In August, the Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children applied for and received an Operation Round Up grant from the Capital Electric Cooperative Charitable Trust. The center works to diagnose communication challenges of preschool and early elementary children, and to help them develop speech and language skills. In this month’s local pages, learn how Operation Round Up recently helped improve the quality of life for area families — and why our members’ monthly contributions to this cooperative program are so greatly needed and appreciated.

Chayse, a 4-year-old from Bismarck, practices enunciating words with Cindy Neff, speech-language pathologist at the Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children in south Bismarck.
Operation Round Up is a program in which Capital Electric Cooperative members voluntarily choose to round up their monthly utility bills and donate their pennies to a Charitable Trust. The money accumulates, and an elected board of five co-op members reviews the grant applications that have been submitted by local people and organizations, and determine grant worthiness.

Many of the recent applications received had a similar theme — requesting aid to keep families together and kids stay. Some of the requests for aid included preparing kids to be independent for the world outside of foster care, growing a mentorship program, and filling the tummies of students who were going without an adequate amount of food on the weekends.

Since Capital Electric Cooperative implemented the Operation Round Up program in August 1997, members have seen time and again how important this program is to the people who live in the co-op’s service area — and how much need there is locally — and how much of a difference we can all make together by simply donating pocket change each month.

Charitable Trust board members Roger Christianson, Jerry Doan, LeAna Hug, Barb Handy-Marchello and Jim McCullough met in August to review grant applications that were submitted by July 29. They awarded seven grants totaling $20,400. Checks were distributed during a presentation ceremony on Aug. 16 at co-op headquarters in Bismarck.

The following individuals and organizations received assistance from Operation Round Up.

- Community Action Program (backpacks for kids)
- Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children
- Welcome House, Inc.
- ND Community Action Partnership
- Great Plains Food Bank
- Charles Hall Youth Services
- Golden Wing Club
- Guardian and Protective Services
- An area resident
- Burleigh Co. Senior Adults
- Bismarck-Mandan Quota International

The next application deadline will be Jan. 31, 2017. Any person in the counties of Burleigh and Sheridan may submit an application to receive an Operation Round Up grant. To request an application, call Capital Electric Cooperative at 701-223-1513 or download the form at www.capitalelec.com (click “Our Services” and “Operation Round Up”).

Do YOU participate in the Operation Round Up program? Call the co-op and opt in today!

Members, please call Capital Electric Cooperative at 701-223-1513 to verify that you participate in the Operation Round Up program, or to opt into the program. All of the money raised by members stays in our local communities. On average, participating members donate about $6 a year. The donation is tax-deductible, and members who participate will receive a summary on their last billing statement of the year.

Every member’s small donation truly does add up to make a big difference.
At Capital Electric Cooperative, we value the input of our membership as it relates to all co-op issues. The recent rate increase information you received by mail and read in the September local pages of the North Dakota Living magazine has generated questions and concerns. We thank you for your calls and visits, and always appreciate hearing from our member-owners. To provide information and answer questions about the reasons for the rate changes, we ask our members to visit our website at www.capitalelec.com and read the list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Of course, we welcome your phone calls and visits, as well.

We are doing what we can to keep costs low while still providing you with the best-possible service. Keeping your power on is our number-one priority, and doing it on an efficient basis is vital to our mission to provide the best electric service at the lowest cost. So visit our website at www.capitalelec.com and find the link in the About Us section entitled 2016 rate increase. You can always call us at 701-223-1513, if you prefer to have us address your questions.

The seventh cooperative principle is concern for community. Capital Electric Cooperative joins more than 40,000 cooperative businesses nationwide to work for the sustainable development of their communities through employee involvement in local organizations, through charitable contributions to community efforts and through support for schools.

www.capitalelec.com
www.facebook.com/capitalelectricnd
Are you familiar with the saying, “Where you stand in life often depends on where you sit?”

In other words, our viewpoints or opinions: where we stand — is often determined by our perspective: where we grow up and our life experiences, or simply — where we sit.

It’s a saying that kept coming to mind throughout the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, as many of the 1,600 teens vied to get one of our “North Dakota” pins. Collecting pins or stickers at Youth Tour is a way to introduce yourself and a chance to learn. You have to work really hard in a crowd of 1,600 to find 15 people from

North Dakota. Many of the Youth Tour members had never visited my state, so I had a lot of explaining to do. We are a rural state, with nearly three times more cows than people — and huge family farms that stretch across the prairie. Those farms produce more wheat than anywhere else in the nation. The burger we had for lunch, or the roll we ate at dinner: North Dakota probably had something to do with it. A Texan laughed when I told him we were the second-largest producer of oil, but we were “gunning for his state’s number-one title.” And Kentucky teens knew exactly what I meant when we discussed mining and my state’s 800-year supply of coal.

Yes, where you stand in life does depends on where you sit. And I was working really hard to give justice to MY state. But you see, I had a little secret. Where I stood and sat just 11 months before Youth Tour was a very different place.

Maddy, from the North Dakota prairie, was really Maddy from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

When my parents announced that we were moving halfway across the country right before the start of 11th grade, well, let’s just say I wasn’t planning on nominating them for Parents-Of-The-Year anytime soon.

What I knew about rural electric cooperatives back then, I learned from my U.S. History class. But when I heard about the Youth Tour experience, I studied and learned, and I was humbled when my essay was chosen. I made it a point to visit one of the plants that supplied my family’s electricity. I passed miles of wind turbines and I toured a coal mine that kept its huge boilers going. Trust me on this: On a 90-degree day, on the 17th floor of a power plant, you get a new appreciation for the hard work that goes into powering our nation.

At Youth Tour orientation, I was nervous about meeting the 14 other teens — but I found we had things in common. No, I wasn’t born in North Dakota, but my great-grandparents came to America to mine coal and farm, too. Yes, I rode horses; just in an English saddle, not Western. And we bonded over something else: our love of technology. Yep, our generation lives online. We Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and check Facebook constantly.

The Pentagon Memorial was our first stop on Youth Tour. It was a
stirring tribute to the lives lost on that horrible day that we simply call 9/11. It occurred to me then, that 9/11 was another thing we had in common. We are the generation raised — from toddlers to teens — during a never-ending war on terror.

I don’t want to sound overly dramatic, as the 15 years of war have affected few of us like World War II did for the Greatest Generation. Like my grandpa, who served in the South Pacific, or my grandma, a nurse who cared for the wounded soldiers when they returned home. With less than 1 percent of our nation’s population serving in today’s all-volunteer military, few of us know the real sacrifice made by our military families. But the almost daily drip ... drip ... drip ... of headlines of horror have affected us all.

Still, I think most of us try to do our part. In 8th grade, I donated my $800 winnings from a contest to a community-wide drive to build a handicapped-accessible home for a young veteran who lost both legs in Afghanistan. He had suffered a traumatic head injury and strokes that left him unable to speak. I had the honor of meeting Corporal Doug Vitale, and inspired by his on-going courage, I organized two fundraisers that raised another $8,000 for his new home. We all have stories like that — communities that come together to do good.

That first night in D.C., our delegation was in a solemn mood as we talked about 9/11 and the on-going mess in the world.

But we awoke the next day, excited to take pictures in front of the White House and to tour the Newseum. A new set of barriers prevented us from taking photos touching the iconic White House fence. They recently were installed because of the continued threats.

At the Newseum, we saw twisted wreckage from the World Trade Center and the worldwide headlines of the attack. AND THEN, we rounded the corner and saw the breaking CNN news projected on the wall.

Orlando — 49 killed — the nation’s worst terror attack since 9/11. I think we all shared the same reaction: shock, then fear, then the crippling paralysis that terror is meant to induce. And then I got mad — really mad. The shooter — an American citizen — was the same age as Corporal Vitale — the young soldier who sacrificed so much.

I found it bitterly ironic that while I was enjoying a trip to D.C. that was meant to bring young people together — a trip that, I might add, was planned and paid for by people producing electricity — another young person — used his time and that same electricity — to power up a computer and learn hate and division. To kill and maim, and terrorize our nation.

Right then and there, I realized that the same electronic devices that bring us together, to communicate with friends and learn about the world, can also be used to divide us.

It’s something we see every day. I’m not talking about terrorism, but how all of us so casually click the TV remote or open a search engine and look for people and programs who think, sound and look JUST ... LIKE ... US.

At a time when all good Americans should stand together — every issue, whether it’s the war on terror, guns or simply how to continue producing clean, affordable power — has become a battle. Debates that should focus on facts have become emotional arguments, fueled by mistrust.

The downside to emotional arguments is this: Nothing ever changes — and nothing gets done.

Throughout the rest of our tour, I made a choice: To put down my phone, ignore my computer and to fully interact with people. Yes, our Youth Tour delegations were all different, but we sang, danced and talked — A LOT. At one point someone exclaimed, “I am walking upon the shoulders of giants.”

And it hit me. Wow, that is so true. Yes, where we stand in life does depend on where we sit. But, in the United States of America, we ALL STAND on the shoulders of giants. Men and women who confronted the evil and the problems of their generation with action — not paralysis and fear. People who CHOSE to work together.

We saw monuments to those giants on Youth Tour — people like Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington, Roosevelt and King. And we saw those honoring our “everyday giants,” the men and women who fought and sometimes died for our freedoms.

While standing on those hallowed grounds — if you listen, really listen — you can almost hear those American giants urging us on: “It’s your nation now. Don’t just stand where you sit; pick up your seats, shuffle them around, and Power On.”

Because of Youth Tour, I no longer care if I’m seen as Maddy from Pittsburgh or Maddy from Bismarck. I’m Madison Fritz, a future young leader who has the privilege of living in the United States of America.

I want to thank my cooperative, Capital Electric, for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime. And Basin Electric Power Cooperative for showing me OUR cooperatives aren’t simply standing or sitting, but working hard each day to bring us the next generation of clean, affordable power. Thanks also to the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives for letting me share the beauty of North Dakota with so many others. And finally, to the staff of our National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and to each of you, I make this promise: All of us young people here today will be using our own personal power — and yours — to light up OUR communities, OUR nation, and indeed, OUR world, with positive energy and change. Because we stand with all of you — the people who Power On.
WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!
An all-expense-paid trip to WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Capital Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you’ll never forget.

To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school in the fall of 2017.
You and your parents or guardian must be served by Capital Electric Cooperative.
If you have a question, contact Wes Engbrecht, Capital Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-223-1513 during regular business hours.
The deadline is Jan. 31, 2017. Email entries to wese@capitalelec.com or mail to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Capital Electric Cooperative, 4111 State St., Bismarck, ND 58502-0730.

ESSAY QUESTION:
Democracy is the foundation of our American way of life and of cooperative enterprise. The fundamentals of democracy include voter participation, political party affiliation, and public debate of issues. Describe what you think makes our current democracy strong, and provide suggestions for ways our democracy can be made stronger and more effective.

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT www.ndyouhtour.com and www.youhtour.coop
Capital credit claims

Listed below are the names of former Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. members who had capital credit checks mailed to them in June of the year 2010. These checks have been returned to Capital Electric Cooperative by the postal service because they could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by Capital Electric personnel has not turned up their whereabouts.

If you received electrical service from Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. any time during the year 1994 and your name is on this list, please contact our office. If you know of the whereabouts of members on this list who received electrical service from Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. any time during the year 1994, please have them contact our office at 701-223-1513.

Please keep in mind that not all of the capital credit amounts are large. However, we desire to get the money due to those who earned it, and clear up our records.

We will redeem capital credits for those members on the following list who notify us prior to Dec. 1, 2016. Notice is hereby given that any of the aforementioned unclaimed capital credits outstanding after Dec. 1, 2016 will be forfeited pursuant to Section 10-15-34.1 and 10-15-23 of the North Dakota Century Code.

4TH AND FINAL NOTICE – OCTOBER 2016

Board minute excerpts  
Aug. 19, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on Friday, Aug. 19, 2016, at Capital Electric headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota, pursuant to due notice to all directors. All of the directors were present at that time.

Minutes and agenda: The minutes of the board meeting held July 29, 2016 were approved without objection.

Financial review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Vilhauer and Wrangham reviewed the July 2016 check register and expenditures. They reported all checks were in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve July expenditures in the amount of $4,170,628.80.

Business Department report: The Business Manager presented the financial and statistical report with the Board. The total kilowatt-hour (KWH) sales for July 2016 are above budget by 7.3 percent. The actual monthly electric revenue is above budget by 6.3 percent. Year-to-date, KWH sales are under budget by 4 percent and electric revenue is under budget by 3.3 percent.

The total margin for July is -$314,372 compared to the budgeted margin of -$268,219, below budget by $46,153. The year-to-date margin is -$280,477 versus the budgeted amount of -$255,668, above budget by $24,809.

Capital Electric began billing 47 new services in July, bringing our active services to 19,538 versus 18,852 at this time last year, or a net increase of 686 accounts over the last 12 months.

The Manager reviewed the comparison of actual-to-budgeted expenses for the month through July. The monthly power cost and the accounts receivable balances were also reviewed.

Rural Utilities Service/Federal Financing Bank loan advance: Our loan advances were received on Aug. 16, 2016.

Estate retirements: Following review of the financial condition of the cooperative and recommendation by management, it was moved, seconded and carried to authorize payment of capital credits to the following deceased members’ estates:

- Cleo Asbridge $ 235.79
- Vivian Kershaw $ 756.93
- Eugene Nelson $ 697.52
- Clarence Hettich $ 260.14
- Jerry Longmuir $1,426.74
- Leroy Olauson $ 1.04

- Mary E. Nesemeier $ 303.39
- Anna Farrier $ 580.16
- Tim Brown $ 11.09

TOTAL $4,272.80

Engineering and Operations report: The Manager reviewed the written report from the Engineering and Operations department. We completed 40 work orders this month, adding 39 new consumers to the system.

Fisher Contracting and Gieser Utility Contracting continue to renovate new services. VIP continues to work on overhead and rural rebuild.

The Manager reviewed the outage information.

- Ron Lipp attended the Rural Electric Political Action Committee (REPAC) meeting on Aug. 9, 2016 at the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC).
- Our crews have been setting new switchgear on our 500 mcw underground cable that goes from Central Power Electric Cooperative Horizon II substation to the North Walmart area.

Member Services department:
- Mork reviewed the member services written report.
- Following discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to investigate potential subdivision of the tower property for possible sale or lease.

Communications and Public Relations department:
- Topics of interest were discussed with the Board.

Operation Round Up: The Capital Electric Charitable Trust Board met on Aug. 5 and approved 11 grants totaling $20,400.

Safety report:
- There were no lost-time accidents this month.
- Our annual bucket and Digger Derrick truck inspection started on Aug. 15 and should be completed Aug. 19. West Dakota Utility Services is doing the inspection this year.

The safety report was approved without objection.

Rate increase:
- The management team will focus on communication with members, as well as strategies to reduce demand and lower costs.

Rate schedule and FAQs:
- It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Rate Schedule “C,” as revised.

Policy review:
- Proposed policy revisions were reviewed as follows:
  - **Policy No. I-6**: Procedure for all Outgoing and Incoming Correspondence. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Policy No. I-6, as revised.

Policy No. I-7: Records Retention Policy. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt Policy No. I-7, as revised.

Policy No. I-8: Identity Theft Prevention (“Red Flag” Rule). It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Policy I-8, as revised.

Policy No. I-9: Safety & Training. The policy was reviewed.

Central Power report: Hilken reported on Central Power matters.


NDAREC: There was no meeting this month.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association: The Region 6 meeting will be held on Sept. 20, 2016.

National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC): Following discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to cast our ballot for Thomas Hayes as CFC Director.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, without objection, the regular meeting was adjourned.