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CHANGING LIVES WITH SMALL CHANGE

“We try to fill the gap.”

That is how Kelly Davis, director of the Pawnee County Free Clinic, describes the clinic’s mission.

With locations in both Pawnee and Cleveland, the clinic provides needed basic medical service to the county’s homeless and working poor.

But with an annual budget of only about \$10,000, the clinic’s personnel struggle to have enough supplies to meet the need. And Davis is continually searching for funding to provide those supplies and pay the bills.

Helping to fill gaps is also the mission of IEC’s Operation Round Up program.

Implemented at IEC in 1994, Operation Round Up is designed to collect and disburse funds for charitable purposes to individuals and organizations within IEC’s seven-county service territory. Charitable purposes include such things as food, clothing, shelter, health needs, and education.

Participation in Operation Round Up is voluntary, and those participating members agree to allow IEC to ‘round up’ their monthly electric bills to the next highest dollar.

That surplus amount, which is



Pawnee County Free Clinic Director Kelly Davis

always less than \$1, is then administered by the IEC Foundation.

The foundation is an entity separate and independent of Indian Electric. It is comprised of nine members – one from each IEC board district – who are appointed by the IEC Board of Trustees.

The foundation meets monthly to review applications for funding, and either approves or denies them.

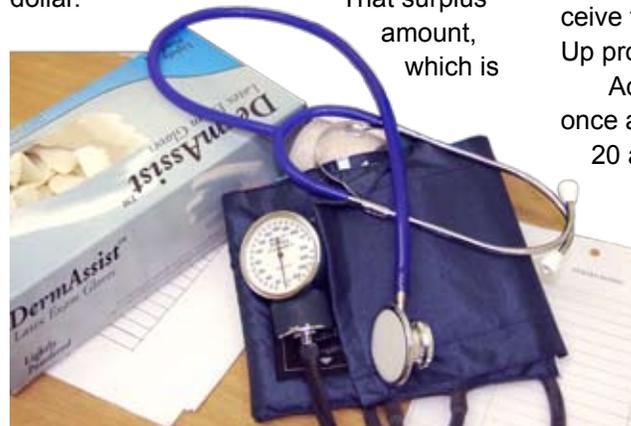
The Pawnee County Free Clinic, which Davis says is not eligible for state or federal funding, was one of 16 organizations to receive funding through the Operation Round Up program in 2008.

According to Davis, the clinic is open once a month in each location and between 20 and 80 patients visit each month.

“Patient visits increased in Pawnee when the hospital closed,” she says.

“We provide basic medical care and maintenance medications for such things as high blood pressure, as well as treating illnesses

The official
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Indian Electric
Cooperative



Representing You

As a new legislative session begins each February, electric co-op personnel from across the state meet with elected representatives to discuss upcoming legislation, while attending the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperative's (OAEC) annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

During the two-day meeting co-op trustees, management and key staff attend sessions on issues affecting the electric utility industry and Oklahoma co-ops.

Then the group reconvenes at the Capitol to meet one-on-one with senators and representatives. Discussions are held on the impact of upcoming legislation on co-op members, and the need for keeping electricity affordable in the future.

"Being knowledgeable about issues facing our industry today is a large part of the responsibility of a co-op trustee," explains Greg Fielding, president of IEC's board of trustees. "We work at developing and maintaining a relationship with each of the representatives from our area so that we can discuss members' needs with them, while also being a source of information for them."

Other annual meeting activities included a legislative overview, consideration and approval of proposed resolutions, along with featured speakers such as Sheldon Peterson, governor of Cooperative Financial Corporation; Pete Delaney, CEO of OGE Energy Corporation, Mike Williams, Texas Electric



Co-op personnel are not the only ones discussing legislation with area representatives. Cleveland City Manager Elzie Smith (left to right) and Mannford City Manager Mike Nunnley meet with IEC Manager of Member Services David Wilson and IEC General Manager Jack Clickscale at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

Cooperatives; Shawn Deines 2008 Youth Tour Youth Leadership Conference winner; the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange update; and awards for the apprentice linemen program, safety and loss control, and newsletters and Web sites.

THE LAMP

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OPERATION ROUND UP CHANGING LIVES

like flu and ear infections,” she says, adding the clinic treats mainly adult patients.

“We try not to duplicate services provided by other facilities or agencies. And our clinic is not only beneficial to our patients, but to area emergency rooms as well. Those people who need non-emergency medical care when doctors’ offices are closed can visit our clinic.”

The clinic is staffed by Panwee physician Dr. Gene Evans, who serves as the clinic’s medical director, retired physician Dr. Mack Smith, physician’s assistant Charlie O’Leary, nurse practitioner Catherine Meredith, and Pat Pugh who works as the pharmacist in Cleveland.

Davis says most of the people who use the clinic’s services are homeless or are considered the working poor.

“These are people who are hard working people, but either don’t receive insurance from their employers, or don’t qualify for insurance. So they don’t have the money to pay for some of the medical treatment or medications they need.

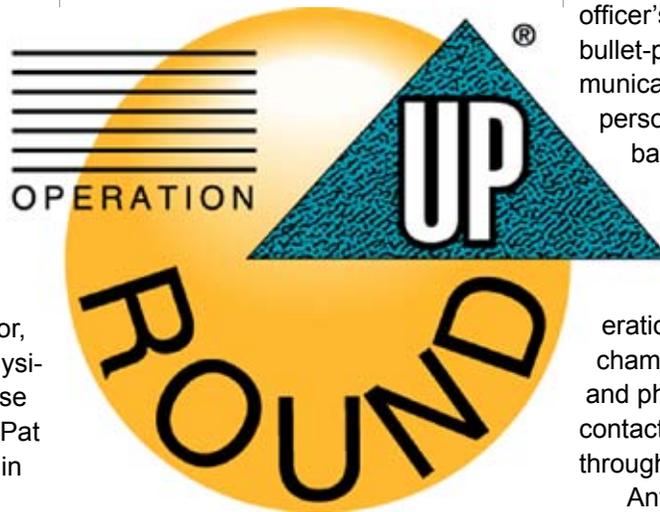
“Without the clinic many of them would have to decide if they want to buy groceries or get their medication. Usually, in those situations, they decide to feed their families, as most of us would. So although they need the medication, they can’t afford it,” she explains.

The impact made by co-op members through Operation Round Up can be seen by the amount of funds collected and donated by the IEC Foundation.

Since the program began, more than \$705,760 has been contributed by rounding up the members’ monthly electric bills. Of that amount, more than \$593,910 has been granted to both individuals and organizations.

In the past six years, the Foundation has reviewed an average of 119 applications each year.

In addition to the Pawnee Country Free Clinic, other organizations whose applications have been approved and funded include the Cleveland Ministerial Alliance,



area municipal and volunteer fire departments, police departments, sheriff departments, E.S.C.A.P.E. Ministries, Burbank School and Community Association, community food pantries, and the Town of Fairfax.

IEC Foundation bylaws prohibit the funds being used to pay utility bills.

Participation in Operation Round Up can begin at any time. Currently, members must call either the Cleveland or Fairfax IEC office, but soon there will be an area on the monthly electric bills members can complete and submit to begin participating in the program.

New members are introduced to Operation Round Up and can sign up when they pay their membership and join the co-op.

IEC is one of numerous electric cooperatives across the country offering Operation Round Up to its members.

The program is a copyrighted program created by Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina.

IEC members participating in the program donate an average of \$6 a year; no more than \$11.88 each year.

“The return on this small investment is truly impressive,” says Clara Eulert, IEC liaison to the IEC Foundation. “I don’t know of very many ways someone can donate less than \$12 a year, and help provide needed medical treatment to someone who needs but can’t afford it, insure a peace officer’s safety by helping to purchase bullet-proof vests, buy up-to-date communication equipment for fire fighting personnel, or help community food banks and ministerial alliances provide food and clothing to those in need.”

Eulert is available to give presentations on Operation Round Up to civic groups, chambers of commerce, and church and philanthropic groups. She can be contacted at (918) 295-9558 Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone wanting an application for funds should also contact Eulert.

Davis agrees the impact made by small donations can be life-altering.

“Catherine Meredith, the clinic’s nurse practitioner, found a lump in a woman’s breast, which she learned was cancerous. The patient was able to get needed treatment and is now healthy because the cancer was found early.

The patient gladly tells everyone that Catherine saved her life. But without the clinic, and those who fund it, Catherine would not have been available to the patient.”

That’s a pretty good example of small change changing lives.

“Without the clinic many of them would have to decide if they want to buy groceries or get their medication.”

RECIPE



March Madness Game Day Dip

- 2 cups cubed cooked chicken
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup hot sauce
- 1 cup Blue cheese salad dressing
- 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese

Preheat an oven to 350 degrees.

Stir together the chicken, celery, cream cheese, hot sauce, and blue cheese dressing in a 2-quart baking dish until evenly blended.

Bake in the preheated oven until hot and bubbly, about 30 minutes. Stir in the shredded Cheddar cheese to serve.

VARIATION: Substitute Cheddar Jack cheese and crumbly Blue cheese for sharp Cheddar cheese and Blue cheese dressing.

THE VOTES ARE IN...

IEC's Web site and monthly newsletter The Lamp were recognized at the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) annual meeting for their continued excellence.

The co-op's Web site – www.iecok.com – was recognized as the best co-op Web site in Oklahoma. An Award of Excellence was presented to Don Lawrence, IEC's information technology administrator, who designed and maintains the Web site. Lawrence and the Web site have been recognized consistently since 2003.

Lawrence also received an Award of Merit for the Best Photo. He entered a photo taken during the December 2007 ice storm.

Kay Rabbitt-Brower received an Award of Merit for Best Article for the story she wrote on the Pawnee County Rodeo arena.



Daylight Saving Time: A Classic Energy-Saving Idea

Noticing that shades were often drawn against the early-morning summer sun, William Willet suggested a novel change for 1907 England.

If the government could move the clock ahead during the spring and summer months, people would rise with the sun rather than blocking it out. He wrote an essay, "The Waste of Daylight," and Daylight Saving Time was born.

The United States latched on to the idea during World War I, and then dropped it, and later reinstated it during World War II, not to save daylight—but to save energy. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 made Daylight Saving Time

consistent throughout

the United States

except in Hawaii and Arizona.

This year, Americans will set their clocks forward one hour on March 8, the second Sunday in March.

The country continues the practice with the hope that longer daylight hours will reduce the need for electric lighting in the evening. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 even extended Daylight Saving Time, once an April ritual, by a month, so Americans spring forward on the second Sunday in March and fall back on the first Sunday of November.

This year, use the time change to save energy in your own home. Turn off unneeded lights and relish the evening sunlight.

