road, Jess Hoskins Spur Road.

Free wood chips are available, call (270) 765-6153, ext. 2714, for details.

Follow us on TikTok @NolinRECC