



# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • [cceci@cceci.com](mailto:cceci@cceci.com) • [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com)



Mike Johnson

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## Commitment to Youth and Education

For many, many years, the electric cooperative family has been committed to youth and education. Clinton County Electric is no different. This commitment to our youth is sincere and real and will continue for many years to come. The youth are our future and the only way to ensure our future is to educate them. I believe this is yet another way we differentiate ourselves from the typical Investor Owned Utility.

### Our Youth/Education Programs consist of:

- Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield, Ill.
- Youth Tour to Washington D.C.
- The Illinois Electric Cooperatives Scholarship Program
- The Clinton County Electric Cooperative Scholarship Program
- The Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant Program

Clinton County Electric has been a part of the Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Day for many years. Under this program we sponsor up to 12 area sophomores and/or juniors to go to Springfield to enable them to become engaged in the political process. They meet area legislators, visit the State Capitol complex and see numerous Illinois historical sites.

Two of the participants of the Youth Day in Springfield will be selected to also partake in the Youth Tour to Washington D.C. in June. The Youth Tour is an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. They visit such attractions as the White House, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Monument and many other national monuments of interest. The students also have an opportunity to meet with US Congressmen when they visit the US Capitol. What a fantastic way to see and experience

the political process at work. We have already chosen our participants to attend Youth Day in Springfield for 2011, and of that group, two students will be chosen to attend the Youth Tour to Washington DC. But, you can go to our website [www.cceci.com/youthprograms](http://www.cceci.com/youthprograms) to find out more information to get ready for next year. Also, be sure to check the December issue of the Illinois Country Living Magazine for reminders!

Our statewide association, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, offers eight \$1,250 scholarships through the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Scholarship Program. The IEC Scholarship program dedicates 4 scholarships to the sons or daughters of cooperative members who will be attending a 4-year university, one is reserved for the child of a cooperative employee or director and two are for students who will attend a 2-year (Junior) college or trade school. Applications and guidelines can be obtained from high school guidance counselors or our website. Also, new in 2010, the AIEC is awarding a scholarship reserved for a relative of a cooperative employee or director who has served in the military and plans to attend the Lineman's School at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. Visit our website for more details on all of these scholarships.

Here at Clinton County Electric, we also sponsor our own scholarship program. We offer six \$500 scholarships to local graduating seniors. Each area high school receives one scholarship and determines their own criteria to select their recipient. Clinton County Electric's requirement is that the student continues his or her post high school education in some manner. Be sure to check with the guidance departments at Carlyle High School, Central Community High School, Christ Our

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Rock Lutheran High School, Mater Dei Catholic High School, Mascoutah High School, and Wesclin High School for more details or to apply. Clinton County Electric also offers a \$500 scholarship to a student at Kaskaskia College that will be continuing education at that institution. More information for this scholarship can be obtained from Kaskaskia College. To be eligible for all of the programs listed above, students must be dependents of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members that are in good standing. Just to be fair, children of cooperative employees and board of trustees are not eligible (unless specifically noted).

Two years ago, we implemented a new educational program, the Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants. These grants are awarded to educators within the footprint of our service area who

have planned projects that focus on Touchstone Energy's four core values of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and Commitment to Community. This past year we "ramped up" this program to funding 15 of 17 requests. Congratulations to all of our 2011 recipients. Their pictures can be found on page 16d of this newsletter.

As you can see, we have programs in place for sophomores and/or juniors, graduating seniors and educators, but one of the areas we need to work on in the future is the secondary education level. We have presented our safety demonstration at the Earth Day Celebration at Carlyle Lake, and that has been very well received (the kids have fun watching the hot dog burn). This is an area we will be looking at for new ideas and programs in the future. If anyone has ideas on this, please let me know.

In 2010 Clinton County Electric invested over \$14,000 in our Youth/

Education Programs, and we hope to increase this amount in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the membership to visit our website [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com) to read more about our Youth & Education Programs. While you are on our website, please take the opportunity to sign up for E- Business; the button is on the upper left of your screen. All you will need is a Cooperative billing statement and a valid email address. Once you are signed in, you will have the opportunity to view your personal account and the option to pay your bill via our website.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark on always have our members' best interest in mind. Providing our members with affordable electricity and excellent service will continue to be our goal in the future. As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [Johnson@cceci.com](mailto:Johnson@cceci.com)

## Lite for Bite a success

Clinton County Electric Cooperative sponsored the "Lite for Bite" Program during the months of November, December and January. In exchange for two canned goods, donors received a CFL light bulb from Clinton County Electric. Through generous donations from Clinton County Electric Cooperative members, employees and trustees, along with members of the community, the cooperative was able to donate a truckload of non-perishable food items along with hundreds of CFL light bulbs to the House of Manna Food Pantry. Pictured at right is Ahren Langhauser, who coordinated this project for Clinton County Electric, along with Marietta Kuhl, Volunteer Coordinator for the House of Manna Food Pantry in Breese. Thanks to all who donated to this great cause, making it a huge success.



# Spotlight on Mary Jane Richter

This month we are spotlighting employee Mary Jane Richter. Mary Jane was raised on a farm in Bartelso and graduated from Mater Dei High School in 1967. She began her employment with the cooperative in 1969 as a receptionist and later began working in the billing department. She has had many duties at the cooperative and has seen many changes as well, especially in the processing of bills over the past years. When you call the cooperative, most of the time Mary Jane is the first person you will speak to on the other end. Mary Jane and her husband Jim reside in Breese and are the parents of four sons, Brent (Jennifer) of St. Louis, Keith (Brenda) of Albers, Matt (Stacie) of St. Rose, and Carl (Katie) of Highland. They are also the proud grandparents of one granddaughter and four grandsons, Hailey, twins



Mary Jane Richter

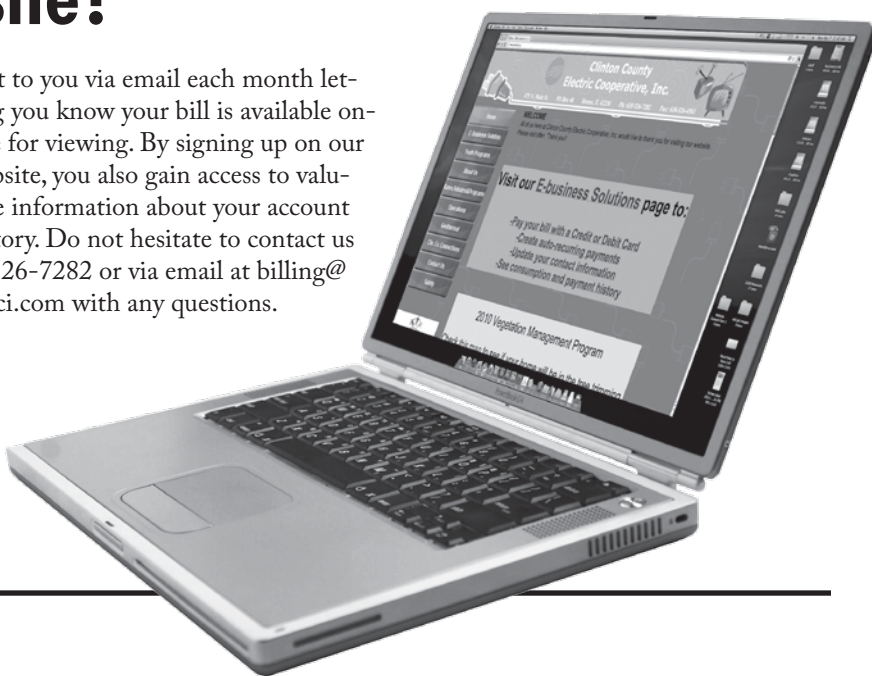
Carson & Kellen, Jaisen and Chase and they are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their sixth grandchild later this month. In her spare time, Mary Jane enjoys shopping, going to craft

fairs, listening to music and spending time with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren.

## Did you know you can pay your electric bill through our website?

Simply visit our website at [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com), click on E-Business Solution on the upper left side of the page and follow the prompts for your initial set-up. The only thing you will need is a copy of your electric statement in front of you. Once you are set-up, you will be able to pay your bill via credit card, debit card or from your checking account. You will also have the ability to set your electric bill up for recurring payment each month giving you peace of mind knowing your bill is paid on time! Once we have your e-mail address, a notification will be

sent to you via email each month letting you know your bill is available online for viewing. By signing up on our website, you also gain access to valuable information about your account history. Do not hesitate to contact us at 526-7282 or via email at [billing@cceci.com](mailto:billing@cceci.com) with any questions.



**Clinton County Electric Cooperative awarded \$7,500 to area teachers through the Touchstone Energy 2010/2011 Classroom Empowerment Grant Program. In February, the cooperative presented checks to the following winners of the program:**



*A check for \$1,500 was awarded to Carlyle Community School District. Pictured are Tara Joiner, Special Education Teacher, Mike Johnson representing Clinton County Electric, Lu Alice Kampwerth, Junior High Librarian, Patty Harre, Sixth Grade Science Teacher and Chris Dooley, Grade School Librarian.*

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*Cooperative President Mike Johnson presented a check for \$1,000 to Central Community High School on behalf of grants written by Rick Harre, Head of Ag Department, and Amanda Ringwald, Business Teacher. Pictured are Harre, Johnson and Ringwald.*

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*Ahren Langhauser of Clinton County Electric presented a check in the amount of \$2,500 to teachers at Germantown Grade School. Pictured are Langhauser, Pam Kreke, Special Education Teacher, Becky Hitpas, Pre-K Teacher, Margie Koopmann, Fourth Grade Teacher, Lynn McSparin, Third Grade Teacher, and Cindy Zurliene, Teacher and Principal, all writers of the winning Touchstone Energy Grants awarded by Clinton County Electric.*

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*Mike Johnson presented a check for \$500 to Matt Scheibel, Science Teacher at St. Rose School. Pictured with students of St. Rose School are Johnson, representing Clinton County Electric along with Scheibel.*

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*Accepting a check from Mike Johnson of Clinton County Electric for \$2,000 at Weslin High School was Rachel Willenborg, Family & Consumer Science Teacher, Kristen Oster, Librarian, Daralynn Gross, Special Education Coordinator, and Julie Boeckman, Fourth Grade Teacher.*

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