**Thank you for giving back to our community**

Do you contribute to Operation Round Up with your bill each month?

If you’re part of the nearly 80% of members who do, thank you for starting 2024 off right with your donation, which will support many organizations throughout the year!

For those who need a refresher, LaGrange County REMC’s Operation Round Up program allows members to round up their electric bills each month. This money is then put into a fund and given back locally through community grants each quarter.

You may think it’s just a bit of extra change, but to the nonprofit organizations who receive these grants, it’s so much more. It’s more than $680,000, since the program began.

The first quarter distribution of Operation Round Up funding included:

**LaGrange County Parks**, which was awarded $2,000 to help provide children’s games, horse drawn wagon rides and a puppeteer at their Maple Syrup Days on March 16-17. With the grant, the Parks department can offer the fun and educational activities free of charge to the public.

**Ark Animal Rescue and Adoption,** was granted $2,000 to help offset the costs associated with the purchase of a new commercial washer and dryer for the shelter. Ark employees and volunteers run 10-12 loads of laundry daily. They average housing 35 dogs and 60-80 cats on a weekly basis.

**Prairie Heights Boys Basketball,** received $1,500 that will be directed to their youth program. The money will go towards fees for camps or AAU. Last year, they had 60 kids in kindergarten through 5th grade participate in their camps or AAU program.

**Junior Achievement of LaGrange County,** which was awarded $3,000 to provide financial literacy programming to 76 classrooms across the county and reaches approximately 1,500 K-6 students in all three districts. They have added Westview Elementary 5th and 6th grade students for this year.

For local nonprofit organizations who are seeking funding for a project, please fill out and return an application to the LaGrange County REMC office by Monday, April 1, to be considered for the next round of Operation Round Up disbursements. Applications can be downloaded from the REMC website, lagrangeremc.com.