

APRIL 2024

Making life better, the cooperative way®

Lineworker Appreciation Day

As April 8 approaches, utilities across the nation are gearing up to celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day—a day dedicated to honoring the hard work and dedication of the unsung heroes who keep our lights on.

Lineworkers play a crucial role in ensuring the reliability and safety of our electrical infrastructure, often braving adverse weather conditions and working tirelessly to restore power during outages. Their expertise and commitment

keep homes, businesses and essential services running smoothly.

Let's take a moment to thank the lineworkers in our communities for their dedication and invaluable contributions to keeping our communities powered.



Colton Searcy, left, and Brennon Love are two of Blue Grass Energy's dedicated lineworkers. Photo: Tim Webb

CONTACT INFORMATION

24-Hour Service: (888) 546-4243
Automated payment: (877) 934-9491
Report an outage: (888) 655-4243
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AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.**

Denise Myers, Editor



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Members to receive capital credits

Unlike traditional utilities, electric cooperatives operate as member-owned entities, not obligated to shareholders or a single owner. That means that as a Blue Grass Energy member, you are actually an owner of our cooperative. One of the unique benefits of this ownership is the return of capital credits, which represent our cooperative's profits allocated back to you.

Next month, some of you will receive a check from Blue Grass Energy. It is a refund of your capital credits. If you aren't familiar with this term, here's how it works: As a not-for-profit cooperative, when we have excess revenue beyond what is needed for operating expenses, maintenance and growth, it is returned to our members.

The total amount of this year's refund is \$1.7 million dollars. The amount you will receive is based on your electric usage during 1992 and 1993.

Capital credits are unique to cooperatives and one of the values of your membership. Many of our members during 1992 and 1993 may have moved or passed away. For deceased members, refunds of accumulated capital credits are payable to their estates. If you are an executor of an estate and would like to inquire if it is eligible, contact us at (888) 546-4243. We ask all former members who have moved from our service to make sure we have your correct forwarding address. You are still eligible for your refund even if you no longer live inside our service area.

We hope you enjoy the value being a member of Blue Grass Energy brings. It is a privilege to serve each of you, and we don't take that for granted. We are proud that our profits stay local in our communities. It is just one of the many ways we are making life better, the cooperative way.

*By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams*



Ronald McDonald House Charities

By Katie Saltz

Parents coping with a medically vulnerable child have enough to deal with—bills, missing work, caring for other children. Ronald McDonald House Charities tries to cross some things off that list by providing comfortable lodging and meals to those families.

In 2024, the good work being done at RMHC will be supported by Blue Grass Energy. Each year, Blue Grass Energy selects a charity to be the recipient of a year-round fundraising effort by employees.

Chelsi McDonald, chief philanthropy officer of RMHC of the Bluegrass, says the most well-known aspect of RMHC is probably The House—a 21-bedroom house near the Kentucky Children's Hospital that provides a comfortable place to stay, meals, transportation and laundry facilities for families with a hospitalized child.



“There is data to show that family’s proximity to their kid brings a better likelihood that their child will recover and that the family will recover physically and mentally,” McDonald says. “It seems like a little thing but in these moments of medical crisis, the little things are everything for families. The beds, the meals and the community are things that every family reports made a difference for them.”

The House is just one part of the RMHC mission. There is also the Family Room, a respite space inside the Kentucky Children's Hospital, and the Care Mobile, a mobile unit that provides pediatric dental care in underserved areas of Kentucky.

Mike Williams, Blue

Grass Energy president & CEO, says his team is happy to further the work RMHC is doing for Kentucky families.

“As a cooperative committed to serving our communities, we are excited to support Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass,” Williams says. “Extending a helping hand to families in need is a perfect way to live out our purpose of making life better, the cooperative way.”

The reach RMHC has is wide in the Bluegrass, since families often travel long distances to receive the specialized treatment that Kentucky Children's Hospital offers. The stress of having a sick child is something McDonald thinks every person can relate to, especially following the COVID pandemic when many parents saw how medically vulnerable their children could be.

“Everyone has known somebody who has had a sick child,” she says. “We know that nothing else can matter when a child is sick. Mentally, you can only think about your kid and them getting better. We are doing this to help those

CONTINUED ON 46D



PHOTOS: RMHC STAFF

CONTINUED FROM 46A

families not worry about the everyday things.”

The donations from Blue Grass Energy will help fund the daily

operations of RMHC (it costs around \$100 a day just to fund one room for one night in the House), but donations of time are also appreciated, McDonald

says. Some volunteer opportunities can be performed on-site, and others are remote, such as hosting food drives or collecting pop tabs.

“We had over 13,000 volunteer hours logged across our programs last year,” she says. “It’s

a testament to our people who are willing to give their time. If you can’t give treasure, you can give your time.”

McDonald says in 2023, RMHC provided \$480,000 in services to families at no cost to them. Her hope is that RMHC will benefit from the monetary donations by Blue Grass Energy, and also the awareness the partnership will raise.

“As a nonprofit we have more work to do with less resources,” McDonald says. “Now we can increase our circle of people. We pride ourselves as Kentuckians to take care of our neighbor. I think it’s a really beautiful way to think about our calling to service.”



RMHC STAFF

Blue Grass Energy sponsors Frankfort Youth Tour

Nearly 100 high school students representing Kentucky’s electric cooperatives gathered at the Kentucky Capitol on February 21 for the Frankfort Youth Tour, a program designed to offer rising young leaders a personal understanding of Kentucky history, civic engagement and their role as citizens and members of electric cooperatives.

Students were welcomed by Rocky Adkins, senior advisor to the governor, before touring the Capitol and attending meetings of the Senate Health Services and Senate Natural Resource and Energy committees. Throughout the busy day, students interacted with legislators and elected officials in the hallways and heard from Gov. Andy Beshear and Rep. Samara Heavrin about their legislative priorities and issues facing Kentuckians.

Representing Blue Grass Energy



From left, Zach Roberts, Rue Shelman and Manus Lavin. Photo: Tim Webb

were Zach Roberts and Rue Shelman from Anderson County and Manus Lavin from Woodford County. In June,

these three students will travel to our nation’s capital during the Washington Youth Tour.