**Making change**

It’s not unusual to find yourself scrolling through social media and see local organizations asking for financial assistance or donations.

Programs through the local fire department, recreation center or school system are all in need of funding to help continue the work that makes such a difference in our lives and the lives of others in the community.

It can be overwhelming to try and decide where to donate any remaining dollars at the end of each month. The purpose of LaGrange County REMC’s Operation Round Up is to help in your endeavor to help others.

Nearly 75 percent of LaGrange County REMC members participate in the program, allowing their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar each month. This monthly donation averages about $6 a year.

Those pennies per month are then given back to the LaGrange County community, benefiting the communities the members and cooperative belong to.

Organizations awarded funding from the January distribution of LaGrange County REMC’s Operation Round Up, totaling more than $6,000, include:

* **LaGrange County Parks Department** was awarded $800 to help pay for two puppeteers and a storyteller to perform at Maple Syrup Days.
* **Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana** received $750 to financially assist low-income families who would like to register their girls for the program.
* **Compassion Pregnancy Centers of NE Indiana** was granted $2,551.54 to purchase fixture in its baby shower and community resource room, as well as furniture for its consulting rooms.
* **Reason 4 Hope, Inc.** received $2,000 to expand its program, which supports struggling youth in our area, throughout the county and offer a high school overnight camp.

To be considered for the next cycle of disbursements, local nonprofit organizations are encouraged to fill out and return an application to the LaGrange County REMC office by Monday, April 1.

Applications can be picked up at the cooperative office at 1995 E. U.S. 20, LaGrange, or downloaded from the REMC website, lagrangeremc.com.