



What is Operation Round Up?

Operation Round Up is a community service program recently adopted by Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc. Simply stated, *Operation Round Up* gathers voluntary contributions from participating co-op consumers by “rounding up” their monthly bills to the next dollar. For example, a member with a bill of \$52.49 is rounded to \$53.00. The 51 cent difference is deposited into the *Operation Round Up* fund.

Donations are tax deductible and consumers are sent a summary of their yearly contributions each year. The program results in an average donation of roughly \$6 per year per member. The most any member will be charged on a monthly bill is 99 cents - the least amount for a donation on any given month is 1 cent. Donations are then awarded to worthwhile individuals and organizations.

Who funds the program?

The *Operation Round Up* program is funded by cooperative members. Participation is strictly voluntary. Consumers who choose not to take part may withdraw by simply notifying Cotton Electric of their decision at any point. Through participation in *Operation Round Up*, the average contribution per customer is approximately \$6 annually - or 50 cents a month. In its first three years alone, Palmetto Electric Cooperative which founded the Operation Round Up program, raised more than a half million dollars for worthwhile charities, needy individuals and service organizations with more than 80% of all consumers participating.

Who oversees Operation Round Up?

All *Operation Round Up* donations are placed in trust and are administered by the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation and its five directors. The Board of Directors consist of President Richard Dixon, a bank executive from Duncan; Vice President Keith Hooker, a farmer and rancher from Randlett; Secretary Dana Smith, an accountant from Lawton; Melvin Robison, President of the Board of Trustees of Cotton Electric Cooperative; and Warren Langford, Chief Executive Officer of Cotton Electric Cooperative.

The CECF board will receive and evaluate all requests for funds and determine how they will be distributed. All Cooperatives involved with *Operation Round Up* prohibit the donations from being used for political purposes.

Where does the money go?

Typically, *Operation Round Up* funds are used to address critical areas such as health needs, assisting community and emergency services in their efforts to improve the quality of life for residents, assisting community youth organizations and activities which promote good citizenship and providing support to programs that serve the area's senior citizens.

For more information regarding the *Operation Round Up* program, please contact Jennifer Meason at (580) 875-4217.

Where does the money go?

Operation Round Up funds are usually targeted for the following needs:



Health

Funds are used to helping families cope with emergencies, illness and special medical/dental needs.

Community and Emergency Services

Aiding community and emergency service providers in their efforts to improve the quality of life for neighbors and supporting the health, safety and well-being of residents in area communities.

Youth/Senior Citizens

Assisting community youth organizations and activities which promote good citizenship, as well as providing assistance to programs that serve the area's senior citizens.

