

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release — May 20, 2026

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Federated Rural Electric triples donation with matching funds distributing \$30,000 to assist four local food shelves

(JACKSON, MN) — Federated Rural Electric, Jackson, presented donations to the four main food shelves in Jackson and Martin Counties. These donations to all four total \$30,000. The four food shelves are located at Heron Lake, Lakefield, Jackson and Heaven’s Table in Fairmont/Sherburn.

Federated took advantage of matching funds from two organizations to triple the impact. “Federated donated \$5,000 per county and then secured matching funds from CoBank’s Sharing Success Program and Basin Electric Cooperative,” stated Federated’s General Manager Scott Reimer. “Cooperatives are concerned about their local communities; we saw this as a way to help the food shelves assist those local residents who need help the most — providing food on the table.”

CoBank is one entity that provides Federated long-term financing for line construction and fiber projects, while Basin Electric is a wholesale power provider for Federated. Federated’s tripled donation was split among Jackson and Martin Counties.

Since Heaven’s Table serves all of Martin County, they received half of the donation or \$15,000. Then the three Jackson County food shelves in Heron Lake, Lakefield and Jackson divided the other half, receiving \$5,000 each.”

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Heaven's Food Shelf with locations in Fairmont and Sherburn serves Martin County. They will use their \$15,000 for two food programs. "We will use half the funds for our public schools' Backpack program, providing snacks and meals for 400 eligible school children during the upcoming school year," stated Greta Lintelman, Heaven's Table Board Chairperson. "The other half will go toward the Community Box program where eligible residents from Martin County towns can order an 16 to 18-pound box of food monthly from their local city with the food delivered to each city for the pickup. This box of food typically serves three people. We are grateful for this generous gift!"

"The Lakefield Food Shelf will use some of their \$5,000 toward a new computer and food shelf software, along with a truck dolly to move the food," stated Connie Rossow, coordinator. "However, most of the donations will go toward food and hygiene products like diapers, toilet paper and laundry soap. Donations like this are always appreciated!"

"The Heron Lake/Okabena Community Cupboard Food Pantry will use their donation to purchase food items and personal hygiene items through their partners at Second Harvest." stated Nikki Knobloch, Food and Nutrition Manager at United Community Action Partnership. "This donation can help ensure that families in our community are receiving nutritious food when they need it most. Thank you for your support and partnership in fighting hunger in the community."

"The Jackson Minnesota Food Shelf Inc. appreciates the money due to the rising cost of food," said Angela Schultze, coordinator. "We will buy food, personal hygiene items and baby supplies too. This is a huge help and we sure appreciate it."

Federated is a Touchstone Energy cooperative serving 5,300 members in Jackson and Martin Counties, along with 2,000 Broadband subscribers.

CAPTIONS:

Heaven's Food Shelf in Fairmont and Sherburn received \$15,000 worth of checks toward buying food for the Community Box program and the Backpack program for Fall 2026. Accepting the donation is Greta Lintelman food shelf chairperson. Federated Directors Jon Saxen, David Meschke and Scott Thiesse presented the check to the food shelf.

The Lakefield Food Shelf's Connie Rossow (center) received \$5,000 worth in donations from Federated Director Tyler "Red" Ayers (left) and Glenn Dicks (right) presented the donations. Funds will buy a new computer, food shelf software, dolly, but mostly food and hygiene products.

The Jackson Food Shelf's Director/Pastor John Schuetz and Treasurer Angela Schultze accepted the donations from Federated Directors Glenn Dicks and Tyler "Red" Ayers for checks totaling \$5,000. Funds will go toward food, hygiene items and baby supplies.

The Heron Lake/Okabena Community Cupboard Food Pantry is represented by Nikki Knobloch, United Community Action Partnership food and nutrition manager. Federated Directors Troy Post and Glenn Dicks presented the \$5,000 worth of donations on behalf of Federated Rural Electric, Basin and CoBank. The food shelf will buy food and personal hygiene items.

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