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# Linemen, engineers head to remote villages of Guatemala

Two crews of Hoosier electric cooperative linemen and engineers are on a mission to bring electricity to Guatemalan villages located in the northwestern highlands known as the "Frontier Zone."

Carroll White REMC CEO Randy W. Price is one of two project engineers involved in this landmark global outreach.

As well, Carroll White REMC linemen Brandon Foutch, Gary Kirk and Matthew Kent are also part of the team who volunteered to work alongside Guatemalan municipal employees in Hoja Blanco in the department of Huehuetenango — or Huehue (way-way).

Foutch was part of the first crew who left for Guatemala on Aug. 18, and returned Sept. 1. Price, Kirk and Kent left on Sept. 1, and will return home on Sept. 15.

"Our excitement about the trip increased when we received word recently that the municipal utility we're working with in Hoja Blanco will form the first-ever rural electric cooperative in Guatemala," said Price. "This is history in the making."

The project, called Hoosiers Power the World, is being coordinated by the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., in partnership with NRECA International Foundation, an affiliate of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association based in Arlington, Va.

"When the United Nations announced 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives, the Carroll White REMC board recognized it was the perfect time for us to participate in an international electrification project," said Price. "This is the first time we've been involved in an international initiative where we will change lives forever — much like our rural electric pioneers did for families across the nation 75 years ago. We can now pay it forward for some very remote areas of Guatemala that have never experienced the wonder of electricity which most now take for granted."

"Daily tasks which are completed quickly and easily back home won't be as simple in a part of the world where poles stand on the side of mountains reaching 5,000-7,000 feet above sea level, power lines span up to 100 feet over large valleys, right-of-way maintenance is performed with a machete, and holes are still dug by hand for setting poles," Price continued.

"I am expecting the worst as far as our working conditions," said Kent prior to leaving.

He expressed both excitement and nervousness about this experience. "First, I don't consider this a trip," explained Kent. "A trip to me is more along the lines of a vacation on the beach. I think



**HOOSIERS  
POWER THE  
WORLD**

Homes like this one in rural Guatemala will soon be electrified thanks to the hard work of linemen from across the state of Indiana.

what we are going to be doing in Guatemala is more like a challenge."

Like Kent, Kirk recognized the Hoosiers Power the World Project as a challenge.

"I applied for the trip because I thought it would be a chance of a lifetime and that it will literally change people's lives," said Kirk. "In our job here, we turn people's lights on every day, and they are grateful. I think the people in Guatemala will be forever grateful to the guys from Indiana."

Foutch said he is glad to be part of the team and that it will be a life-changing event.

"I think each day will present a new challenge in our effort to get the job done," Foutch said before leaving. "I think it will be a great time to bond with the guys from other Indiana co-ops as well as the people in the community."

All those involved in the project recognize the opportunity in this international goodwill mission.

"The challenge/adventure aspect is why I volunteered," said Kent. "I never thought I would have the opportunity to do anything like this. Bringing electricity to these people will be so satisfying."

Expectations are consistent.

"I expect to see people that will be amazed at the amount of work we will do in order for them to have electricity for the first time ever," said Kirk. "Because of the poverty there, I would expect change to be a slow process. My hope is the electricity will make their lives easier."

Foutch said what piqued his interest in the trip is being able to see people turn on a light

*please turn to page 10C*

# Operation Round Up grants awarded locally

## A report from Carroll County

In the third quarter of 2012, the Operation Round Up® program in Carroll County donated \$10,020 to five local entities.

"It has been said that 'hands that give receive,'" said Peg Minnicus, manager of member services at Carroll White REMC. "I think that is so true of Operation Round Up. By giving back to the communities we serve, we all receive so much."

Carroll County E911 received \$5,020 for disaster preparedness.

Carroll County's E911 center is a public safety answering and dispatch point for police, fire, emergency medical and emergency management services.

"Carroll County E911 dispatchers may someday have to evacuate the E911 center because of an emergency situation," said Vicky Bluemke, E911 Director and grant applicant.

The Round Up funds will provide two emergency kits/totes that will include necessary equipment to enable 911 responders to have continuous contact if extraordinary circumstances occur.

One emergency tote will be stored at the sheriff's office and one will be stored at Flora's Fire Station, the official backup center, explained Bluemke.

"Our mission is to serve as the communications link between citizens and public safety agencies; make accurate identification of the citizen's location and public safety response needs; quickly and accurately activate public safety services; provide communications support and coordination of all public safety and support agencies," Bluemke said.

Bluemke took the helm at Carroll County E911 in October 2011. There are 14 dispatchers on the team.

"We've been talking about emergency preparation in table-top exercises," she said. "We discussed what would happen if we had to evacuate the E911 center. For example, if a severe tornado struck and we had to leave the E911 center, what would we need?"

Bluemke said they brainstormed about disaster preparations and started a box with items such as maps.

"We quickly realized we needed to brainstorm harder!" she said.

"What would we put in this emergency kit if money was not an object?"

They decided they would need a laptop computer, extra hard drive with all the needed information stored, a first aid kit, flashlights, external thumb drives and a portable radio. Thanks to Operation Round Up, money is no longer an object.

"We came up with a 'Grab and Go' tote on wheels," Bluemke said. "Everyone is so excited that Operation Round Up funded this entire project. It means so much. We don't budget for disasters. Hopefully, we won't have to use the disaster tote and we will just have to update it on occasion. Our job is to be there for the public at all times."

The Carroll County Sheriff's Department received a \$2,500 Operation Round Up grant to assist in the K9 program.

"We are purchasing a new police K9 and sending another K9 handler through training," said Carroll County Sheriff Tony Burns. "The K9 program is funded solely by donations; it is not a budget item."

Burns said at the end of 2011 the Carroll County Sheriff's Office had to retire one of its two K9s.

"K9 Deputy Michael Thomas retired his dog, Dorsey, after several years of service to the community," Burns said. "At the start of 2012, K9 Reno needed a new handler. This K9 has several years of service left."

Burns said their K9 program has always benefited the community, and they wish to continue utilizing this valued resource.

K9 units are certified to assist with building searches, apprehensions, tracking, article search and narcotic searches. Carroll County Sheriff's K9s are certified with National American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) standards.

The Delphi Public Library received \$1,000 in Operation Round Up funds to assist in phase one of the Carroll County newspaper digitization project.

"The Delphi Library, with the Camden and Flora Public libraries, are initiating the first phase of a project that will ultimately result in converting all Carroll County newspapers dating back to as early as the 1830s to a digital format," wrote Delphi Library Director Kelly Currie.

Becoming digital will provide

*please turn to the next page*

## A report from White County



Operation Round Up in White County handed out grants to seven organizations. Six of those groups were on hand to receive their awards during the check presentations held at the REMC office.

The Operation Round Up program in White County awarded seven grants in the third quarter.

The Lafayette Gold Star Mothers was given \$1,000 for the Honor Flight.

The Lafayette Gold Star Mothers is an organization consisting of mothers and families who have lost a child while serving on active duty in the nation's military.

The group's current project is the Greater Lafayette Honor Flight. Its mission is to ensure that every Indiana World War II veteran who wants to see the National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C., has that opportunity.

To read more about this memorial, turn to page 9C.

Frontier Junior Senior High School received \$750 to assist in purchasing non-fiction books for the school library. Grant applicant Cathy Rowe explained there is a limited selection of books and many of the available books are outdated. Education experts stress that in order to succeed in college and careers, students need to read more non-fiction.

"Studies show that children are not reading sufficiently, not comprehending what they read and not reading enough non-fiction. The only way to succeed with developing good reading habits and ensure comprehension is to read a lot," wrote Doris Sassoon, creator of the New Teacher Resource Center.

Oaklawn Elementary School's music department received \$525 to purchase a Bose iPod docking system.

"In this age of rapidly increasing technology, education curriculums are moving toward digital instruction vs. standard textbooks, wrote

grant applicant Rich Deniston, music instructor. "In order to maximize the use of Web-based audio in our newly adopted digital curriculum, the docking system will enhance instruction opportunities."

Three \$500 grants were awarded in the third quarter. West Central Sixth Grade Camp Parents Group received a grant to assist with sponsoring students to Camp Tecumseh Foundations for Success program scheduled this month.

"The Foundations for Success program is a team-building program that focuses on the education of the heart, trying to instill character qualities or 'life skills' that will not only help at school but also in students' everyday interactions," wrote grant applicant Shannon Fritz. "Each activity focuses on multiple foundations. If students can really grasp and apply these foundations, student success is highly attainable."

The program encompasses problem solving, confidence, trust, leadership and communication.

The Frontier Educational Foundation received \$500 to assist in funding the student reward program called the Red & Black Payback.

"Our goal is to select 10 winners each semester from each school in the corporation and award outstanding students with \$25 gift cards," wrote grant applicant Mary Kitchell. "We acknowledge students in grades 1-12 for effort, citizenship, scholarship and improvement. The effectiveness of this program has been shown by the community involvement and improvement of citizenship of our students."

Arrow Head Country Resource Conservation and Development

*please turn to the next page*

## CARROLL COUNTY ROUND UP

continued from page 8C

searchable and available online resources for historical research, genealogy and other projects.

“Phase one will include the digitization and maintenance online of 11,446 pages of early Camden newspapers and 33,579 pages of the ‘Hoosier Democrat,’” said Currie. “Future phases will focus on the remaining county newspapers.”

Since 1836, numerous weekly newspapers have been published in Carroll County.

“Newspapers are an invaluable resource for local history and genealogy because most of the information they contain is not available elsewhere in books or in

other sources,” said Currie.

The Greater Lafayette Honor Flight (GLHF) received an Operation Round Up grant of \$1,000 to sponsor Carroll County WWII Veterans on the flight. Established by the Lafayette Chapter Indiana Gold Star Mothers, the Greater Lafayette Honor Flight was created to honor local veterans for their sacrifice, wrote grant applicant Dana Vann, GLHF board member.

“On this flight, we transport WWII veterans from Carroll and surrounding counties to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at the WWII Memorial,” said Vann. “The project is a one-day trip to the na-

tion’s capital aboard a chartered airplane leaving from Purdue University Airport. It is a Memorial Day for everyone involved in this project. It is life changing for many.”

The Carroll County Service Extension Unit of the Salvation Army received \$500 from Operation Round Up to support its Emergency Assistance Program.

“The program serves residents who need immediate assistance for their unmet basic needs,” wrote grant applicant Billie F. Kay, service extension director. “Types of assistance include helping clients with rent, utilities, food, lodging, transportation and medical needs.”

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the unemployment rate in Carroll County was 8.4 percent in January 2012, up from a low of 7.1 percent in October 2011.

“Support is critical during times of transition such as when a family experiences unexpected financial setbacks after a family member becomes unemployed,” said Kay. “Residents continue to face a challenging job market and need the support of agencies like The Salvation Army to make it through these difficult times. The Salvation Army is a safety net, helping residents at least provide the basics for themselves and their families.”

## WHITE COUNTY ROUND UP

continued from page 8C

Area, Inc. received \$500 to help this organization beautify town property located at a highly visible intersection in Winamac. The renovation project will include removal of concrete and laying paver bricks. The conservation group also plans to irrigate the intersection and beautify the area by planting trees and flowers. A flag pole and antique street light will complete the beautification project, explained grant applicant Howard Conner.

The United States Department of Agriculture oversees Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D). The purpose of these councils is to accelerate the conservation development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas.

“RC&Ds demonstrate that locally developed solutions to local prob-

lems work the best because people know what their communities need, and they are willing to work hard to make their communities better places to live,” wrote Jane Hardest, state conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. “Although many partners provide assistance to the RC&D Councils, the key to success is local involvement and leadership. Priorities, policies and ultimately, solutions are always developed and implemented

by local people.”

Pulaski County EMS received a \$350 for an automated external defibrillator trainer, an affordable alternative for educating individuals and healthcare providers in the effective use of this life-saving device.

“We have trained instructors that can train the public,” said grant applicant Nikki Lowry, director of Pulaski County RMS, which serves Pulaski, White and Jasper counties.

## World War II memorial tribute to veterans’ service to country

On April 16, approximately 80 World War II veterans, including some from Carroll White REMC’s service territory, were part of the first Greater Lafayette Honor Flight. Pam Mow, Indiana chapter president of the the Flight’s sponsor, Gold Star Mothers, and her team members who accompanied the veterans, flew out of Purdue University Airport that day to visit the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

With a reported 900-1,200 World War II veterans dying each day, the Greater Lafayette Honor Flight is not letting any time pass before offering these special veterans the chance to see for themselves what **www.WWII Memorial.com** calls “a monument to the spirit, sacrifice and commitment of the American people to the common defense of the nation and to the broader causes of peace and freedom from the tyranny throughout the world.”

Sixteen million men and women served in the U.S. armed forces during WWII. More than 400,000 made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and died in the war. The youngest surviving World War II veterans are now in their 80s. Most of these representatives of

what television journalist Tom Brokaw dubbed “The Greatest Generation” were retired when President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 103-32 authorizing the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a World War II memorial on May 25, 1993. This would be the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during that war while acknowledging the commitment and dedication of the entire nation.

The WWII memorial was designed to sit on a prime area in the national capital known as Area I, which includes the National Mall. The memorial is located at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. On Veterans Day 1995, President Clinton dedicated the memorial site.

The memorial — which, according to **www.WWII Memorial.com**, is “symbolic of the defining event of the 20th century” — was funded

primarily by private contributions. U.S. Sen. Bob Dole was the national chairman of the fund-raising campaign. A WWII veteran, Dole was seriously wounded on the battlefield and was decorated with the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Donations for the memorial were overwhelming. More than \$197 million in cash and pledges poured in, including \$16 million from the federal government.

Construction for the monument began in September 2001. The memorial opened to the public on April 29, 2004, and was dedicated a month later, nearly 59 years after the end of World War II.

Brokaw was one the guest speakers during the four-day-long dedication celebration.

The Lafayette Gold Star Mothers group is dedicated to sending WWII veterans to visit this memorial created to honor their service. The next Honor Flight is scheduled for this month, with the possibility of an October flight as well.



## Co-opNOTES

### Bills due

- Cycle 1 and Cycle 4: August energy bills due Sept. 5
- Unpaid Cycle 1 and Cycle 4: August bills subject to disconnect Sept. 25
- Cycle 2 and Cycle 5: August energy bills due Sept. 20
- Unpaid Cycle 2 and Cycle 5: August bills subject to disconnect Oct. 9

### Meter reading dates

#### Former Carroll County REMC members:

- Cycle 4 — Sept. 1, 4, 5
- Cycle 5: — Sept. 15, 17, 18

#### Former White County REMC members:\*

- Cycle 1 — Sept. 1
- Cycle 2: — Sept. 15

\*Meters are read using the Automated Meter Reading system

### To report an outage

- Check circuit breakers or fuses first.
- If possible, ask if neighbors are also out.
- Call to report the outage. If you were previously a Carroll County REMC member, call 765-564-2057 or 800-506-7362; if you were previously a White County REMC member, call 574-583-7161 or 800-844-7161. Give the name the service is listed under. If possible, give map location and account number from bill.
- Give us your phone number in case we need to call you back. State the problem, such as loss of power, partial power, dimming or flickering lights.
- Please be patient. Our crews will restore service as quickly as possible.

### Our mission statement

The mission of Carroll White REMC is to provide members with superior energy and related services, meaningful contributions to their communities and a safe, productive environment for our employees. **"No job is complete until the member is satisfied."**

### Connect to our website

A Quick Response Code, or QR Code, is a great way to reach information fast on your smartphone or tablet.

Carroll White REMC has created a QR Code that will take

you to our website without the hassle of typing in the URL. Download a code-reading application on your smartphone or tablet. To scan, open the app and hold your device's camera up to the QR code. Once the camera locks onto the QR code, our website will open on your device.



### Offices closed on Labor Day

Both the Delphi and Monticello offices of Carroll White REMC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3, for Labor Day,

## GUATEMALA

continued from page 7C

switch for the first time. "That is one thing I thought I would never get see when I started working for REMC," he said. "I've talked with my grandparents and other members that I've met out on the system about when they first got electricity. They share their experiences. They still talk about REMC bringing electricity to the farm and how it changed their lives. Being able to give that gift of electricity to someone in 2012 is crazy to imagine!"

As he contemplated the trip weeks before leaving, he continued, "I expect to gain a new respect for the first REMC linemen and what they experienced as they were building line for the first time. I think of REMC's history and know the hope and quality of life we've given to so many. Now to have the ability to give others a better quality of life for generations to come is humbling."

Kirk said he is willing to work for as long as it takes to get the job done. "I want to see the expression on the village people's faces when that first light comes on."

NRECA International Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to the mission of bringing electricity to the world, one village at a time. The organization is supported solely through voluntary donations, with more than 300 cooperatives and many private organizations contributing time, money and materials to dozens of projects in several countries.

The Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, based in Indianapolis,

## Price reflects on 'Hoosiers Power the World'

Two years ago, Carroll White REMC CEO Randy W. Price made his first mission trip to Guatemala.

"This will be my second time to work in Guatemala," said Price, who journeyed there on Sept. 1. "I traveled there with my son and friends to an orphanage. Many children in that orphanage were adopted by people living in our area. On that trip, we worked at a school and helped care for the children. We were fortunate to have most comforts of life on that trip."

Hoosiers Power the World will present a new view of Guatemalan life for Price.

"This trip to build electricity lines is significantly different because of the primitive location," he said. "The rough terrain and limited resources will be the most difficult conditions that I've ever experienced in my lifetime."

"For as long as I've been in the co-op I've heard some of our older REMC members say how it felt and how it changed their lives when electricity came into their homes," he continued. "I'm especially looking forward to seeing the same excitement and joy in the faces of those we help as my grandparents describe when the talk of turning on the light in their home for the first time."

For the young linemen selected to be part of this trip, Price recognizes the great opportunity for them.

"For many of the linemen, they will better understand how those in our industry did the

### Participants from Carroll White REMC



Brandon Foutch



Matthew Kent



Gary Kirk



Randy W. Price

represents 39 electric cooperatives that serve 89 of the state's 92 counties. For more information on Indiana Statewide and its members, visit [www.isa.coop](http://www.isa.coop).

work in the 1930s and 1940s," said Price. "Today we have remote control trucks and equipment that digs the holes and sets the poles and bucket trucks. On this trip everything will be done by hand and every pole will need to be climbed."

On this trip, Price sees all volunteers as being equally involved in the work.

"While on this trip, there won't be a chain of command or a social status ... just a bunch of people working elbow-to-elbow to do great things for others," he said. "It is an honor and great privilege to work in an industry and in a community that is sincere about changing the world."

How will this change life in this remote Guatemalan village? "I visualize a new school that goes beyond a sixth grade education," stated Price. "I see a surge in entrepreneurship. I see the development of new businesses to stand with agriculture, the country's leading business. Many will find new ways of doing business that will take the middle man out of handling the main crop of beans when it comes to preparing the crops for market."

"Think of it ... wow ...," he continued. "Refrigeration, Internet, pumps for the wells, appliances! As an exchange student told us in May, she mostly is looking forward to having her own cornmeal grinder that is used daily for their main staple of food."