Copper Valley

CVEA Employees Team Up to Celebrate Cooperative Month and Raise Money for the CVEA Community Foundation

CVEA employees, family members, and members were busy this October as they celebrated the electric industry's Cooperative Month with several activities in each district.

Each October, CVEA employees volunteer their time every week to process recycled goods at the Recycling Our Areas Resources (ROAR) center in downtown Glennallen. The effort, organized by CVEA Receptionist Toni Daniels, consists of a group of employees dedicating one lunch hour each week to making sure the center is in tip top shape; processing huge amounts of paper and cans for the community.

CVEA also held its Connections Program luncheons during Cooperative Month. This effort began in 2010 as a way to keep interested and involved members better informed on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

Participants in the program were invited to attend a luncheon, providing not only food for their stomachs, but fuel for their minds to receive current updates on projects and issues that CVEA is working on. Approximately 20 people attended in Valdez and over 30 attended in Glennallen.

Attendees were updated on many topics including the Allison Creek Hydro Project, Thompson Pass avalanche mitigation, the wind study, recently completed Solomon Gulch projects, the cost of power, and the rate study.

This year, CVEA chose to hold their Community Foundation fundraisers during Cooperative Month. Employees and volunteers donated items, time and baked goods to a garage sale and bake sale, in Valdez, on Saturday, October 15. Over 100 people turned out to show their support and purchase treasures and treats at the CVEA sale. They were met with free coffee and apple cider and a chance to win a \$50 CVEA energy credit if they spent or donated \$25 or more. Jerry Obrien was the lucky winner of the drawing and received \$50 off his bill!

On Friday, October 21, CVEA hosted a Round Up event and bake sale in Glennallen. There were 200 hotdogs grilled, trays of cookies were gobbled and baked goods were flying out the door. Members who signed up to Round Up were entered to win a \$50 energy credit as well; Kathleen Stratton was the winner.

These two events were great ways to get together with CVEA members and fun was had by all. These events, combined raised over \$1,800 and signed over 30 people to begin rounding

up their bill for the Foundation, a 501C3, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations within our communities.

CVEA and the CVEACF would like to thank everyone who stopped by for their support and generosity.

Each year, the CVEACF provides \$9,500 in educational scholarships to graduating high school seniors and adults who are continuing their education. The Foundation also provides a scholarship to one student in each district to fund their participation in a youth leadership program that includes the Idaho Youth Rally and the National Youth Tour.

The CVEACF's youth program is truly a once in a lifetime experience for students that they cannot get anywhere else. It is a very unique opportunity and definitely sets the CVEA Community Foundation apart from other programs.

Contributions to local non-profit organizaions are also a priority for the CVEACF. In 2011-2012, CVEA is partnering with the Wrangell Institute for Science and the Environment on a Science in Schools program, soon to launch in the Copper Basin.

If the mission of the Foundation is important to you and you would like to make a contribution, there are many ways to do so. You can make a one-time donation by cash, check, or debit/credit card, make a monthly donation by adding a specific amount to your CVEA electric bill, and even donate future capital credit disbursements.

One of the easiest ways to make a contribution is to round up your electric bill to the nearest dollar amount each month. Participants who round up their bill contribute between \$.01 and \$.99 monthly, an average of \$6 a year, to the Foundation.

Individually, this is not a large number, but combined with other CVEA members, it will make a difference. If half of all CVEA members round up their bills each month, the Foundation will bring in an amazing \$10,000 for scholarships and community programs each year.

For more information, contact Sharon Crisp, CVEA Manager of Member Services, at (907) 822-5506 or (907) 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org ■



Top left, a member looking at treasures during the CVEA Garage and Bake Sale fundraiser in Valdez. Middle Left, a group of members enjoying hotdogs and baked goodies, while socializing at the CVEA Community Foundation Round Up Event and Bake Sale in Glennallen. Above Left, Robert Wilkinson with his 'A-Team' preparing to kick off the 2011 Connections Program luncheon in Valdez. Top Right, little Melanie Berner enjoys a hotdog, cupcake, and balloon while her Mom and Dad Round Up for the Community Foundation. Above, CVEA employees pose for a photo after recycling goods at the ROAR Center in Glennallen.

Photos by Sharon Crisp and John Duhamel