



## Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

# 'Tis the season for giving: Member-owners give more than \$10,000 to community organizations



Ronald Wesson and Karen Ray, who co-chair the Youth Bertie board, with Roanoke EC employee Patrice Jordan (right)

Operation RoundUp is the gift that keeps on giving! Thanks to our member-owners, four local organizations received funding this quarter for community initiatives.

Each month, member-owners make the conscious decision to put their cooperative's principle of having concern for community into action with Operation RoundUp. Through this program, member-owners round up their electric bills to the next whole dollar and donate those pennies per month to the community.

How does this work? If your electric bill for the month of December is \$143.27, you have the opportunity to round up your electric bill to \$144 and donate the extra 73 cents to Operation RoundUp. These funds are donated to non-profit organizations throughout our seven-county service territory so that they can continue to provide the services that are vital to our community – including fire and rescue organizations.

Quarterly, the board of directors for the program's administrative body, the Roanoke Electric Care Trust (RECT) Board, meets to determine which community organizations will be awarded funds. The RECT Board met on Wednesday, October 19, and awarded \$10,352 to the following organizations:

- **Sylvan Heights Bird Park (Scotland Neck):** Received \$3,000 for the construction of the shelter over the newly developed Observation Overlook platform.

- **Roanoke River Valley Education Consortium (RRVEC) (Warrenton):** Awarded \$2,552 to purchase equipment and registration for the upcoming STEM team tournament.
- **Youth Bertie (Windsor):** Funded \$3,600 to provide weekend nutritional food packs and fresh fruit for the children most at nutritional risk in all five Bertie County public schools.
- **Bertie County YMCA, Inc. (Windsor):** \$1,200 to provide scholarships for children who want to participate in the program.

Your cooperative and the RECT board would like to thank each of our member-owners for stepping up to help us respond to the call to serve our community by rounding up your electric bills to the next whole dollar each month. Your contributions of just pennies a month have proven that putting spare change together can go a long way in improving the lives of those in need within our diverse communities.

If you would like to join this effort and participate in Operation RoundUp, feel free to call 252.209.2236 or visit [roanokeelectric.com/roundup](http://roanokeelectric.com/roundup).

Are you a local nonprofit that would like to apply for the next quarter of Operation RoundUp grants? Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 29, 2016.



Casey Owens and Tamechia Cherry of the Bertie County YMCA, with Patrice Jordan

# Get credit on your electric bill when you shop this holiday!

The holiday shopping season is upon us. Haven't quite finished your holiday shopping yet? No worries! Shop from the convenience of your own home online, and your cooperative will reward you for doing so.

How? With Roanoke Rewards, member-owners have the unique opportunity to earn credit on their electric bill when they shop online this holiday season. The program's design is simple: just shop online with participating

retailers and a credit will be applied to your electric bill.

There are currently more than 4,000 retailers participating in this program. Each retailer sets the amount of cash back that they will provide on purchases and as "cash back" is earned, it will be returned as a credit on your electric bill.

Take advantage of being able to shop from home while lowering your electric bill today by visiting [roanokeelectric.com/rewards](http://roanokeelectric.com/rewards).



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# QUESTIONS?

### Have questions for us?

Submit your questions to our blog and we'll answer you directly! Simply visit [roanokeelectric.com/response](http://roanokeelectric.com/response) to submit your questions today!

# Want to win a weeklong trip to D.C.?

## 2017 Youth Tour deadline is January 6

High school juniors in Bertie, Hertford, Halifax, Gates and Northampton counties are invited to apply for an exciting week-long, all-expenses-paid trip to our nation's capital. The 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is scheduled for June 10-16.

Winners will join more than a thousand students from across the country on an educational tour of the nation's capital where students will see democracy at work in meetings with North Carolina's congressional delegation, practice networking and leadership skills, and visit sites such as the Washington Monument, Arlington National Cemetery, and Smithsonian museums.

If you'd like to take advantage of this experience, we encourage you to apply today. The deadline for applications for the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is 5 p.m. on January 6. Visit [roanokeelectric.com/youthtour](http://roanokeelectric.com/youthtour) for additional information.

Additionally, there are two scholarships that will be awarded to Youth Tourists—the \$2,500 Gwyn B. Price Youth Tour Scholarship and the \$2,000 Katie Bunch Memorial Scholarship. All Youth Tourists who attend the tour as high school juniors will be eligible for the awards. They will receive an application form during their senior year, and a panel of judges will select the winners. The



scholarship must be used to attend an accredited four-year college or university in North Carolina.



### Holiday office closing

Happy holidays from your co-op family! Roanoke EC's offices will be closed on Monday, December 26, and Tuesday, December 27, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

# Save energy, save money during this time of big spending

It's supposed to be the hap-hap-happiest time of the year, but the holiday season leaves many of us wringing our hands – and our wallets – trying to make every dollar stretch further.

We can't help you with your holiday expenses, but we can help you with your home energy budget. And that might just make the whole season feel a little happier.

For starters, we have an energy management web portal and phone app that allows you to track your daily, and even hourly, energy use. Knowing when and why your electricity use peaks will help you make informed energy decisions, which could save you money in your overall budget.

If you'd like to be alerted when your energy use reaches a certain level, we can do that, too. You get to set the parameters that make the most sense for your home, your comfort and your spending thresholds. We'll notify you by text message if you're close to that level, and you can take action to save.

Another option that is especially appealing this time of year is our pre-pay service. With this option, you pay up front for your electricity use in an amount that you know works for your budget. We'll notify you



when your funds are getting low, and you can add more money to your account. The best part? You get to pay in small parts rather than paying a larger figure all at once when a monthly bill arrives.

Want to better manage your home's comfort and your electric bill? We have Wi-Fi-enabled thermostats available to our member-owners at a discounted price. These devices have the potential to provide both energy efficiency and wholesale power cost savings that the cooperative could pass on to member-owners. Did we mention that you can control the thermostat from your mobile device? Find out more about how you can get this thermostat at [roanokeelectric.com/thermostat](http://roanokeelectric.com/thermostat).

Or, if you're looking for some tried-and-true energy efficiency tips, we have that, too. There's a host of low- and no-cost solutions for saving energy and money. They include opening curtains during the day to let sunlight warm your home; keeping lids on pots and pans while you're cooking; and saving your large appliance use, like clothes dryers and dishwashers, for nighttime hours.

As your not-for-profit energy partner, Roanoke EC puts people first. And that's why we want to make sure you have the tools and resources you need to have the happiest holiday season possible.

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### Friendly reminder for member-owners of end-of-year procedures

On Friday, December 30, Roanoke Electric Cooperative will be closed for end-of-year procedures. Part of this event includes stopping all payments in the office, through our phone system and all payment sites. Our systems will not be ready to accept payments until Monday, January 2, 2017. Pre-pay member-owners are encouraged to make your payments early.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, so please speak with one of our representatives to discuss your options.