



Debbie Robinson, WCEC CEO and general manager, far right, stands with representatives of the nonprofits that received the second disbursement of Operation Round-Up grants, which were presented at WCEC’s annual meeting and funded by the co-op’s members.

# The Spirit of You

## Operation Round-Up donations help local communities

**WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE HAS THE NICEST MEMBERS**, and time and again, you prove it! You regularly send handwritten thank-you notes, kind messages through our website and helpful Facebook comments. We love this about you, so keep them coming.

What we also love about you is your extremely generous spirit. We see you serving in our communities in food and toy drives, raising the rafters at our local churches and uplifting our Scouts, future farmers, ballplayers and more by giving your time and money. But one of the things we love the most about you is the way you have wholeheartedly embraced Operation Round-Up and its potential for good.

In November 2017, WCEC began offering members a way to collectively give to local charities through ORU. Those members volunteered to have their electric bills rounded up each month. That extra change, never more than 99 cents per member per month, is sent to the nonprofit Wood County Electric Charitable Foundation. The combined funds then are granted to charities within WCEC’s service territory, which includes Camp, Franklin, Hopkins, Rains, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood counties.

Since its start, the all-volunteer board of the foundation has approved and awarded grants totaling \$91,690. What an infusion of joy! And it all came from you—by each participant giving just pennies at a time. The money awarded so far has gone to build wheelchair ramps, uplift seniors, improve meeting spaces, fill the shelves of food banks, help our first responders

and fund many other worthy causes. Together, our members are vitalizing our communities with gifts that spread goodwill all year long. Here’s a list of what you accomplished this past year.

### OPERATION ROUND-UP GIFTS IN 2018

Van Zandt Veterans Memorial . . . . .	<b>\$2,000</b>
Fouke Community Center . . . . .	<b>\$3,000</b>
Quitman Arboretum . . . . .	<b>\$3,140</b>
Midway Volunteer Fire Department . . . . .	<b>\$5,000</b>
Kindness Kottage . . . . .	<b>\$5,000</b>
The Texas Ramp Project . . . . .	<b>\$5,000</b>
Forever Young Activity Center . . . . .	<b>\$7,000</b>
Pilot Club of Quitman . . . . .	<b>\$3,550</b>
Grand Saline Salt Museum . . . . .	<b>\$25,000</b>
Other fire departments (listed below) . . . . .	<b>\$33,000</b>
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$91,690</b>

Fire departments (\$1,000 each) listed by county: **Franklin** (South Franklin, Purley, North Franklin, Mt. Vernon), **Hopkins** (Como, Pickton/Pine Forest, Hopkins Emergency Services Dept.), **Rains** (Emory), **Smith** (Lindale, Red Springs, Winona), **Titus** (Tri Lakes, Mt. Pleasant), **Upshur** (Big Sandy, Harmony), **Van Zandt** (Ben Wheeler, Canton, Fruitvale, Grand Saline, Van, Van Zandt Midway) and **Wood** (Alba/Golden, Coke/Pleasant Grove, Pine Mills/Hainesville, Hawkins, Holly Lake, Land’s End, Mineola, Ogburn, Perryville, Quitman, Winnsboro and Yantis).

# Heat Small Spaces Sensibly

AH, THE LUXURIOUS WARMTH A SPACE HEATER PROVIDES. IT CAN FEEL LIKE A GODSEND during the coldest days of winter, particularly if your home has chilly areas. But that increased comfort comes at a price: a higher risk of fire, burns and electrical shock, not to mention a serious reduction in energy efficiency. It's worth noting that no space heaters currently qualify for the government's Energy Star rating, and the Environmental Protection Agency, which applies the designation, has no plans to label them in the near future.

So to enjoy the cozy warmth that space heaters give off as economically as possible—and avoid endangering your family and home—keep the following guidance in mind.

- ▶ Purchase only new space heaters that have up-to-date safety features, including a tip-over switch, which automatically shuts off the heater if it falls on its side. Make sure the model you choose displays the certification mark of a reputable independent testing laboratory.

- ▶ Select a space heater that is designed to heat a room comparable in size to the room you plan to use it in, and compare wattages of similar models of heaters to determine which uses less energy.

- ▶ Place the space heater on a level surface out of the way of foot traffic.
- ▶ Be especially mindful of keeping children and pets away from space heaters.
- ▶ The space heater should be plugged directly into a wall outlet only, not into extension cords or power strips. Also, don't plug anything else into the same outlet as the space heater.

- ▶ Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything flammable, including draperies, rugs, furniture and paper.

- ▶ Opt for a space heater with thermostat and timer settings to save energy and prevent overheating the room. In the absence of a timer setting, always turn a space heater off when leaving the room or going to bed. Don't forget to unplug it, too.

A final word of caution in putting supplemental heating methods to work: Never use an oven for home heating. Since it can emit carbon monoxide, which can be fatal, an oven's door should be opened for short periods of time only. By heeding this advice and the steps outlined above, you can stay warm and safe this winter.



DMITRY GALAGANOV | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



## Wood County Electric Cooperative

501 S. Main St. • P.O. Box 1827  
Quitman, TX 75783

### CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Debbie Robinson

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat B. Lindley, President, *District 1*  
Lewis D. Young, Vice President, *District 7*  
Cathy S. Roberts, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 5*  
Burke Bullock, *District 2*  
Kenneth Langley, *District 3*  
Brent Glenn, *District 4*  
Jane Roberson, *District 6*

## Contact Us

**CALL US**  
**(903) 763-2203**

**EMAIL**  
**info@wcec.org**

**OUTAGE HOTLINE**  
**1-866-415-2951**

**FIND US ON THE WEB**  
**wcec.org**

### MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Online account access and bill payment
- Paperless E-Bill services
- Free bill-paying app
- Visa, Mastercard and Discover accepted
- SmartPower prepay electric system
- Scholarships and youth programs
- Safety and energy conservation programs

### MOBILE CONVENIENCE CENTER

**Monday**, First Methodist Church, *Van*  
**Tuesday**, Family Dollar, *Mount Vernon*  
**Wednesday**, City National Bank, *Hawkins*  
**Thursday**, Brookshire's, *Winnboro*  
**Friday**, Economy Drug, *Grand Saline*



MERRY CH



Wishing all our friends and neighbors  
**HOPE** to warm your heart, and

CHRISTMAS!



Neighbors LOVE to light your way,  
and HARMONY all year long.

