



Clinton County Connection

45

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Your electric cooperative family has been committed to helping the youth in our community for many years. Recently, Clinton County Electric Cooperative awarded grants totaling \$8,000 to area teachers through the Touchstone Energy 2012/2013 Classroom Empowerment Grant Program. An additional \$7,000 in scholarship money is up for grabs to students enrolled in the 7 surrounding high schools. The Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield will be upon us soon followed by the Washington D.C. Youth Tour in June. All of this emphasis on our youth and for good reason, the children are our future!

In January, Clinton County Electric presented checks to the winners of the Touchstone Energy Grant. Wesclin's St. Mary's School was the recipient of \$2,500 in grant money; Germantown Elementary was awarded \$2,000; Carlyle School District \$1,500; Central High School, Damiansville and St. Rose Grade Schools along with the Kaskaskia Special Education District each received \$500 in grant money. (See page 16C for photos). Representatives from all winning schools submitted grant applications in which they spoke about bettering the lives of students by enhancing the tools they have to teach with. No subject went untouched; Reading, Science, Math and even games pertaining to all were mentioned. With the growing cost of technology and the ever shrinking budget given to these teachers, it is easy for them to get discouraged. However, opportunities given to them through these grants may be light at the end of their tunnel. In turn, a child's life may forever be changed!

As the school year draws to a close, Clinton County Electric desires to continue assisting in educating the youth. Two students from each of the area high schools including Carlyle, Central, Christ Our Rock, Mascoutah, Mater Dei, and Wesclin, as well as two students from Kaskaskia College can apply to be a recipient of a \$500 scholarship

awarded in May. Students can see their school's guidance counselors for more information.

The Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day is another program in which Clinton County Electric contributes in making a difference in the lives of area children. Clinton County Electric sponsors up to twelve sophomore or junior students, whose parents or guardians are served by Clinton County Electric, on an all-expense paid bus trip to Springfield on Wednesday, April 17, 2013. During this day the students and their counterparts from other Illinois high schools will meet their elected senators and representatives at the Capitol and learn first-hand about the workings of state government. In addition the students will tour the Supreme Court and other historic sites of Springfield. This year Emily Fuhler, Brianne Hellmann, Eleanor Detmer, Katie Foppe and Jessica Schaeffer, all children of Clinton County Electric members, will be representing our Cooperative in Springfield. This group of students includes aspiring nurses, veterinarians, biologists and an environmental lawyer. They all hope to learn more about how our state government works and meet the people who represent our community.

Once in Springfield, two winners will be chosen to attend an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. based upon their written application and an interview with judges. The two winners will get to meet with our U.S. Senators as well as attend a luncheon with our U.S. Representatives on Capitol Hill. Of course they will also get to see the many sights Washington D.C. has to offer.

All of these programs enrich the opportunities children have to better prepare for their future. We take pride in helping provide children the building blocks that start them off on the right foot, instead of leaving them a step behind!

(Continued on page 16d)

Making a difference

So often there are stories of grants or scholarships awarded to certain individuals and organizations. All usually agree that the money is given and received with good intentions. In at least one instance, the grant money given to a local school provided the children of our community with something that money cannot buy, the feeling of giving back!

Back in January, Clinton County Electric awarded the Carlyle School District with a \$1,500 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant. Five hundred dollars of that grant was used by LuAlice Kampwerth, Media Specialist and Making A Difference Club Sponsor for Carlyle Junior High. Her hope was to use the money to purchase the materials needed to make lap quilts for the folks at the Carlyle Healthcare Center. Her aspirations played out when an estimated 60 students started giving up their time to assist in the making of these blankets. LuAlice stated in her application for this grant,



“If young adults begin volunteering early in their lives, they are much more likely to continue the process into adulthood.” As time grew closer to the delivery day, LuAlice reminded the group to be on their best behavior, which included being kind and showing respect. A very simple message that sometimes gets lost in the craziness of the world today!

This is a perfect example of how the

members of Clinton County Electric aided in creating a win-win situation for all involved. The citizens of the Carlyle Healthcare Center received warm, hand-made lap blankets. Teacher LuAlice Kampwerth got a chance to pass on her passion for volunteerism. Above all, the children got the priceless opportunity to feel what it's like to give back.

What are those things called capital credits?

Do you wonder what the check that comes in the mail labeled as Capital Credits represents? Many members do not understand what these checks along with the capital credit allocation notices are for. We will try to clear up some of that confusion with this article.

Touchstone defines Cooperatives as a “voluntary organization open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.” There are many things that make a cooperative a cooperative. We believe doing business on a “not-for-profit” basis as well as being “owned by our members” distinguishes us as a cooperative.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative provides electricity at a reasonable price to our members,

and then at the end of the year, if our revenues are in excess of our expenses, we allocate those excess revenues back to our members’ accounts based on the percentage of electricity they used. These revenues go back to our members, not to “stockholders” as they do in the Investor Owned Utility world.

Typically the cooperative sends a notice between May and July each year letting members know what their allocation amount is, if any, from the previous year. Then, the Board of Trustees evaluates the financial condition of the Cooperative to determine if we can ‘retire’ or refund capital credits allocated in previous years, and if so, how much. The checks that were just distributed in March totaled \$200,000 and represented the remaining allocations from the year 1989.

Currently we are on about a 23 year cycle of returning capital credits to our members. Please note the only time we retire capital credits is when the Board of Trustees approves the distribution (such as the checks that were just received), or in the event of a member’s death, to settle their estate. The Board of Trustees of Clinton County Electric is committed to continued retirement of capital credits back to the membership. As we see it, “it is the Cooperative way of doing business.”

We hope this helps to clear up questions about capital credit allocation notices and retirements. Please note, if you didn’t attend our Annual Meeting, your capital credit will be mailed to you the first week in April. Look for it soon!

In January Clinton County Electric Cooperative awarded grants totalling \$8,000 to area teachers through the Touchstone Energy 2012/2013 Classroom Empowerment Grant Program. The cooperative presented checks to the following winners of the program:



Accepting a \$500 check from Brenda Knolhoff of Clinton County Electric Cooperative is Rick Harre, an Ag Education Teacher at Central High School in Breese.



Brenda Knolhoff of CCECI presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to teachers at Germantown Grade School. Pictured are Leslie Eversgerd, Literature Teacher; Lindsay Kania, 3rd Grade Teacher; Margie Koopmann, 4th Grade Teacher; Karla Scheer, 2nd Grade Teacher; and Pam Kreke, Special Education Teacher, all writers of the winning Touchstone Energy Grants awarded by Clinton County Electric.



Cooperative employee Brenda Knolhoff presented a check for \$500 to Damiansville Elementary School on behalf of a grant written by Candace Detmer, 3rd Grade Teacher.



A check for \$500 was presented to teacher Matt Scheibel for the Touchstone Energy Grant he submitted. Pictured is Matt Scheibel along with some St. Rose Elementary students and CCECI Representative Brenda Knolhoff.



A check for \$1,500 was awarded to Carlyle Community School District. Pictured above are Tara Joiner, Special Education Teacher; 6th Grade Teacher Patty Harre; Brenda Knolhoff, representing CCECI; and LuAlice Kampwerth, Junior High Media Specialist.



Brenda Knolhoff presented a check in the amount of \$2,500 to teachers at Weslin High School. Pictured are Julie Boekman, 4th Grade Teacher; Amy Woods, 4th Grade Teacher; CCECI Representative Brenda Knolhoff; Special Education Teacher Heather Klein; and Speech Language Teacher Angela Klein. Missing from the photograph is Librarian Kristin Oster.



Speech Language Pathologist Bridget Wuebbles from the Kaskaskia Special Education District, accepts a \$500 check from CCECI representative Brenda Knolhoff.

President's letter *(Continued from page 16a)*

If interested in learning more about any of these fine programs please feel free to visit our website www.cceci.com. While 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 e-mail address. Once you are signed in, you will have opportunity to view your personal account, have the option to pay your bill via our website,

and contact us with any questions about your account that you may have.

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 do not hesitate to contact me at Johnson@cceci.com.

Did you know...?

The Cooperative sells electric water heaters?

We sell 50 gallon water heaters for \$100 and 80 gallon water heaters for \$150. These prices include tax. To qualify for this price, the water heater must be installed in a structure that is served by Clinton County Electric Cooperative. Normally we have plenty of water heaters in stock, but it never hurts to call before you come to make sure we haven't just depleted our stock.

Our office hours are from 7:00 AM till 4:00 PM?

Beginning in January of 2012 we changed our office hours to 7 AM-4 PM. Someone is here to serve you during those office hours,

even through the lunch hour. If you happen to call after hours, our after-hours call center will be happy to help answer your questions.

Our power outage phone number is 800-526-7282?

If you have a power outage, please call 800-526-7282 to report your outage. By adding the 800 in front of our normal office phone number you are bypassing the local toll switch and you have a better chance of getting through to us or our after-hours call center. This is especially critical when an outage is widespread.

Spotlight on Carrie Trame

My name is Carrie Trame and I started with Clinton County Electric as a Customer Service Representative back in February. My husband Dave and I live in Aviston and we have three beautiful daughters that keep us very busy. Allison is a senior at Mater Dei Catholic High School and plans on attending Eastern University in the fall. Brooke is our 7 year old who lives in a world of "make-believe." The baby of our family is Taylor who is 5. Yes, a 5 year old baby and I will always refer to her as our baby. She would rather be playing ball versus with dolls or Barbies. It has only been a couple of months and the staff here has made me feel



Carrie Trame

as though I have been a part of their family forever. I am happy to be a part of the Clinton County Electric family and look forward to learning all the ins and outs of the Cooperative and meeting all the people that make us what we are, the members.