**Commitment and contribution**

Concern for the community is one of the strongest principles of LaGrange County REMC and its members.

This is tangibly seen through Operation Round Up, which distributes grants to local nonprofit organizations from donations collected through participating members each month.

This quarter, that generosity amounted to more than $9,500 in contributions to local food banks, youth programs and transportation services.

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. Those pennies on the dollar are then given back to the community through grant funding, serving everyone from youth to seniors to young families.

Organizations awarded funding from the October distribution of LaGrange County REMC’s Operation Round Up are:

* **LaGrange County Extension Homemakers**, $1,000, books for “First Books for Kids” program.
* **Community Harvest Bank**, $1,000, LaGrange County Farm Wagon mobile pantry.
* **Warrior Youth Basketball**, $1,099.80, basketballs for the program, which serves students in first through sixth grade in the Westview School Corporation.
* **LaGrange County Council on Aging**, $3,000, transportation service for the elderly and veterans throughout LaGrange County.
* **Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry**, $1,000, processing of donated deer, large game and livestock within LaGrange County before being donated to the Clothes and Food Basket of LaGrange County.
* **Elijah Haven Crisis Intervention Center**, $2,500, presentation of the “Safe Dates” curriculum to the freshman class of LaGrange County schools.

To be considered for the next cycle of disbursements, nonprofit organizations are encouraged to fill out and return an application to the LaGrange County REMC office by Wednesday, Jan. 2.

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

LaGrange County REMC is privileged to have caring and compassionate members who give back to the same community we belong to and serve. We’ll continue to strive to make LaGrange County a better place to live, and we couldn’t do it without your generosity. Thank you.

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**Cutline:** LaGrange County REMC’s Operation Round Up awarded $1,000 to the Community Harvest Bank’s LaGrange County Farm Wagon mobile pantry to continue in their mission to provide fresh food to those in need.