

October is National Cooperative Month

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YOU.™**

Publicly owned utilities were formed to bring affordable electricity to those who needed it. At the heart of their mission, it was about neighbors coming together to better their communities. That same spirit continues at the heart of CVEA. As a local business, staffed by your friends and neighbors, we look for ways to make a difference - in big ways and small.

Join Copper Valley Electric Association in celebrating cooperatives in Alaska and across America during National Cooperative Month. Every October cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique; the Seven Cooperative Principles: voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, members' economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training, and information, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community.

"Cooperatives are special," says Sharon Crisp, CVEA Manager of Member Services. "We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and be involved in and enhance our communities." This Cooperative Month, take a look at some of the things your Cooperative does throughout the year

Commitment to Community

Each year, CVEA supports the annual Copper River Emergency Medical Services (CREMS) radio auction, which raises funds for a much-needed new ambulance.

During Cooperative Month, employees volunteer their time to process paper and cans at the Recycling Our Areas Resources (ROAR) center in the Copper Valley.

Your Cooperative also supports many community groups and events such as the Kenny Lake Community League Fun Run/Walk, the Copper Basin Senior Citizens, the Valdez Relay for Life, the Valdez Museum, the Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, KCAM, AHTNA Heritage Foundation, and the Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau, to name a few.

Gifts, door prizes, and auction items are donated for various events and several annual meetings throughout the year, and each holiday CVEA provides energy credits or toys for baskets given to families in need.

CVEA supports many education and youth programs as well. They support the Kenny Lake Library Summer Literacy Camp - a literacy and reading adventure camp for elementary students. The Co-op offers a prize for the best electrical project during the Valdez Science Fair and employees volunteer as Science Fair judges. Donations have been given to fund the Wrangell Mountain Center's cultural education programs and the Valdez Cooperative Preschool. They also support the Glennallen PTO and Valdez Consortium Library Book Basket auctions.

In 2013, employees presented information on hydroelectric power at the Youth Environmental Summit and talked to students about careers in the electric industry at the Copper River School District Career Day in Glennallen. CVEA employees also serve on many community work groups, task forces, and committees, providing community support and leadership.

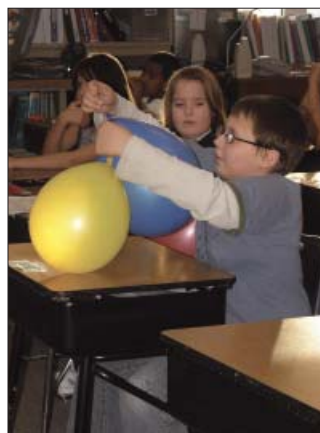
To further CVEA's commitment to the community, CVEA created the CVEA Community Foundation (CVEACF) which provides scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations within our communities. The CVEACF is funded by capital credits that have escheated back to CVEA, generous donations from CVEA members and vendors, and fundraisers.

Each year the CVEACF awards thousands of dollars in educational scholarships and sends one student from each District to the Idaho Youth Rally Leadership Camp and the National Youth Tour.

In 2011, the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE) and the CVEACF, along with Copper Valley Telecom, launched the *Junior Scientist Program*, a program that brings hands-on science projects and education to our schools. This program met with great success and was extended to the Valdez District in the spring of 2013.

The Foundation is also a sponsor of the Valdez Middle School LEGO Robotics Club that launched in the fall of 2012. This program has been very popular and the students took first place in their first statewide competition this year.

The Foundation Board of Directors is currently review-



Top Left, Kenny Lake Library Literacy Camp participants enjoying a watercolor lesson by Valdez teacher Kim Keller Photo courtesy Kenny Lake Library

Middle Left, Valdez Middle School LEGO Robotics team displaying their first place trophy Photo courtesy Cynthia Shidner

CVEA's Travis Million presents at the Youth Environmental Summit in the Copper Basin Photo courtesy Youth Environmental Summit

Middle Right, Beau Fowler, winner of the Best Electrical Project at the Valdez Science Fair Photo by Heather Kroll

Above, CVEA employees in the Copper Basin volunteer to process recyclables for ROAR each Cooperative Month

Far Left, CVEA employees participated in the 2013 Gold Rush parade in Valdez

Left, students in the Copper Basin enjoying the Junior Scientist Program

ing contribution request applications; contributions for new programs will be awarded as part of Cooperative Month, in October.

For additional information on these or any other CVEA or CVEACF community programs, please contact Sharon Crisp, Manager of Member Services, at 822-5006, 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org. ■