

Making a Difference Every Day

*Your electric utility
and the neighbors who
work there contribute
to the community
in countless ways*

By Pam Blair

For electric cooperatives and their employees, service means more than delivering electricity to customers.

It means providing a “hometown touch,” offering amenities and participating in programs that enhance the lives of the people and the communities they serve.

Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) has a strong commitment to the communities where its members work and live.

Demonstrating this commitment doesn’t happen just once a year.

It is a business principle CVEA practices year round through participation in economic development programs, charitable giving, educational activities and other community involvement.

Below are a few examples of how CVEA makes a difference.

Emergency Services

In 2007, CVEA again supported the annual Copper River Emergency Medical Services (CREMS) radio auction to raise funds for a much-needed new ambulance.

Run by volunteers, CREMS provides emergency medical services to residents throughout the valley.

Recycling Our Areas Resources

Each year during National Cooperative Month, CVEA sponsors Recycling Our Areas Resources (ROAR) in the Copper Valley.

This year, throughout October employees volunteered their time to visit the recycling center and process paper and cans.



Above, five of Copper Valley Electric Association’s scholarship winners, from left, Alexander Gearhart, Emily McCarthy, CVEA Board President James Manning, Kari Odden, Philip Baur and Spencer Jones. Right, Dean Bean prepares a power pole donated by the co-op for use during a state firefighters competition in Valdez.

Valdez Fire Department

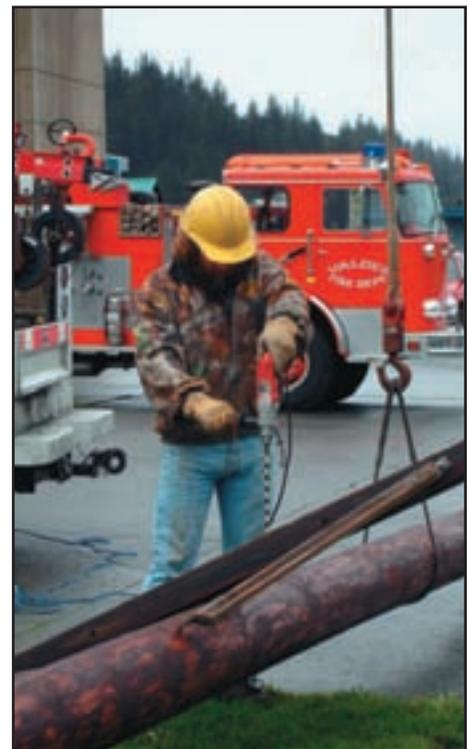
CVEA donated a 40-foot pole, cross arm and installation to the City of Valdez Fire Department for use during the Alaska State Firefighters/Fire Chiefs Conference in Valdez in September.

The pole was used during the conference for state chapter competitions and will be used for future training.

Youth Programs

Because children and safety are important to CVEA, each year the co-op makes a donation to the Valdez High School Senior Class graduation celebration, intended to keep Valdez youth off the streets and safe.

This year, CVEA sponsored a youth Halloween event organized by the Copper Center Boys and Girls Club to ensure children in the



Copper Valley had a safe and warm place to celebrate the holiday.

In 2007, CVEA gave \$7,500 in scholarships to graduating seniors in Valdez and the Copper Basin. Awards included a first-ever Alternative Energy Scholarship given to a graduating senior who



Left, Copper Valley Electric Association's recycling team, from left, Jaime and daughter Cassidy Matthews, Sharon Crisp and daughter Jordan Perez, CVEA CEO Robert Wilkinson, Barb Nichols and Mary Ellen Bedrick. Below, Mary Ellen and Jordan haul bags of cans from the recycling trailer.

economic boost to the community.

Food Baskets

During the holidays, CVEA provides energy credits to be included in food baskets that are distributed to families in need.



Providing Local Exposure

Most months, CVEA dedicates pages 28 and 29 in Ruralite magazine to promoting and creating awareness of local groups, events and organizations who do not get a lot of exposure or cannot afford to do much promotion or advertising.

During 2007, CVEA has run stories for Copper River EMS, the Valdez Animal Shelter, the Valdez Fish Derbies and the junior high school. During 2008, the United Way, Relay for Life, Recycling Our Areas Resources and Advocates for Victims of Violence are scheduled to be featured. ■

completed a science project on the potential of wind energy on Thompson Pass.

CVEA offers a prize for Best Electrical Project during the Valdez Science Fair. The co-op's engineering manager volunteers as a science fair judge.

Economic Development

CVEA helped extend the visitor season in Valdez this year by hosting the Alaska Power Association Annual Meeting.

This brought approximately 135 electrical industry representatives to Valdez in September, resulting in an

