

CVEA Community Foundation Community First

Electric cooperatives are governed by seven Cooperative Principles. One of those principles is 'commitment to the community'. While cooperatives focus on member needs, they also work for the sustainable development of the communities they serve.

For electric cooperatives and their employees, service means more than delivering electricity to customers. It means offering amenities and participating in programs that enhance the lives of the people and the communities they serve.

CVEA has always had a strong commitment to the communities where members live and work. Demonstrating this commitment doesn't just happen once a year. It's a business principle that CVEA practices year round.

To further CVEA's commitment to the community, CVEA has created the CVEA Community Foundation.

The creation of the Foundation was the brainchild of CVEA CEO Robert Wilkinson several years ago. It was Wilkinson's desire to build a sustainable nonprofit foundation that promotes and sponsors the community support activities of CVEA, allowing CVEA to do more for the people we serve.

It took some time to create the organization, but in 2006, the Articles of Incorporation of the Copper Valley Electric Association Community Foundation were signed by the incorporators made up of CVEA board members. Since that time, work has been done to develop a plan for moving the Foundation forward.

The initial funding of the Foundation came from the disposition of unclaimed capital credits which escheated under state law to CVEA.

In addition to escheated capital credits, a fundraising plan will be developed and implemented that may include donations from CVEA vendors, local businesses and members as well as foundation and governmental grant solicitations.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations within our communities.

Education and youth programs stand to be the biggest recipients of Foundation expenditures. Some of the objectives are to provide scholarships to graduating seniors and students of any age attending our local

community college, sponsoring participation at the Idaho Youth Rally Leadership Camp, and promoting electrical education in schools.

The Foundation will continue to investigate other educational opportunities as well. Another objective of the Foundation is to provide contributions to nonprofit organizations who best promote the purpose of the Foundation.

In November 2008, CVEA will formally launch the Foundation by providing the largest school program in America to the schools in the Valdez and Copper River School Districts.

The Foundation, with generous financial support from Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, will bring Rachel's Challenge to our communities.

According to Sharon Crisp, CVEA Director of Communications, "This is an excellent opportunity for the Foundation to demonstrate that we care about our members and their children. The generous financial support given from Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative is the icing on the cake. It is further proof that our local cooperatives are here for the people we serve."

Rachel Scott was the first student killed during the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion coupled with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing school programs in America.

Rachel's Challenge is made up of two very distinct programs, an elementary program and a jr. high/high school program, both based on the life and writings of Rachel Joy Scott.

The mission of Rachel's Challenge is to eradicate violence, prejudice and bullying at every school in our nation and around the world. They do this by passing on the legacy of Rachel Scott in hopes that students will follow her example and accept her challenge to start a chain reaction by spreading kindness and compassion in their world.

The Rachel's Challenge program is proven to help prevent suicides, school violence, school bullying, and even school shootings. They see the climate and culture of communities improve as kindness, compassion and acceptance become standard practices, not only by students, but also parents, educators, and community members.



You Just May Start a Chain Reaction'

CVEA Foundation representatives have spent several months meeting with superintendents, principals, counselors, and teachers in both districts to discuss the details of the program.

Our educators are very excited to have the ability to offer this program to our students. They are busily preparing for the school and community assemblies. Michael Johnson, Principal of Glennallen Schools, said about Rachel's Challenge, "This is such a great opportunity, one we would not have had without the CVEA Community Foundation and Copper Valley Telephone. I think it is amazing that the Community Foundation, CVTC, and the schools are working together to do something so special for our kids."

The program transforms schools through an inspiring full school assembly, followed by an informative training session comprised of students, teachers, and community volunteers, that enables them to follow through with the challenges presented during the assembly.

Out of this group a Friends of Rachel Club is started with the goal of mentoring other students in acts of kindness and compassion. An evening with parents, teachers, and community members completes a day that will impact the culture of our schools.

Academic improvement, higher attendance levels, less bullying, less dropouts, and friendly atmosphere are all common results of Rachel's Challenge.

The CVEA Community Foundation, along with Copper Valley Telephone are proud to bring this program to our schools and communities.

We invite you to attend the evening presentation in your district so you, too, will understand the message that is given to our youth.

Schedule:

Tuesday, November 11, 2008 7 p.m.
Glennallen High School

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 7 p.m.
Valdez High School

Please understand that seating is limited.
Estimated to last 1.25 hours

Please stay tuned for future information on the CVEA Community Foundation.

If you have questions on the CVEA Community Foundation, please contact Sharon Crisp at 835-7005, 822-5506, or email crisp@cvea.org.



Bus transportation for students in the Copper Basin generously provided by First Student