



## Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

## The Roanoke Center offers microenterprise loans for small business

Are you seeking funds to start or expand your business? If so, then allow The Roanoke Center staff to assist you with your financial needs in the form of a microloan.

The microenterprise loan program provides financing up to \$25,000 for entrepreneurs and small business owners that find it difficult to obtain conventional funding.

The Roanoke Center's staff works one-on-one with potential borrowers who have sound ideas for starting or expanding a business.

Whether a small business is a sole source of income or a supplement, microenterprise loans help provide the necessary capital to put individuals and families on the road to greater self-sufficiency.

Eligible uses of loan proceeds include expansion of existing businesses, establishment of new businesses, job creation and/or retention, purchase of equipment, machinery, supplies or inventory, start-up operating costs and working capital. Intended uses of funds have to be included and documented in the loan application. All loans have fixed interest rates and maturity up to 60 months.



In addition to developing businesses, another goal of the microenterprise program is to educate individuals about creating a base of assets. We have an increasing emphasis on the importance of savings for individuals who may never have a bank account.

“In this way, microenterprise programs not only enable individuals to achieve self-employment, but encourage families to gain financial stability which in turn helps the entire

community reach more solid financial footing,” said Diana Mitchell, director of community development. “Working together with our clients and the North Carolina Rural Center of Raleigh, we build stronger communities.”

To learn more about the microenterprise loan program and other Roanoke Center products and services, contact Diana Mitchell at (252) 539-4601.

# Teachers! Roanoke EC has Bright Ideas grants

It's the time of year for teachers with Bright Ideas to apply for grants. Each year, Roanoke Electric cooperative proudly sponsors the Bright Ideas grant program that rewards teachers with innovative classroom teaching ideas funding that will benefit students in the cooperative's service territory.

Teachers should visit the Bright Ideas Web site at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com) for online printable applications, complete overview of the Bright Ideas grant program and instructions to apply. The application process has begun and applications will be accepted until September 20, 2010.

The Roanoke Electric Cooperative Bright Ideas grant program awards up to \$2,000 to imaginative educators in any subject

or grade at North Carolina-certified k-12 schools.

"Bright Ideas is a unique program that funds innovative programs created by North Carolina classroom teachers who otherwise would lack the funds to implement these classroom-based projects," said Marshall Cherry, Vice President of Marketing and Member Services of Roanoke Electric Cooperative.

Bright Ideas grants provide financing for a variety of hands-on projects, including activities in music, art, history, language, reading, science, career-planning and information technology.

For more information, contact Robin Phillips at Roanoke Electric Cooperative at (252) 209-2259 or email Robin Phillips at [rphillips@roanokeelectric.com](mailto:rphillips@roanokeelectric.com).



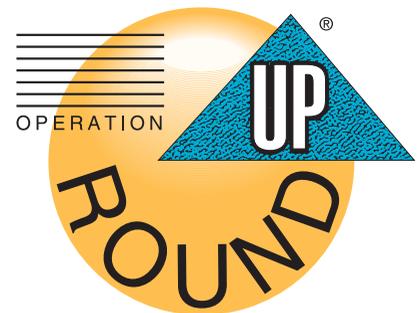
**BRIGHT  
IDEAS**

## RECT board awards \$10,000 in Operation RoundUp community funds

On April 21, the Roanoke Electric Care Trust board, the administrative arm of REC's Operation RoundUp program, met for its second quarterly meeting of 2010, approving the following grant requests at this meeting:

- Blue Jay Volunteer Fire Department of Windsor received a \$1,000 grant to assist with the purchase of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) used to extinguish fires.
- Conway-Severn Rescue Squad, Inc. of Conway received a \$500 grant to purchase equipment to comply with state regulations for light rescue.
- Gaston Volunteer Fire/Rescue of Gaston received a \$500 grant to purchase a Depth Finder with Scan Sonar for board rescue.
- Garysburg Volunteer Fire Department of Garysburg received a \$1,500 grant to assist with the purchase and installation of emergency lights, mobile radio, siren and breathing air cascade system for a truck.
- Union Rural Volunteer Fire Department of Hertford County, Inc. of Ahoskie received a \$1,500 grant to purchase an automatic butterfly drafting value and a portable monitor.
- Woodland Rescue/EMS of Woodland received a \$1,500 grant to assist in the purchase of a Lifepak 15 Heart Monitor/Defibrillator.
- Rich Square Volunteer Fire Department of Rich Square received a \$1,000 to purchase and install fire scene lighting on the first-out pumper.
- Seaboard Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. of Seaboard received a \$1,000 grant to purchase needed compliance equipment through matching grants through NC Department of Insurance.
- Bertie County Rescue Squad of Windsor received a \$1,500 grant to assist in the purchase of Lifepaks for the STEMI program. Lifepaks enhances the care of patients experiencing heart attacks.

The RECT, Inc. board is very appreciative to all members who consent to rounding up their



electric bills to the next whole dollar. Your contributions result in a higher quality of life for our communities.

Care Trust board members are: Deborah Lassiter, president; Charles Sutton vice president; Winnie Matthews, secretary-treasurer; Rev. Milton Jones, Sheila Nickens, Gloria Outlaw, Graham Twine, Linda Boone and Louis Alston, Sr.



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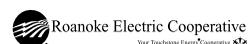
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# Hurricane season is here, be prepared

Advancements in technology allow us more time to prepare for forecasted hurricanes, but these storms still pose a serious threat to North Carolinians. Hurricane season begins this month on June 1, and ends on November 30. Use these tips and guidelines to get you and your family ready:

## Before the storm

- ❑ Discuss a family disaster plan. Identify ahead of time where you will go if you're told to evacuate.
- ❑ Locate important papers and documents and have them ready to take with you should you need to evacuate: driver's licenses, Social Security cards, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records and photos of your home (exterior and interior). Store these items in a waterproof container.
- ❑ Create an inventory of your personal belongings with videotape, photos or a written list. Make sure this inventory list is also kept in a waterproof container.
- ❑ Have a supply of water, non-perishable

food items, a first-aid kit, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, batteries and your prescription medications.

- ❑ Be sure to consider the special needs of babies and the elderly and pack the appropriate supplies.
- ❑ In the interest of protecting pets, the Humane Society of the United States encourages you not to leave your pets behind. Call friends, family members, veterinarians or boarding kennels in a safe location to arrange foster care if you and your pets cannot stay together. Most emergency shelters do not admit pets.
- ❑ Fill your car with gas as soon as a storm is forecasted; do not wait.

## A hurricane watch is issued

- ❑ A watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours.
- ❑ Follow television or radio hurricane progress reports.
- ❑ Review your evacuation plan.

## A hurricane warning is issued

- ❑ Warnings are issued when hurricane conditions are expected in less than 24 hours.

- ❑ Listen constantly to a television or radio for official instructions.
- ❑ If you live in a mobile home, check tie-downs and evacuate immediately.

## If evacuation is necessary

- ❑ Leave as soon as possible. Remember, during an evacuation, primary and many secondary roads might be clogged with traffic, so allow ample time to get out.
- ❑ Unplug appliances to prevent damage in case of a power surge.
- ❑ A light inside the house should be left on to signal when power has been restored, and a porch light should also be left on so cooperative line personnel can tell which homes have electricity again.
- ❑ Take protective clothing, blankets and sleeping bags.

## After the storm

- ❑ Make sure the storm has completely passed before going outside.
- ❑ Stay away from downed power lines and report them to your co-op.

# Roanoke EC awards sports camp scholarships

Area Students Imane Shoulars of Conway Middle School and Chelsea Brown of Chaloner Middle School were awarded Kellie Harper Basketball Camp Scholarships and Nathan Jernigan of Central Middle

School was the recipient of the Roy Williams Basketball Camp Scholarship.

Scholarships were awarded from Roanoke EC and N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives. Imane is the daughter of Meka Shoulars of Rich Square; Chelsea is the daughter of Dawn Gibbs of Halifax and Nathan is the son of Lisa Jernigan of Gates.

These students received the prestigious scholarships because of their academic achievement, community service and essays. They are among a select few of young people across the state to earn a spot in these nationally acclaimed basketball camps.

"Accomplishments by these students personify the Touchstone Energy Cooperative values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community," said Marshall Cherry, Vice President of Marketing and Member Services. "The partnership with coaches Harper and Williams to provide these scholarships is part of the electric cooperatives' ongoing commitment to North Carolina communities."



Chelsea Brown



Imane Shoulars



Nathan Jernigan

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