



WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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FROM THE MANAGER

Giving Back is the Co-op Way

Cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same **Seven Cooperative Principles** that guide all our decisions—from how we run the co-op, to how we engage with our local communities. **Concern for community** is the seventh principle, and it is one that all employees of Wheatland Electric value year-round. But during the holiday season, concern for community seems especially important.

Electric co-ops have a proud history of giving back through member programs and initiatives like **Sharing Success, Youth Tour, scholarships and our Cram the Van food drive**. As we shared with you earlier this year, our Sharing Success Fund has now awarded more than \$60,000 in grants to non-profits since its inception in 2012. Each year, Wheatland sends students on an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado Springs as part of the Youth Tour program. In addition, Wheatland awards up to \$13,000 in scholarships, each year, to seniors graduating from one of the 13 high schools in our service territory.

Wheatland Electric members help us give back, too. Through our **2017 Cram the Van food drive** you helped us collect almost 10 tons of food (19,332 lbs.) for our local food banks this year—that doubled last year's record. (As always, all donations stay in the communities they are donated in.)

Over the past four years, more than 21 tons have been donated by way of this program. (Please see the following pages in this month's magazine for a complete summary of this year's Cram the Van food drive.) We couldn't do this without you and we thank you for partnering with us in giving back. So many families go without and struggle to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season. Because of you and the Wheatland employees and trustees who worked hard to make Cram the Van a success, Christmas will be better for many families in our communities.

I have more good news.

Wheatland Electric's wholesale power providers, Sunflower Electric and Mid-Kansas Electric, are lowering the cost of electricity to Wheatland by approximately 3 percent. All those savings are being passed directly on to **you, the membership**, via your electric bill. The savings were effective on Oct. 1 and run through 2018. The savings are reflected in the Energy Charge Adjustment portion of your Wheatland Electric power bill.

Don't forget to come by your local Wheatland office during December for our Capital Credits Harvest Days. (Contact your local co-op office or visit www.weci.net to find out if you're receiving a check or bill credit.)

Until next time, take care.



Bruce W.
Mueller

TIME TO ROUND UP 50 OF

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen. And of course, you know that famous fellow with the red nose. Nine of them in all, tasked each year with pulling Santa's sleigh. But how about another 41 of their closest friends? We're going to need to find them, all 50 of them.



Students from Central Kansas Christian Academy are presented with a check for \$500 for winning the Cram the Van School Challenge in Great Bend.

Round up 50 of the finest reindeer and you'd have yourself almost 10 tons of reindeer. What's significant about 10 tons you ask? That's the amount of food you helped us collect at this year's Cram the Van food drives. We delivered 19,332 pounds and close to \$2,000 to food banks in your communities. That's right, nearly 10 tons of food! And if you're doing the math, this year we almost matched our previous three years combined! Since we started Cram the Van three years ago, we have collected a total of 42,391 pounds of food. All we can say is WOW! And thank you!

Last year, you helped us collect 9,363 pounds of food (more than 4 1/2 tons), which was the most we'd ever collected. This year, we set out with the goal of topping the 5 ton mark. Well, perhaps we underestimated you, because you more than doubled that this year.

This year's drive once again featured eleven stops in ten different communities and lasted close to eight weeks. The big red van was burn-

ing up the black top from Tribune to Caldwell and many more communities in between. We made stops at football games, grocery stores, our co-op offices and even at a barbecue competition. No matter where we stopped, one thing was consistent: the generosity of our members. Whether it was cash or cans you gave generously, and gave more than you did last year in nearly every community.

"The generosity of our members continues to amaze us," said Bruce W. Mueller, general manager of Wheatland. "Each year our members give more and more. We thought collecting nearly 2,700 pounds in Scott City last year was impressive. To top that in both Conway Springs and Great Bend this year is truly remarkable and collecting nearly 10 tons in one year is incredible, we can't thank our members enough for their support of this great program. Together, we're making a difference."

In Great Bend, Wheatland members donated 5,700 pounds of food, four times the amount they donated



SANTA'S FINEST REINDEER!



General Manager Bruce W. Mueller and board trustee Katie Eisenhour, along with other Wheatland representatives deliver 2,180 pounds of donations to Hope's Closet in Scott City.

last year. This year's strong showing was buoyed by the success of the first ever Cram the Van School Challenge sponsored by Hiss Sherman Wealth Management. Hiss Sherman offered a \$1,000 prize pot to the top three schools (\$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place). This year's winners were Central Kansas Christian Academy, Holy Family and Lincoln Elementary, respectively. Collectively, all nine Great Bend schools collected 4,600 pounds during the week-long competition.

In Conway Springs, our members donated more than 4,000 pounds. During the week-long Cardinals Care food drive, held in conjunction with Wheatland's Cram the Van drive, the Conway Springs schools collected 2,700 pounds of goods and \$1,964. Members capped the week off by trading their cash or cans for a meal of a hamburger or hot dog before the Conway Springs High School Cardinals game against Mulvane. Most schools rewarded students with extra time off and Wheatland kicked in pizza for the winning class at the high school as well as a pizza party for the students at St. Joseph Catholic School.

Cram the Van joined forces with the folks at the Spencer Flight and

More than 19,332 Pounds

- ▶ CALDWELL
820 lbs
- ▶ CONWAY SPRINGS
4,332 lbs & \$1,964
- ▶ FINNEY COUNTY
1,180 lbs
- ▶ GREAT BEND
5,700 lbs
- ▶ HARPER
2,480 lbs
- ▶ LEOTI
760 lbs
- ▶ SCOTT CITY
2,180 lbs
- ▶ SYRACUSE
980 lbs
- ▶ TRIBUNE
900 lbs

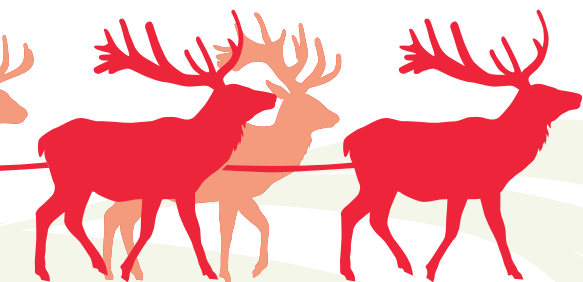


Education Center to host the Fall Finale at the Scott City airport. Families in attendance roasted marshmallows, dropped their donations down food slides directly into the van, decorated pumpkins, enjoyed a hayrack ride, participated in a pumpkin seed spitting contest and enjoyed a hamburger, brat or hot dog meal.

"Each year we try to come up with goals and predictions of how many pounds we'll collect," said Shawn Powelson, manager of member services and corporate communications for Wheatland. "I would never in a million years have predicted this year's results. It's a very busy couple of months, putting on these events throughout our service territory. But the results are also very rewarding. And even more rewarding is making the deliveries to the food banks. After four years we've developed a relationship with the food banks and they are so appreciative of our efforts. This year, showing up at the Barton County Food Bank with the van completely full, and two more flatbed pickups full of donations—that was something to see."



Conway Springs High School students helped to raise \$1,964 and 2,700 pounds of donations for the Mission Mart food bank during the week-long Cardinals Care food drive.





General Manager & Trustees



Executive Team—Scott City



District 1—Scott City



District 2—Leoti



Districts 3 & 4—Tribune & Syracuse

Wishing You And

HAPPY H

**MERRY &
CHRISTMAS**

From
**WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC**
Delivering
A Touch of



Wheatland Broadband—Scott City



Water Division—Garden City



District 5—Garden City



District 6—Great Bend



District 7—Harper

Your Loved Ones

HOLIDAYS

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

All of us at
**WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC**
Delivering Energy for Life

Wheatland Energy Cooperative



Attention High School Juniors—Apply for these Amazing Trips!

YOUTH PROGRAMS BUILD

LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY, MEMORIES

Scan these Codes to Get More Information

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour



Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp



Download a free scanning app in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Each year, Wheatland Electric offers free trips to four youth from our membership. If you are a high school junior whose parents/guardians are Wheatland members, contact your school guidance counselor for a chance to win a trip to Washington, D.C. or Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Tour the Capital City

Imagine—a chance to visit our nation's capital for one week, meet with more than 1,800 students from across the U.S. and visit with Kansas' senators and congressional representatives. The best part? It won't cost you a penny.

Wheatland will choose two winners to go to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 7 to 14, 2018.

The week-long trip to Washington, D.C., is jam-packed with sightseeing. Students will visit many of the major historical sites, including the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Monument.

While in Washington, D.C., students will meet with state and national legislators and nationally recognized speakers to talk about current topics important to our rural communities. Many past participants were so inspired by this experience that they later served as interns on Capital Hill, and many have pursued a career in politics.

To see what's in store, visit <http://bit.ly/dcytvideo2015>.

Adventure in the Rockies

Two winners will also be chosen to attend Cooperative Youth Leadership



The 36 Kansas-Hawaii delegation toured the White House during the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.



From left: Kansas delegates Arely Yanez, Noah Ochsner and Allison Williams visit the Lincoln Memorial during the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.



Rossiel Reyes and Justin Brown enjoy the view of Elk River near the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in July 2017.

Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 13 to 19, 2018.

Rafting, hiking and building memories—it's not just another trip! Campers will stay at the scenic Glen Eden Resort in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. At camp, you will join winners from other co-ops in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming to build valuable leadership skills while forming lasting friendships.

So pack your sunscreen and hiking shoes and get ready to build memories that will last a lifetime.

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/CYLCVideo>.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp are much more than sightseeing and adventures. Students spend every waking minute together for a solid week, and it's not uncommon for lasting friendships to form. In fact, many of Kansas' past participants ended up being college roommates, professional colleagues and lifelong friends. Most importantly, these youth programs inspire many students to discover who they want to be.

How to Apply

To apply, interested students should

contact their school guidance counselor. If chosen by their school, students take an open-book quiz and write a short essay and interview before a panel of three judges comprised of the cooperative's Board of Trustees. The quiz and interviews will be conducted in Scott City in late February 2018.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp are just a few of the ways we're investing in our future leaders. Wheatland does so much more than provide safe, reliable and affordable power—we are dedicated to improving the futures of students in our community because we know they are next in line to lead the way.

For more information or to apply, contact your guidance counselor at one of these participating high schools: Argonia, Caldwell, Chaparral, Conway Springs, Deerfield, Great Bend, Greeley County, Holcomb, Norwich, Scott Community, South Haven, Syracuse or Wichita County. Children of Wheatland employees are not eligible to apply.

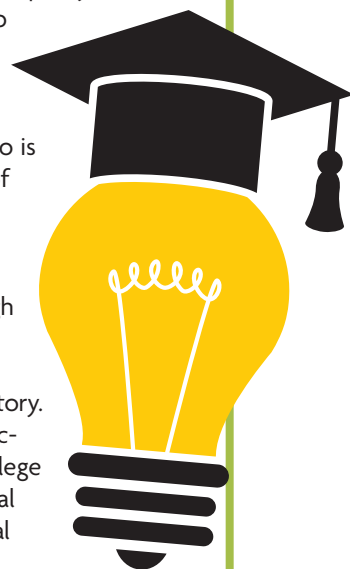
All applications are due Feb. 1, 2018.

Wheatland Offers 13 Scholarships

Applications for Wheatland Electric's Empowering the Next Generation Scholarship Program are now available. Wheatland will award 13 \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors going on to a post-secondary institution.

Those who qualify for the scholarship must:

- ▶ Have a parent/guardian who is a member of Wheatland Electric.
- ▶ Attend one of the 13 high schools in Wheatland's service territory.
- ▶ Attend an accredited college or a technical or vocational school.



Children of Wheatland employees are not eligible to apply. Seniors who meet the qualifications will need to complete the application found on Wheatland's website www.weci.net under the Community Tab **BY FEB. 1, 2018.**

A committee will then choose the winning applicant from each school, and the scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Meeting in April 2018.

Application Deadline Feb. 1, 2018

Sharing Success Fund Grants \$1,000 to Caldwell Visitor Center

Wheatland recently awarded a \$1,000 grant to **THE CALDWELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** to fund **THE CALDWELL TRAILS, RAILS & SCALES VISITOR CENTER** project through its Sharing Success Fund, managed by the Scott Community Foundation.

The project revamped a small, brick feed mill office/scale house from the 1920's into a community welcome center to greet visitors on Highway 81. It has been titled "Trails, Rails & Scales Visitor Center" to encompass major historical highlights and current-day happenings in the town of Caldwell.

Restoring the Caldwell Milling Company's scale house was truly a community effort. Volunteers used wood from area barns to build walls, donated tin for the ceiling and porch roof, lighting pendants and front door sidelights from the recently demolished Catholic Church, and paint donated by the Caldwell Art Brigade. The Caldwell Messenger newspaper also donated a newspaper printer's desk to fill the space. The total cost of the project was \$4,300, in large part due to using all volunteer labor.

"Working together to see this project through became a labor of love, pride and joy," said Jill Kuehny, Caldwell Chamber of Commerce.

The visitor's center will highlight annual festivals and events and provide contact information for the city offices, schools, parks, the Sumner County Hospital and other amenities. Visitors can also find instructions for the new Historical Virtual Tour guide app, produced and installed by KanOkla Networks, which provides a self-



Volunteers who assisted with the Visitor Center project and representatives of the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce are presented with a \$1,000 check from Wheatland's Sharing Success fund.

guided tour with extra enhancements like pictures of lost buildings including the three-story hotels and one of two Opera Houses. The app can be downloaded and used on a closed Wi-Fi grid, accessible within range of each of the 20 historical signs along the downtown business district.

The Scott Community Foundation began formally accepting applications for grants from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund from non-profit organizations on Dec. 1, 2012. The program will run until the funds are exhausted. Non-profit groups interested in receiving funding from the Sharing Success Fund should contact the Scott Community Foundation at 620-872-3790 for more details.

Interactive Reality U Provides Real-Life Perspective

This fall, the Great Bend Middle School (GBMS) partnered with the United Way of Central Kansas to hold the second annual Reality U. Long-term and monthly financial planning to pay for utility bills, car insur-

ance and an unexpected medical bill—it's often difficult for middle school students to comprehend these things, what it takes to live in the real world, and how the work they are doing now could pay off in the future. Reality U is an interactive exercise that helps youth understand some of the 'realities' involved in preparing for an employable future.

Prior to attending the Reality U session, students fill out a survey about where they see themselves at 26 years old. The questions cover everything from jobs to family status to shopping and entertainment preferences. The survey results are paired with each student's school performance records to create a profile, which included fictional jobs, salaries and families. At this point, students visit booths of local businesses (home, transportation, utilities, groceries, student loan payments, child care, etc.) to track their estimated monthly

spending and expenses.

Wheatland Electric Member Services Representative Teresa Mazouch met with students at the utilities booth to discuss how their housing choice impacted their utility bill.

As in life, unexpected events happen, which was represented by the "chance" booth. Students rolled dice to determine a random event in their lives such as an injury or an extra bill to pay.

Most students learn a lot from the exercise, and marked increases in school performance are noted in the following weeks. Several students commented that they were going to go home and thank their parents for all they have done.

Reality U is a program developed by the Pando Initiative. For more information, visit the pandointiative.org.



Teresa Mazouch, Wheatland member services representative, helps students sign up for electric service at Reality U.