



BLUE GRASS LIVING

JANUARY 2022

Making life better, the cooperative way®

1,000,000 pennies have a new purpose

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.” This quote by Vincent Van Gogh is a perfect illustration of how Pennies for Purpose (PFP) impacts our communities.

This program is funded by our members who contribute by electing to round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar. PFP is governed by an independent, volunteer

**SAVE
THE DATE**

for our Annual
Meeting on
June 2

CONTINUED ON 26C



Peaceful Paws Springs Animal Rescue receives a donation from Pennies for Purpose. From left, Amanda Gebhart, Tabitha McKee, Tom Gebhart, Joseph Guy, and Blue Grass Energy President/CEO Mike Williams. Photo: Rachel Settles

 **Blue Grass Energy**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Making life better, the cooperative way®

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY BLUE GRASS ENERGY
AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.**

Rachel Settles, Editor



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Building community trust for 85 years

For 85 years, Blue Grass Energy has focused on making life better, the cooperative way for the people in central and north-central Kentucky. From the very beginning, we have shared in a commitment to our communities that goes beyond just providing reliable and affordable energy.

That commitment is evident in many ways. From the charities we support and organizations where we volunteer, the impact we have made throughout our service area is abundant. It is also evident in our role as an educational resource and trusted energy partner. We do not take this responsibility lightly.

When our early members first received power all those years ago, lights, refrigerators and cook stoves were emerging technologies. Members were uncertain of how these products and appliances functioned. They relied on us to help them learn about these items and understand how they worked and which ones they needed.

Today, you can substitute solar for lights, electric vehicles for refrigerators and smart homes for cook stoves. While the progress of electric-powered technologies changed the ways we use energy, our role as your trusted energy partner has not. We are still here. We are still local. We still have your best interests at the center of what we do. And we still want to be your first stop whenever you have a question related to energy.

As we turn the calendar to a new year, many of you may be considering the purchase of an electric vehicle or investing in solar energy. Energy efficiency receives lots of attention this time of year, too. But no matter the issue, if you have questions or need information about your energy, don't hesitate to contact us. We have competent and knowledgeable employees who are happy to help.

Blue Grass Energy, a name you can always trust. We will continue to be here when you need us, just like we have been since 1937.

*By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams*



CONTINUED FROM 26A

committee of Blue Grass Energy members.

Since PFP started in January 2019, \$10,000 has been distributed to the communities we serve. Making life better, the cooperative way is our purpose, and each of these organizations below reflect that in what they do for our members.

These pennies are making a difference—as of the end of November, we had over 1,100 members participating

in this program.

In 2019, the very first donation of \$1,000 went to the Pendleton County Education Foundation to be used for the future Miracle Point Playground. Since then, this fully accessible and inclusive playground where children and adults who use wheelchairs, orthotic braces, walkers, etc., is now being enjoyed by the community. In 2020, five donations were distributed totaling \$4,000. And in 2021, seven donations totaling \$5,000 were distributed. This

shows what a difference a few pennies each month can make.

Thank you to all that participate in Pennies for Purpose.

If you would like learn more, visit bgenergy.com or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME



2019 RECIPIENTS

- **Miracle Point Playground** — \$1,000 to help fund a fully accessible and inclusive playground in Pendleton County.

2020 RECIPIENTS

- **Early Bird Foundation** — \$500 to support, encourage and empower past, present and expecting Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) families in Kentucky.
- **Lawrenceburg/Anderson County Tourism Commission** — \$500 to develop the Rails to Trails program.
- **Jessamine County Food Pantry** — \$500 to provide food for those in need.
- **First Generation Women Achievers of the Bluegrass** — \$1,000 to fund scholarships for women who are the first in their family to attend college.
- **Cynthiana-Harrison County YMCA Child Development Center** — \$1,500 to help fund the childcare facility.

2021 RECIPIENTS

- **Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, Inc.** — \$500 to fund scholarships providing equine therapy for children with physical, cognitive or behavioral needs.
- **Kentucky River Foothills Development Council, Inc.** — \$500 to help homeless veterans with necessities like bedding, cookware and clothing items.
- **Peaceful Paws Springs Animal Rescue** — \$500 to be used to care for neglected, abused and abandoned animals.
- **Survivor Squad** — \$500 to help recovering addicts through treatment and other activities.
- **Hope for Recovery** — \$1,000 to be used to help rewire a home that will provide transition housing for women recovering from addiction.
- **Early Bird Foundation, Inc.** — \$1,000 to help families of present and expecting Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) families with financial hardships resulting from their hospital stay.
- **First Generation Women Achievers of the Bluegrass** — \$1,000 to fund scholarships for women who are the first in their family to attend college.

Are portable space heaters efficient for my home?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy.

Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient, but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest.

In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide

to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember, in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, contact us and speak with an energy advisor. As your trusted source for energy and information, we're here to help.

TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.

