

FEC's 17th annual Area Youth Benefit Fund raising events will be August 9-10

The 17th annual fund raising events for Farmers' Electric's Area Youth Benefit Fund have been set for Sunday August 9 and Monday August 10 in Chillicothe.

The popular dinner-auction will be held at the new Jenkins Center building, located in the Livingston County Fairgrounds on the north side of Chillicothe.

FEC established the AYBF in 1993. Its purpose is to provide financial assistance toward the payment of medical bills for children 18 years of age and under. The fund is designed to assist families with children who have been ill or injured in which the parents do not have enough money or health insurance to cover the medical costs.

The AYBF, a 501 (C) 3 charity, primarily operates in the counties of Linn, Chariton, Livingston, Carroll, Ray, Caldwell, Daviess, DeKalb and Clinton. A family that resides in the counties listed above does not have to be a member of the cooperative to receive financial assistance. FEC members who reside in other counties are also eligible for assistance.

A separate board of directors administers the Area Youth Benefit Fund. All applications for assistance are made to this board and the directors have been empowered to administer

the fund as they so choose.

At this writing, just over \$422,000 has been donated to families in north Missouri.

The August 9 dinner-auction features a number of silent auctions and games, plus a main auction under the call of Colonel Mike Miller.

Approximately 300 people attend the dinner each year. A reception begins the evening at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30. The main auction usually begins around 7:45 p.m. The main auction will have a variety of items for sale, including diamond jewelry, limited edition art prints, Waterford crystal, furniture, sports memorabilia and much more. AYBF committee members are currently collecting donations and selling banquet tickets to the dinner-auction.

If anyone would like to donate an item to the AYBF auction, please contact Gina Truesdell or Steve Shoot. Every donation to the auction helps FEC raise money for the children in this area.

The golf tournament on Monday, August 10, is held at the 18-hole Green Hills Golf Course in Chillicothe. For the eleventh consecutive year the tournament is being co-sponsored by Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Chillicothe. 273361

There are several ways you can help us help area families in need

Our annual fund raising events for your cooperative's Area Youth Benefit Fund (AYBF) are just around the corner. The AYBF provides financial assistance to area families who have children 18 years of age and under who are or have been ill or injured.

There are several ways you can help us raise money to pay the bills.

You can attend or participate in the AYBF events coming up August 9-10 in Chillicothe. The dinner-auction has a wide variety of items you can bid on and the golf tournament has the best "goodie" bag in the area.

You can also donate items, gift certificates, tickets to concerts or sporting events that we can sell at the auction. A cash donation will go directly to the AYBF accounts. Or you can participate every month by signing up for Operation Roundup (See story below).

Thank you for anything and everything you can do to help us help area families in this most difficult time.



Mike Sanders

Operation Round Up uses the power of pennies to help others

Farmers' Electric Cooperative began a new program last summer called Operation Round Up.

Operation Round Up uses the "Power" of cooperative member participation to provide revenues that will be used to assist area families who have children that have been ill or injured.

As a member of Farmers' Electric you can now voluntarily choose to have your monthly energy bill "rounded up" to the next whole dollar.

For example, if your energy bill for the month was \$97.63, your bill would automatically be rounded up to \$98. Your \$0.37 contribution along with the contributions of other FEC members would be placed in Farmers' Electric's Area Youth Benefit Fund (AYBF).

The AYBF was founded in 1993 with the purpose of providing financial assistance for children with medical bills in which there was little or no health insurance and the household income of the family made it extremely difficult for the medical bills to be paid.

To date the AYBF has distributed about

\$400,000 to families within the nine-county service territory of the cooperative. Money is currently raised for this 501 (c)3 charity by means of a dinner-auction and a golf tournament. These fund raising events will continue. The Operation Round Up program is another means in which more money can be raised in order that more medical bills may be paid. A separate Board of Directors oversees the charity's requests for assistance and provides guidance in other areas.

By participating in the Operation Round Up program the most money you will annually contribute is just \$11.88. The average Operation Round Up participant contributes about \$6 a year.

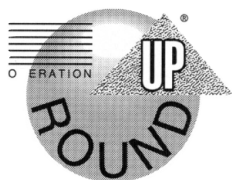
Through your generous donation and the involvement of FEC members across north central Missouri, your cooperative's

charity can have a major impact on area families that are struggling to pay expensive medical bills for children.

Operation Round Up...Together we have the Power to make a difference.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
 Mike Sanders, FEC CEO



aybf

I want to sign up to have my monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. I know the money will be donated to the Area Youth Benefit Fund to pay medical bills for children 18 years of age and under. I understand that by signing and returning this form, my bill will be rounded up to the nearest dollar and I will remain in the program unless I contact FEC to have that changed.

Name _____ Acct. No. _____
 _____ Acct. No. _____
 Address _____ Acct. No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: Farmers' Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 680, Chillicothe, MO 64601

Microwaves save you money when you cook

If you plan to purchase new kitchen/cooking appliances soon, Consumer Reports and the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy offer these useful tips on energy efficient choices:

- **Microwave ovens** – Microwave ovens use a lot of energy when operating, but because they so drastically reduce cooking time, they still reduce energy use by about two-thirds compared to conventional ovens.

For heating up leftovers, popping popcorn and making a cup of hot chocolate, microwaves are still your best choice. Look for microwaves that boost energy efficiency and cooking performance with temperature probes, controls to turn off the microwave when food is cooked and variable power settings.

New "rapid-cook" ovens combine microwaves with halogen lights or convection to further cut cooking time and improve food quality.

Remember, microwaves do not make food radioactive. They can, however, burn. Keep microwaves out of reach of young children who may reach inside for hot foods and drinks.

- **Self-cleaning or standard oven** – Conventional electric ovens with self-cleaning features are more energy efficient because they have more insulation. But if you use the self-cleaning

Energy efficiency workshops are coming your way

The Member Services Department at Farmers' Electric has been working to put together a 2 1/2 hour Energy Efficiency workshop for FEC members.

The workshops will be held throughout your cooperative's nine-county service territory. Specific dates and times will be published in later editions of *Watts Up* as well as in local newspapers and radio stations. Most of the workshops will be held during evening hours to allow interested members to take part in the programs after they get off work.

Topics include energy gouggers, heating and cooling, insulation and caulking, phantom

Overloaded circuits, outlets can become a fire hazard

Overloaded electrical outlets, or overloaded circuits that supply power to several outlets, are a major cause of residential fires. Overloaded outlets and circuits carry too much electricity, which generates heat in undetectable amounts. The heat causes wear on the internal wiring system and can ignite a fire.

All wiring systems should have circuit breakers or fuses that disconnect power when circuits become overloaded. However, an improperly sized fuse or breaker can cancel this built-in safety feature.

To prevent overloading, never plug more than two appliances into an outlet at once or "piggy-back" extra appliances on extension cords or wall outlets. Use only outlets designed to han-

feature more than about once a month, you'll use more energy than you save from the extra insulation.

- **Conventional or convection oven** – Convection ovens are usually more energy efficient than conventional ones because the heated air is continuously circulated around the food being cooked. On average, you'll cut energy use by about 20 percent.

Look for models with a window in the door so you don't have to open the door to check food.

- **Electric elements** – The least expensive and most common cooktops have exposed metal coil burners, but they are not the most efficient.

For flat-surface electric burners, induction elements are the most energy efficient but are pricey and require stainless steel, cast iron or enameled iron pots.

Aluminum and glass won't work. Radiant and halogen cooktops are about the same in efficiency.

- **Pressure cookers, toaster ovens and slow cookers** – Pressure cookers use 50 to 75 percent less energy, because cooking times are reduced when food is cooked at higher temperatures.

For baking and broiling, toaster ovens use

loads, efficiency opportunities, home energy audits, lighting and lifestyle changes. A question and answer session will also be held at each workshop.

"We publish many articles in the Rural Missouri magazine on how our members can become more energy efficient," said Steve Shoot, Manager of Member Services with FEC. "However, there is a lot more information that we can pass along at these workshops."

Shoot said he hoped the first workshop would take place in September.

"We plan to hold about one every four to six weeks," Shoot said. 277094

multiple plugs.

Give special consideration to appliances that use 1,000 or more watts, such as air conditioners, refrigerators, hot plates, irons, microwave ovens, dishwashers, heaters, and deep fryers.

Avoid plugging them into the same outlet or circuit. To use these appliances safely, know which outlets are connected to the same electrical circuit in your home. Do not exceed 1,500 watts for each outlet or circuit. Wattage requirements are listed in appliance manufacturers instructions.

Begin a habit of regularly checking electrical cords and outlets. Fires that begin in these areas are difficult to detect, yet easy to prevent. 80150



From left, Reba Enss, Norborne, Marc Griffith, Braymer, and Alexis Sykes, Dawn, were the three winners of Farmers' Electric's Youth Tour to Washington Essay Contest.

Essay contest winners return from Washington

Three local students were among the eighty-five high school juniors that participated in Missouri's forty-sixth annual Missouri Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. June 12-18. The local delegates, sponsored by Farmers' Electric Cooperative were Reba Enss, Norborne; Marc Griffith, Braymer, and Alexis Sykes, Dawn.

The six-day tour provided an action-filled week for the students, offering them opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service and today's pressing issues. Highlights included a special session on Capitol Hill with Senators Christopher Bond and Claire McCaskill to discuss the process of government and issues of the day.

"The essay contest is one of our favorite programs," said Mike Sanders, FEC CEO. "It allows us to provide a tremendous educational opportunity for these young men and women."

The young people also visited with representatives from their congressional districts, toured famous monuments, the Smithsonian Institution's museums and Arlington National Cemetery. The group also took a sightseeing and dance cruise on the Potomac River.

Other events of the week included participation in the Electric Youth Day, in which a special program coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association brought together over 1,500 Youth Tour delegates from across the United States. The delegates also heard speeches by government leaders and motivational speakers, such as Mike Schlappi, an inspiring four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion.