

SPARE CHANGE CHANGES LIVES



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

My parents instilled in me the belief that it's the little things that count in life—being kind to your neighbors, returning a lost wallet, picking up after yourself while enjoying the great outdoors. While each action might not amount to much on its own, if everyone does a little, we see a big impact in our community.

That's why I'm a proud advocate of Oakdale Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up® program. Six bucks isn't a lot of money—it's about what you would pay for a meal at a fast food restaurant. But \$6 equals the average amount folks who support our Operation Round Up® program give every year, all through spare change.

Members—people like you who receive electricity from the co-op—opt in to round up their monthly electric bills to the next whole dollar amount. Let's say your bill is \$82.90. It would be rounded up to \$83, with a dime going to Operation Round Up®. The extra pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters then flow into a fund managed by a board of seven volunteer members (Colleen Woggon, Bonnie Anderson, Judy Gebhardt, Barb Brooks, Sandy Chroninger, Lillian Jorgensen, Pat Christensen) that assists worthy local

organizations as well as fellow members who've fallen on hard times.

Sure, donating \$6 over the course of a year may seem like a little thing. But if you put all of that money together—well, things start to get exciting. Roughly 1,250 members of Oakdale



Pat Christensen presented a \$250 donation to the Tomah Community Dinner.

Electric Cooperative are chipping in to support Operation Round Up®, and that number grows every month. Good thing, too, because the need has never been greater.

Last year we distributed \$7,150 to LOCAL community groups like Habitat for Humanity, food pantries, and Toys for Tots. Since we launched Operation Round Up® in 2002 we've given community groups and folks in need more than \$50,000. That's something we should all be proud of—your assistance is changing lives in our community.

As I said, it's the little things that count in life. About 250 local electric co-ops nationwide currently run Operation Round Up® programs. All told, consumers at these co-ops have raised more than \$100 million since the idea was started by South Carolina's Palmetto Electric Cooperative in 1989.

If you're one of the members who make Operation Round Up® possible, thank you. If you haven't heard about the program yet and want to participate, visit our website at www.oakdalerec.com or call us at 800-241-2468. Together, we can use a little pocket change to change our community.

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MY CO-OP

SIGN UP TO ROUND UP

Members who choose to participate in Oakdale Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up® Program can take satisfaction in knowing that the small amount of change they give each month brings about big change in their communities.

Name _____

Address _____

Account No. _____ Phone No. _____

Signature _____

I understand that by signing and returning this form, my bill will be rounded up to the nearest dollar each month and that unless I call in to have that changed, this will happen until I no longer receive power from Oakdale Electric Cooperative.

Complete this form and return it to Oakdale Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 40, Oakdale WI 54649, with your next bill payment.

Blue Jean Strong, ALL YEAR LONG



Deana Protz read a Dr. Seuss book to Oakdale Elementary students.

Employees at Oakdale Electric Cooperative want to see the communities we serve succeed. Why? The answer's simple: We live here, too.

Local people working and giving for local good. That's the essence of the Seventh Cooperative Principle, "Concern for Community," one of seven guidelines that governs your electric cooperative.

Oakdale Electric employees are giving back on a weekly basis through a program called the Blue Jean Fund. In years past, employees paid a couple bucks in order to wear jeans on Fridays. Our workplace dress code has relaxed over the years—you will now find employees wearing jeans on days other than Fridays—but our altruistic values have not changed. By reaching our hands into our jeans' pockets, and

throwing a couple of extra dollars into the collection jars weekly, your electric cooperative employees awarded \$1,200 to local organizations and individuals in 2016.

Oakdale Elementary School hosted a Family Reading Night in March, with hopes to provide all students with new books they could take home. The Blue Jean Fund helped make this dream a reality with a gift of \$250. Communications Specialist Deana Protz volunteered her time to read to students as part of Read Across American Day prior to presenting the donation.

In August, two more donations were made totaling \$450 split between Relay For Life of Monroe County – Team Mikayla and a health benefit fund-raiser for a Tomah resident, who has since passed away.

Employees rose to the challenge to quickly raise more funds in October, as a close friend and family member of the cooperative was in need of financial assistance in her battle with cancer. Journeyman Lineman Cory Johnson presented a \$250 donation to his cousin, Becky, at the Tomah American Legion on October 15.

"I am overjoyed with gratitude for the love and support from my home community! This journey is so much easier with people like you (Oakdale Electric Cooperative employees) by my side! Thank you all so very much," Becky said.

The Blue Jean Fund was in need of replenishing in order for employees to make an annual holiday donation. What better way to raise some money than with a little friendly competition?

And when you combine competition with great food, you've got yourself a sure-fire winner. Besides, who doesn't enjoy sampling delicious recipes, especially when you don't have to clean up your kitchen afterwards? That was how the Co-op Cook-off was created. On November 14, 20 homemade appetizers and desserts filled the co-op

that morning with delicious aromas and beautiful presentations, ready to be taste tested. With their spare change in hand, employees "tipped" their favorites, with the top "tipped" recipes in both categories each receiving a golden spoon award. It was great fun for all who participated, and even better, \$250 was

raised for the Blue Jean Fund within 30 minutes.

When it comes to Oakdale Electric Cooperative, community comes first. The employees at Oakdale Electric Cooperative practice what we preach, 12 months out of the year. That's the cooperative difference. 📺

1. Journeyman Lineman Cory Johnson presented a \$250 Blue Jean donation.
2. Journeyman linemen Kurt Starkey and Kelly Ingenthron received the two Golden Spoon Awards this years!
3. An appetizer entry in the Co-op Cook-off.
4. Scott Brookman with granddaughter and cancer survivor, Mikayla, and daughter Jenna. Mikayla battled neuroblastoma as a 2-year-old child and is currently in remission.





Mark Your Calendars
Oakdale Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting • **April 1, 2017**



MAKE THE MOST OF CEILING FANS

BY TURNING ON THE FAN, YOU CAN TURN UP THE SAVINGS!

If you are like most Americans, you have at least one ceiling fan in your home. Ceiling fans help our indoor life feel more comfortable. They are a decorative addition to our homes and, if used properly, can help lower energy costs.

TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CEILING FANS.

- 1. FLIP THE SWITCH** – Most ceiling fans have a switch near the blades. In warm months, flip the switch so that the blades operate in a counter clockwise direction, effectively producing a “wind chill” effect. Fans make the air near them feel cooler than it actually is. In winter, move the switch so the fan blades rotate clockwise, creating a gentle updraft. This pushes warm air down from the ceiling into occupied areas of the room. Regardless of the season, try operating the fan on its lowest setting.
- 2. ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT** – In the summer, when using a fan in conjunction with an air conditioner, or instead of it, you can turn your thermostat up three to five degrees without any reduction in comfort. This saves money since a fan is less costly to run than an air conditioner. In the winter, lower your thermostat’s set point by the same amount. Ceiling fans push the warm air from the ceiling back down toward the living space, which means the furnace won’t turn on as frequently.
- 3. CHOOSE THE RIGHT SIZE** – Make sure your ceiling fan is the right size for the room. A fan that is 36-44 inches in diameter will cool rooms up to 225 square feet. A fan that is 52 inches or more should be used to cool a larger space.
- 4. TURN IT OFF** – When the room is unoccupied, turn the fan off. Fans are intended to cool people - not rooms.



THIRD TURKEY GIVEAWAY DRAWS HUGE RESPONSE

Thank you to all members who entered Oakdale Electric Cooperative’s **Third Annual 5 Days of Turkey Giveaways!** We received an amazing 1,100 total entry submissions! With such a great response from members, the drawing will return next year. This year’s winners included:

Day 1: Cindy Engstrom, Tomah

Day 2: Trevor Oetzman, Mauston

Day 3: Donna Thomas, Mauston

Day 4: Wendy Smith, Elroy

Day 5: Geary Buchanan, Tomah



Cindy Engstrom picks up her turkey from the Oakdale Electric Cooperative office.

Operation Round Up

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2016 Operation Round Up® Donations:

- Pittsville Area Neighborhood Shelf – \$300
- Elroy Food Pantry – \$300
- Mauston Community Sharing Food – \$300
- Monroe County Couleecap Food Pantry – \$300
- Necedah Food Pantry – \$300
- Neighbor for Neighbor Food Pantry, Tomah – \$300
- New Lisbon Food Pantry – \$300

- Reedsburg Food Pantry – \$300
- Wilton Food Pantry – \$300
- New Lisbon Toy Workshop – \$200
- Toys for Joy – \$200
- Toys for Tots, Tomah – \$200
- Warren’s Area Youth – \$200
- Mr. Ed’s Thanksgiving Dinner – \$200
- Habitat for Humanity, Juneau County – \$200
- Habitat for Humanity, Monroe County – \$200
- MS Snow Tour – \$50
- Touched Twice United Free Healthcare Clinic – \$200

- Mauston Public School ChallengeScape – \$250
- Warrens Area Girl Scouts – \$200
- Warren’s Youth Association – \$200
- New Lisbon Sports Club Youth Fisheree – \$200
- THS TRAP Team – \$200
- Compass Learning Center, Tomah – \$250
- Parenting Place – \$200
- Juneau County Family Resources – \$200
- Sojourner’s Journey – \$200
- Five individual donations, to members battling health issues – \$900

Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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Deana Protz, Editor



**Oakdale Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151
Toll-free Online Bill Payment 866-392-4307

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.