



October is National Cooperative Month. Since 1930, Cooperative Month has celebrated the fact that cooperatives make a difference because they are different.

Democratically governed businesses, cooperatives are organized under the Seven Cooperative Principles, anchoring them firmly in the communities they serve and ensuring that they are closely regulated by their consumers.

**Seven Cooperative Principles:**

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member's Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Commitment to Community

Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) and Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative (CVTC) exemplify 'cooperation among cooperatives' by working together to promote the cooperative difference.

During this year's Cooperative Month, we will focus on our 'commitment to the community'. CVEA and CVTC have a strong commitment to the communities where our members work and live.

Demonstrating this commitment is a business principle that CVEA and CVTC practice year round through participation in economic development programs, charitable giving, educational activities, and other commu-

nity involvement.

Your local cooperatives and the neighbors who work there contribute to the community in countless ways. Combined, CVEA and CVTC donate over \$30,000 and hundreds of man hours each year to support organizations and events.

Below are a few examples of how CVEA and CVTC make a difference.

**Emergency Services**

Each year, CVEA and CVTC support the annual Copper River Emergency Medical Services (CREMS) radio auction to raise funds for a much needed new ambulance.

**Recycling**

Both of your local cooperatives care about recycling. This year, cooperative representatives worked as part of Rotary to implement an aluminum can recycling program in Valdez.

Each year, CVEA and CVTC sponsor Recycling Our Areas Resources (ROAR) in the Copper Valley. Throughout the months of July and October, cooperative employees volunteer their time to visit the recycling center and process paper and cans.

**American Cancer Society**

Not only do CVEA and CVTC sponsor the Valdez Relay for Life, but this year, CVEA joined forces with CVTC to put together a team with a goal to walk the walk for the entire 24 hour event and to raise money for cancer research and support programs.

Fourteen employees and several

family members walked during the event and the team raised over \$2,600.

**Economic Development and Quality of Life**

Many community events are organized to not only enhance the economy but to preserve the excellent quality of life the residents of Valdez and the Copper Basin enjoy.

This year, Copper Valley Electric sponsored the prize for the Rookie Finisher during the Copper Basin 300 dog sled race and provided auction items for the Clean Up Day in the Native Village of Tazlina.

Copper Valley Telephone sponsored the Valdez Fish Derbies, Valdez Gold Rush, & the July Fun Run in Glennallen.

**Youth Programs and Education**

Youth and education are very important to your local cooperatives.

In 2008, CVEA provided gift items for the Gakona Village Council Youth Environmental Day Camp and donated funds to the Kenny Lake Library.

Each year CVEA donates to the Valdez Senior Class graduation celebration intended to keep Valdez youth off the streets and safe.

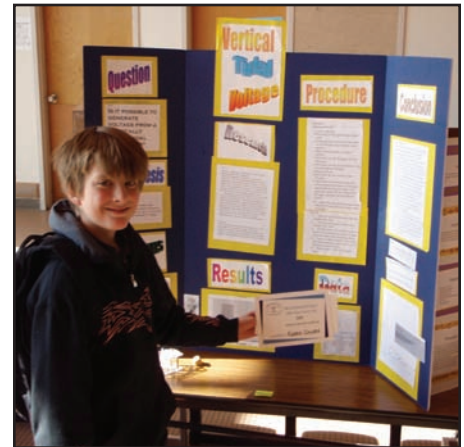
CVEA also offers a prize each year for the Best Electrical Project during the Valdez Science Fair and the co-op's engineering manager volunteers as a science fair judge.

Annually, CVTC sponsors Junior Achievement, Close Up and the kid's Halloween safety program.

Additionally, both organizations



Above: CVEA/CVTC tent at the 2008 Relay for Life. Top Right: Carla Schierholt of the Copper Basin District holding her 2007 Cooperative Month grand prize. Middle Right: Kaden Cullen wins Best Electrical Project in the 2008 Valdez Science Fair. Jaime Matthews and Barb Nichols of CVEA volunteer at the ROAR recycling center in Glennallen. Bottom Right: Shilah Butler of CVTC recycling office paper for ROAR.



sponsor the Prince William Sound Community College (PWSCC) Scholarship Fundraiser.

CVEA and CVTC award thousands of dollars in scholarships to high school graduates in the Valdez and Copper Basin Districts.

This year CVEA extended their scholarship program by awarding a Community College scholarship to any CVEA member attending PWSCC, and awarding Idaho Youth Rally scholarships to sophomores and juniors in each district.

### CVEA Community Foundation

To further CVEA's commitment to the community, CVEA has created the Copper Valley Electric Community Foundation.

The purpose of the Community Foundation is to provide scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations within the communities we serve.

The Foundation will be funded by generous donations and unclaimed capital credits that have escheated back to CVEA.

The CVEA Community Foundation, with generous financial support from Copper Valley Telephone will kick off it's commitment to community by bringing Rachel's Challenge, the largest school program in America to the Valdez and Copper River School Districts.

This program will transform our schools by inspiring student's hearts and minds. The climate and culture of our communities will improve as kindness, compassion and acceptance become standard practices, not only by students, but also parents, educators and community members.

Stay tuned for future updates on the CVEA Community Foundation and Rachel's Challenge.

### Join CVEA and CVTC This Year in Celebrating Cooperative Month.

Participate in the Cooperative Can, Coat, Boot, and Blanket drive sponsored by CVEA, CVTC, Rotary, and Connecting Ties.

Drop off canned or dried food items and gently used warm weather items (coats, boots, snowpants, hats, gloves, sweaters and blankets) at the CVEA or CVTC offices in each district, Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm, October 1-29.

You'll help someone who needs a little boost stay warm and fed, and your kindness will be rewarded with warmth in your heart and a ticket for the Cooperative Month grand prize basket filled with phone and electric certificates, products, and services.

Check out [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org) or [www.cvtc.org](http://www.cvtc.org) for additional information or contact Sharon Crisp at 835-7005 or Joanne Winney at 835-2231.

