

## October is National Cooperative Month

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Publicly owned utilities were formed to bring affordable electricity to those who needed it. At the heart of their mission, it was about neighbors coming together to better their communities. That same spirit continues at the heart of CVEA. As a local business, staffed by your friends and neighbors, we look for ways to make a difference - in big ways and small.

Join Copper Valley Electric Association in celebrating cooperatives in Alaska and across America during National Cooperative Month. Every October cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique; the Seven Cooperative Principles: voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, members' economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training, and information, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community.

"Cooperatives are special," says Sharon Crisp, CVEA Manager of Member Services. "We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and be involved in and enhance our communities." This Cooperative Month, take a look at some of the things your Cooperative does throughout the year.

### **Commitment to Community**

Each year, CVEA supports the annual Copper River Emergency Medical Services (CREMS) radio auction, which raises funds for a much-needed new ambulance.

During Cooperative Month, employees volunteer their time to process paper and cans at the Recycling Our Area's Resources (ROAR) center in the Copper Valley.

Your Cooperative also supports many community groups and events such as the Copper Basin Senior Citizens, the Valdez Relay for Life, the Valdez Museum, the Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, KCAM, AHTNA Heritage Foundation, the Valdez Co-op Preschool, the May Day Fly-In, and the Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau, to name a few.

Gifts, door prizes, and auction items are donated for various events and several annual meetings throughout the year, and each holiday CVEA provides energy credits or toys for baskets given to families in need.

CVEA supports many educational and youth programs as well as the Glennallen PTO and Valdez Consortium Library Book Basket auctions.

CVEA employees participate in community events and parades and serve on many community work groups, task forces, and committees, providing community support and leadership.

To further CVEA's commitment to the community, CVEA created the CVEA Community Foundation (CVEACF) which provides scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations in our communities. The CVEACF is funded by capital credits that have escheated back to CVEA, generous donations from CVEA members and vendors, and fundraisers.

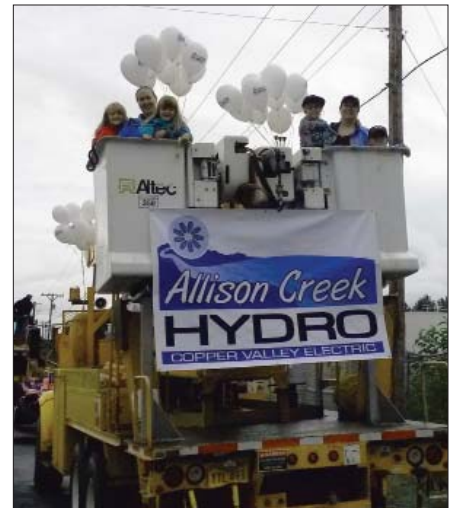
Each year the CVEACF awards thousands of dollars in educational scholarships to graduating seniors, adults attending Prince William Sound Community College, and to students to participate in the Foundation's Youth Leadership Program.

In 2013 the Foundation launched its first Contribution Season, making awards to local non-profit organizations looking to fund new or expanding programs that meet the Foundation's contribution guidelines. Awards are distributed as part of CVEA's Cooperative Month celebration each October. Last year KCHU, The Valdez Food Bank, Valdez Torpedos Swim Club, Valdez Imagination Library, Copper Basin Child Advocacy Center, Copper Valley Community Library, and WISE all received funding through this process. The next round of funding will be distributed as part of Cooperative Month this October!

### **Celebrate Cooperative Month With CVEA**

Last year, we celebrated the cooperative spirit with a non-perishable food drive and a Halloween Trick-or-Treat Parade at the CVEA offices. They were so successful, CVEA has decided to do it again this year!

Bring non-perishable food items to CVEA Monday, October 13 through Friday, October 31 and be entered to win cash prizes.



es. Drawings will be at the end of the Spooktacular Halloween celebration on Friday, October 31, at 5 p.m. Also, make sure to stop by the CVEA office in your district Friday, October 31 between 3-5 p.m. Enjoy a fun trick-or-treat candy parade through the entire office, and kids will get a spooktacular gift absolutely FREE (while supplies last)!

Let's celebrate Cooperative Month this October, support our local food bank, and enjoy some Halloween fun.

For additional information on these or any other CVEA or CVEACF programs, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5006, 835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■

**Top left, CVEA's Zena Disney with her children during the Trick-or-Treat Parade last Cooperative Month**

**Top middle, Alaska Student Representatives at the 2014 Idaho Youth Rally Leadership Camp**

**Top right, CVEACF President Jessi Gallatin awarding a check to the Valdez Torpedos Swim Club in 2013**

**Middle, Carl Crossman brought a truckload of canned goods for the food drive last Co-op Month**

**Bottom left, CVEA employees volunteering for Recycling Our Area's Resources in 2013**

**Bottom right, CVEA employees and family members riding the bucket truck during the Valdez Gold Rush Days Parade**

Photos courtesy CVEA Employees