



October is National Cooperative Month. Since 1930, Cooperative Month has celebrated the fact that cooperatives make a difference because they are different. Democratically governed businesses, cooperatives are organized under the 7 Cooperative Principles, anchoring them firmly in the communities they serve and ensuring that they are closely regulated by their consumers.

Seven Cooperative Principles:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member's Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Commitment to Community

During this year's Cooperative Month, we will focus on 'cooperation among cooperatives.' Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) and Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative (CVTC) exemplify this cooperative principle by working together to promote the cooperative difference

within our communities.

Working together is not new to your local utility providers as they operated as one unit for a decade just following the 1964 earthquake. In 1974, when demand was great for both utilities, the CVEA/CVTC Board of Directors voted to separate. CVEA established headquarters in Glennallen and CVTC in Valdez. Both continue to support offices in each district.

Today, CVEA and CVTC continue to have a strong commitment to our communities and work together to demonstrate this commitment throughout the year.

Relay For Life

In 2008 and 2009, CVEA and CVTC joined forces to participate in the Valdez Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Each year, over 20 cooperative employees and family members have participated in the 24-hour walk. Others helped raise money through donations, carnivals, potluck lunches, garage sales, and bake sales. The relay is an excellent opportunity for businesses, employees, and community members to partner in the fight against cancer. Money raised helps

fund cancer research and provides much needed support services to local residents. This year, the CVEA/CVTC team took second place for most money raised.

Rachel's Challenge

In November 2008, the CVEA Community Foundation, along with a generous donation from CVTC, brought Rachel's Challenge, the largest school program in America, to the schools in the Valdez and Copper River School Districts. The mission of Rachel's Challenge is to eradicate violence, prejudice and bullying in our schools. The program has been credited with helping to prevent suicides, school violence, school bullying and even school shootings. Our schools have embraced Rachel's Challenge and believe that the impact of this program will remain an important influence in our schools.

Healthy Living Challenge

In May 2009, CVTC challenged CVEA to a Healthy Living Challenge. The goal of the challenge was to encourage employees to live a healthier lifestyle through exercise and weight loss. Participation in the challenge has been great. Valdez



team members from both cooperatives even joined forces for a pot luck, salad bar luncheon to promote healthy eating and raise money for Relay for Life.

The challenge officially ended on September 8. The groups lost a combined 220.05 pounds and 156.75 inches from their waist, arms, and hips. Shilah Butler was the biggest loser and CVTC's Tele Tubbies won for the team with a combined loss of 131.8 pounds and 84.5 inches. Both cooperatives are proud of their employees and believe that the cooperative challenge was a fun, exciting, and healthy opportunity for co-op employees.

Cooperative Month

Since 2007, CVEA and CVTC have worked together to promote Cooperative Month. In 2008, CVEA and CVTC focused on the 'commitment to community' cooperative principle. The utilities along with local organizations participated in an area-wide food and cold weather clothing and blanket drive. Many residents in Valdez and the Copper Basin participated and we were able to help a large number of friends and neighbors stay warm and fed during the difficult winter months.

Join CVEA and CVTC again this year and celebrate Cooperative Month. Participate in the second food and cold weather clothing and blanket drive sponsored by CVEA,



CVTC, Rotary, and Connecting Ties.

Drop off canned or dried food items and new or gently used warm weather items (coats, boots, snow pants, hats, gloves, sweaters, flannel shirts & blankets) at the CVEA or CVTC office in your district, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, October 1-30. You'll assist someone who needs a little extra help and your kindness will be rewarded with a ticket for the Cooperative Month grand prize basket filled with phone and electric certificates, products, and services valued at approximately \$500. The drawing will be held Monday, November 2, 2009.

CVEA and CVTC believe that cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together. We are proud of what we are able to accomplish for our employees and members and look forward to continuing to strengthen our cooperative partnership in the future.

Check out www.cvea.org or www.cvtc.org for additional information or contact Sharon Crisp at 835-7005 or Joanne Winney at 835-2231. ■



Top Left: CVTC's Shilah Butler, winner of the CVEA/CVTC Healthy Living Challenge. **Top:** Copper River students join the Friends of Rachel Club as part of Rachel's Challenge, the largest school program in America. **Middle:** CVTC's Jennie Needles and Glenda Dodd during the 2008 Cooperative Month food and cold weather clothing drive. **Above:** CVEA's Sharon Crisp, daughter Jordan Perez, and niece Jaimie Crisp all dress as fairies for the Valdez Relay For Life "Wish Upon A Cure" event.