

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JANUARY 2021

Co-op grant helps residents cope during Covid

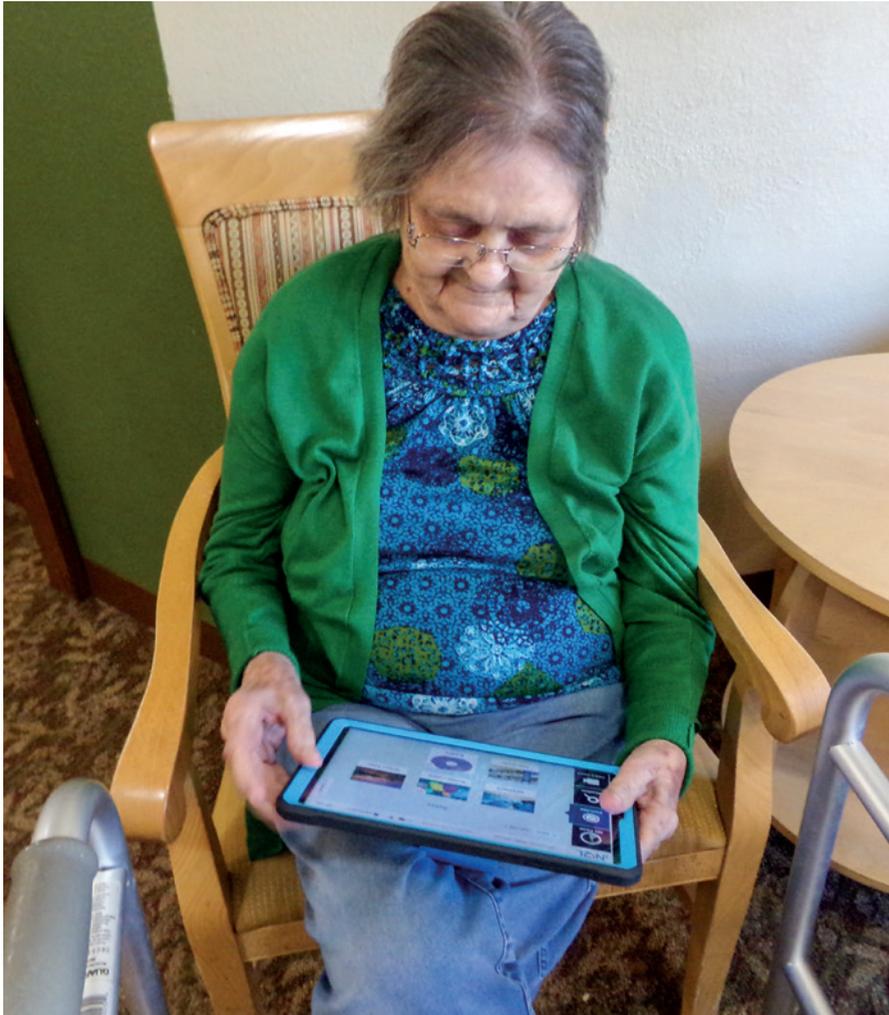


PHOTO BY JOYCE DECKER

While many people chose to shelter in place at various times during the pandemic, the residents at St. Luke's Home and Park Avenue Villa in Dickinson were required to stay "home." At times, the infection rate was so high residents couldn't leave unless it was an emergency. Isolated from family members and friends, passing time — and staying connected — was a real challenge. In this month's local pages, learn how the pennies Roughrider Electric members contributed through the co-op's Operation Round Up program helped residents FaceTime, play games, enhance therapy and more ... as they wait for the pandemic to subside and visitors to walk the halls again.

What's inside:

- **Operation Round Up grants awarded**
- **Student scholarships available**
- **Prepare for tax season with SmartHub**
- **Meeting minutes ... and more**



PHOTOS BY JOYCE DECKER

With Roughrider Electric's Operation Round Up grant, St. Luke's Home and Park Avenue Villa in Dickinson was able to purchase two tablets for residents. In conjunction with custom software purchased from iN2L, the tablets are used to connect family and friends, play games, enhance therapy, and keep the residents sharp — and entertained.

Co-op grant helps residents cope during Covid

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

The residents at St. Luke's Home and Park Avenue Villa in Dickinson have been living with restrictions since March 11, 2020, when COVID-19 prompted the closure of doors to protect those who are most vulnerable. Depending on how high the disease infection rate was inside the facilities and within Stark County, restrictions varied from no residents coming or going unless it was an absolute emergency, to residents going outside to meet families and friends.

Some residents have dealt with the circumstances reasonably well, says CEO and Administrator Amy Kreidt. Others — the ones who are unable to get out and see their families — have struggled.

"We've gotten very creative at keeping them occupied; doing different things like parades to get them in touch with family members. It's more challenging than ever before," she says.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative members have been part of the solution. Through the co-op's Operation Round Up program, St. Luke's applied for and received a grant to purchase two tablets for the residents to FaceTime with family, play games and simply pass the time — while they wait for the pandemic to subside and for visitors to walk the halls again.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which electric cooperative members round up their monthly utility bills to the nearest dollar and donate their change. The money pools and accumulates, and an elected board of co-op members reviews grant applications that have been submitted with Roughrider's service area, and determines grant worthiness.

‘If you have family members or friends here as residents, know that the staff is taking care of them and attempting to step in when families aren’t able to be here. Just because your loved one is in here, they are still getting great care, and the staff has come to take them on as family.’

*~ Amy Kreidt, CEO and Administrator
St. Luke’s Home and Park Avenue Villa*

St. Luke’s nursing home has 88 residents and Park Avenue Villa, an assisted living facility, has 39 tenants. Kreidt says while some of the residents came from out-of-state, the majority lived and worked in the general area. Many were farmers and ranchers who were members of Roughrider Electric.

‘That’s how we are familiar with the different services and programs available in our area, including the Operation Round Up program,’ she says.

The grant allowed them to purchase two tablets that feature the software iN2L, ‘It’s never too late.’ iN2L combines expansive content and easy-to-use technology to help residents connect with others, regardless of physical or cognitive ability.

Kreidt says the software features thousands of different activities and games that are built for the elderly. Each resident has a ‘profile’ to log into the tablet with customized settings. They can click an icon to call a family member whose information has been programmed into the profile, rather than trying to remember a variety of numbers for different people.

Some residents need guidance and assistance; others are tech-savvy and completely independent.

‘They like playing games, watching TV shows and using dementia programs that help them maintain their level of functioning,’ Kreidt says. It can also help them work on therapy, if they are recovering from a stroke or other illness.

‘It’s honestly the coolest program because there are so many options for each person. It remembers all their preferences, and keeps track of the games they like and can bring them up,’ she says. ‘There are a million things they can do.’

The only downfall to the tablets — there aren’t nearly enough for all the residents, who want equal time to visit, play games, do therapy and learn. Kreidt says the facility started with a couple tablets that were donated by families of former residents. With Roughrider’s Operation Round Up grant, they were able to purchase two more. In late 2020, they added several more to the fleet, and now have between 10 and 15 tablets.

Each of the facility’s four units has a set amount, and the residents can each use them for a scheduled

time. Kreidt says they are always looking to purchase additional tablets, and donations are wanted and appreciated.

‘One tablet for every four residents would be a good goal,’ she says.

Kreidt thanked the members of Roughrider Electric who participate in Operation Round Up for donating their small change that is making a big difference for residents; especially during this extended time of isolation during the pandemic.

‘The money has gone to a good cause because our residents use them every day, all day long,’ she says.

As the pandemic continues to evolve, Kreidt asks the community to keep the residents in their thoughts and prayers.

‘If you have family members or friends here as residents, know that the staff is taking care of them and attempting to step in when families aren’t able to be here. Just because your loved one is in here, they are still getting great care, and the staff has come to take them on as family,’ she says. ■



With the two tablets purchased with Roughrider Electric’s grant, the facility has between 10 to 15 tablets total that are used every day, all day. Staff clean them between every use with a special cloth, and charge them every night.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OPERATION ROUND UP: **Your pennies at work**

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which electric cooperative members round up their monthly utility bills to the nearest dollar and donate their change to local individuals, groups or charities with a specific need. The money pools and accumulates, and an elected board of co-op members reviews the grant applications that have been submitted and determines grant worthiness.

Members of the Charitable Trust include Roughrider Electric members Randy Becker, president; Josh Steffan, vice president; Ryan Kadrmas, secretary; Cheryl Roshau, treasurer; and Jodi Johnson, Leilani Meyhoff and Ila Perhus.

The Charitable Trust met virtually twice in 2020 to review applications and award grant to the following recipients:

Recipient	Use
Marketplace of Ideas/Marketplace for Kids, Inc.	Materials for Education Day
Hill Top Heritage Foundation.....	Blanket warmers
Hopes Landing.....	Office desk and chair
St. Luke's Home	Two smart tablets for residents
Peace Lutheran Church	Sign and bench for community garden
Mercer County Ambulance Service.....	AC/heating unit
Richardton-Taylor Public Schools & PAWS.....	Bench and table for park
Pick City Fire Department.....	Three SCBA bottles
Hope Christian Academy	Commercial mixer
Mercer County Historical Society.....	Replace duct work
Stark County Council on Aging Elder Care	Home-delivered meal trays
Center Community Pool	Air-handling unit
Western Wellness Foundation/Best Friends Mentoring	Computer upgrade components
Common Threads Guild	Material for quilts
Quilts of Valor Foundation	Material for quilts
Home on the Range	Workout equipment
BIO Girls – Hazen/Beulah.....	Life skills program
Belfield Senior Citizen's Activity Club.....	Roof repair
Twin River Saddle Club	Picnic tables
Injured Military Wildlife Project of ND.....	Three veteran elk hunts
Billing County Rural Fire Department.....	Purchase of chains and chain saws
Maah Dah Hey Trail Association.....	Two benches for trail
Golden Valley Park.....	Picnic tables

Operation Round Up funds dispersed in 2020: \$43,092

Operation Round Up funds dispersed since inception in 2002: \$560,687

Apply for a grant

The next application deadline will be July 1, 2021.

Any person or group in the Roughrider Electric Cooperative service area may apply to receive an Operation Round Up grant.

To request an application or to opt into the program, contact our business office at 1-800-748-5533 or download the form at www.roughriderelectric.com and click “Your Community” and “Operation Round Up.”

Operation Round Up is successful because of the generosity of our members. The foundation board, the cooperative board and staff thank you for your participation.

Thank you for your commitment to community

Former Charitable Trust members whose term of service expired: Roughrider Electric members Casey Gjermundson, Linda Krebs and Kathy Reis.

Capital Credit checks ... the cooperative difference!



Members, did you appreciate receiving a capital credit check in the mail late last month? Here's why you received it!

When you purchase electric service from an electric cooperative, you are more than a consumer ... you are a member-owner. Capital credits reflect the ownership in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative.

At the Nov. 20 regular board meeting, your Roughrider Electric Cooperative board of directors analyzed the current financial strength of the cooperative, and at its discretion, decided to proceed with a general retirement of capital credits for 2020.

Capital credits are one of many benefits of belonging to an electric cooperative.

Happy New Year to you and yours, from Roughrider Electric! ■

Need Help with Heating Costs? LIHEAP can help.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households with home heating costs.

- Heating assistance
- Weatherization services (insulation, weather stripping, etc.)
- Furnace and chimney cleaning
- Furnace repair and replacement
- Emergency assistance

Applications are accepted from October 1 through May 31 for each heating season.

For help filling out and submitting the LIHEAP application, call 1-800-823-2417 ext: 140.



www.communityoptionsnd.com



Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOV. 20, 2020

When, where and who: A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held via conference call Nov. 20.

Agenda: The Board reviewed, added to and approved the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Oct. 30, 2020, meeting.

Co-General Managers' report: Mr. Franklund and Mr. Kupper provided the board with the Co-General Managers' report.

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives' Board meeting: Mr. Kainz reported the 2021 budget was approved. The 2021 annual meeting will be held in an altered format this year due to the pandemic and gathering restrictions.

Offer and purchase agreement: Mr. Bentz stated that this land purchase is for the Snowy River Substation, which was approved by the Board in its budget and construction work plan. Land was located, which is currently an abandoned well site. This property is the correct size, and the dirt work has already been done.

National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation Bridge Loan approval: Mr. Craigmile stated Roughrider is working through the Rural Utilities Service loan application process, which will be submitted in the near future.

Operations and construction report: Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. Mr. Bentz reported most road projects are complete.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 8 a.m. MT on Dec. 18, 2020, to be held via conference call.

Other business: There being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers members CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCIES INCENTIVES

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is continuing the conservation and energy-efficiency program. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2021 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2021. The program for the heat pumps is for new installation or for replacement of a conventional heating system.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative personnel will check the

installation, and get the appropriate documentation and receipts. Once completed and approved, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will send a check directly to the member to help cover the purchase cost.

A maximum dollar amount has been set aside for the incentive program. The program will close when we meet this amount. Roughrider Electric reserves the right to cancel the program without further notice. One rebate allowed per member.

For more information, please contact Brad Quenette, director of member services, at 800-748-5533 or email bquenette@roughriderelectric.com.

Ground-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$150 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$600
CLOSED LOOP: EER >= 14.1 COP >= 3.3
OPEN LOOP: EER >= 16.2 COP >= 3.6

Air-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$100 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$400
HSPF >= 8.2 EER >= 12 SEER >= 14.5

Cooperative offers scholarship opportunities



Roughrider Electric Cooperative is offering **\$8,500** in college scholarships to area students. The co-op will award nine **\$500** scholarships. Each school in our service area chooses one recipient. School representatives from Belfield, Beulah, Center-Stanton, Dickinson High, Dickinson Trinity, Hazen, Richardton-Taylor, South Heart and Dickinson Hope Christian Academy choose a graduating senior to receive the funds.

Interested in applying? Students should contact their school counselor for deadline information. The schools will forward each recipient's name to Roughrider.

The co-op will also award one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a school outside of our service area.

The recipient must have parents who are members of our cooperative.

Roughrider is offering one \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

We award the scholarships to students already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program. The students must attend an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. All post-secondary students who have parents that are members of Roughrider are eligible to apply.

Roughrider is also offering one \$500 lineworker scholarship from 3C Construction, LLC.

Owned in part by Roughrider Electric, 3C Construction employs linemen who travel, plowing cable and assisting with projects as needed.

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a lineworker, and who have parents that are members of Roughrider.

Roughrider is also offering one \$500 mechanic scholarship from West Dakota Utility Services, LLC.

Also owned in part by Roughrider Electric, WDUS services utility vehicles, farm trucks and machinery, and equipment that needs hydraulic repairs or N.D. Department of Transportation certification.

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a mechanic, and who have parents that are members of Roughrider.

Roughrider will award three \$500 Luck of the Draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on June 2 in Dickinson.

All high school seniors who have parents that are members of Roughrider are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend our annual meeting with at least one parent, and will be required to RSVP for the meeting. See website listed below for RSVP form.

Students can find the applications on our website www.roughriderelectric.com. You may also call 800-748-5533 to request an application.

Mail applications to: Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545.

The due date to apply is Feb. 1, 2021.





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Prepare for tax season with SmartHub!

Print copies of your monthly utility bills for your tax records by logging into SmartHub! Visit www.roughriderelectric.com and click SmartHub, and proceed to your billing history. If you have not signed up for SmartHub, you can set up a new, secure account. Please call 800-748-5533 with questions!

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a recipient of federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal

Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider.



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE
701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

DICKINSON OFFICE
701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
7 a.m. – 4 p.m. MST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson	483-8377
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah	873-4371
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley	948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley	983-4222
William Retterath; Center	794-8729
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson	483-8207
Dan Price; Hensler	794-3779
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center	548-8122
Callen Schoch; New England	290-3836

MANAGEMENT

Don Franklund	Co-GM/CEO
Travis Kupper	Co-GM/CEO



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