NEWS RELEASE

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Federated members help fund local projects with Operation Round Up

(Jackson, MN) -- The Federated Rural Electric Trust, Jackson, recognized local organizations receiving $24,145 through Operation Round Up. These donations occur due to monthly contributions by participating Federated Rural Electric members. 31 groups received money in this 64th round of funding:

Organization	Amount	Purpose
HLO Minnesota Honor Society	$50	Buy bulletin board to recognize students & upcoming events
HLO FFA Chapter	$250	Chicken coop nesting boxes, cooler, solar lights & door timer
HLO Ag Education Program	$300	Kitchen supplies for Farm to Table ag classes
Caregiver Response Effort & Svc. Team	$300	Toward education materials for Caregivers & Balance classes
Reinbows, Windom	$300	For education materials & student reading tutoring/materials
Dundee Quilters	$400	Buy batting & material for quilts given to hospice & the sick
Regional Worship Center, Sherburn	$400	Toward AED for community events onsite & congregation use
JCC Ag Department	$420	Buy six immersion blenders for food prep/processing classes
MCW Real World Ready Class	$500	Buy cooking lab tools/food and flower class supplies
JCC H.S. Special Education classes	$500	Microwave & basic cooking utensils to teach life skills
Little Huskies Learning Center, Jackson	$500	Toward replacement playground equipment at nonprofit
HLO Elementary	$500	Rollerskate rental for K-6 gym class students
HLO School District pool locker room	$500	Switch low height to standard toilets & install grab bars
HLO Special Ed	$555	Buy three Zenergy chairs in classroom
Project Morning Star, Worthington	$600	Transportation passes for clients in addiction recovery
Jackson Center for the Arts	$600	For tuning & upkeep of donated baby grand piano
JCC Speech/Language Therapy Dept.	$650	Speech/language materials to i.d./monitor students' progress
Sheldon Jackson Outreach Ctr, Jackson	$720	Buy six lightweight folding banquet tables in community room
MCW Ag Education	$850	Toward glass merchandizer fridge for food science laboratory
Wild Compass Education, Lakefield	$1,000	For outdoor projector, walkie talkies, portable microphones & a solar generator
Coats for Kids/Family Services	$1,000	Toward coats, snowpants, hats & gloves for Jackson Co. kids
Supplies for Kids	$1,000	Toward school supplies for Headstart & JCC students
JCC Ag Dept	$1,000	Toward bandsaw in shop
Alpha Fire Department	$1,100	Buy rescue auger to speed up grain bin entrapment rescues
Martin Co. Historical Society	$1,150	Buy/install security camera that also counts visitors
Ceylon EMS	$1,500	Lifting cushion air bag raises patient to knee heighth to stand up
Trimont Fire Department	$1,500	Buy Blitzfire nozzle to deliver large water volumes quickly
Northrop Firemen's Relief Assn.	$1,500	Toward turnout gear that costs $4,500/firefighter
Granada Fire Dept.	$1,500	Toward turnout gear for four new firefighters
Windom Polic Dept.	$1,500	Toward electric scooter for community event policing & educ.
Alpha City Park	$1,500	Toward musical playground equipment at the city park
Total	**$24,145**	

The Trust Board received 32 applications totaling nearly $76,686 in this 64th round of funding. The Trust Board will meet again in the spring to determine the next round of funding. The deadline for submitting applications is February 1, 2027.

About 72 percent of Federated Rural Electric members participate in Operation Round Up. They allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar. For example, a bill of $85.75 is rounded up to $86. The extra cents go to a special trust fund, which is administered by an independent Trust Board that consists of seven Federated members. Since the first round of funding in 1995, $1,069,720 has been awarded to local organizations and as high school scholarships.

"Operation Round Up is a way for members to help members," said Ruth Dicks, Federated's Trust Board Chairman. "Just a few cents a month, when added with other members' cents, can really add up and do some good in our communities. On average, a member's Round Up contributions amount to approximately $6 a year, which is tax-deductible."

The Trust Board's policy outlines project categories eligible for funding:

- community service (emphasis on public safety, health care and enhancement of cultural environment)
- community leadership programs
- education and youth projects (social problems and wellness/athletics)
- environmental projects (recycling, environmental education and environmental ag research)
- emergency-energy assistance funds to organizations for distribution
- disaster relief.

Interested organizations may go to www.federatedrea.coop to download the application form and information, e-mail info@federatedrea.coop for an application or call 507-847-3520; ask for Andrea.

Federated is a Touchstone Energy electric cooperative serving 5,300 members in Jackson and Martin Counties.

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