

SPARE CHANGE, CHANGES LIVES

We are gearing up for one of the most potentially rewarding programs we have ever offered. In July 2010, Paulding Putnam Electric will begin Operation Round Up. This same program has been adopted by hundreds of electric cooperatives throughout the country.

Operation Round Up is a community service program that provides funding for charitable and benevolent purposes for individuals, families and organizations in your community. Your pennies, nickels and dimes can help raise thousands of dollars a year that will be used to help people right here in your community.

For the average customer, that equates to about 50 cents a month or about \$6.00 per year. Any money going to Operation Round Up is tax deductible and all funds go directly toward helping others. There will be little or no administrative costs as PPEC staff will assist in program management. All contributed funds will go to charitable causes.

Funding may be used to help local fire departments obtain critical lifesaving equipment or to rescue organizations, food banks, educational projects and many, many other projects that benefit the community in general.

Operation Round Up is managed by the Paulding Putnam Electric Trust, a nonprofit Foundation. The Foundation is governed by a five member board. The board is comprised of volunteers who donate their time and skills to help manage this important program. Board members are: Brenda Clark, Paulding County; Ray Etzler, Van Wert County; Mary Beth Weisenburger, Putnam County; Gary Lybarger, District 1; and Pamela Datcher, District 5, Indiana.

The Foundation board decides who receives distributed funds based upon program guidelines. All disbursements of funds are for charitable purposes only as set forth in the Code of Regulations. Funds will not be used for lobbying or for political campaigns. Funding distribution will be determined based on information received on a completed application. An application is required for the board's review.

Members can opt out in May or June, thereafter they will be automatically enrolled in the program. If you do not wish to participate in this program you may call Member Service at 419-399-5015 or toll-free at 800-686-2357. During the program you can "opt out" by marking the indicated area on your monthly bill.

The success of this program depends upon your participation and we hope you will believe in the values of this program as much as we do. By rounding up your monthly bill to the next highest dollar and with the majority of our members participating, we will be able to raise thousands of dollars that will impact the many lives in our communities in a very big way.

The program isn't meant to replace any currently existing sources of funds and it isn't meant to pay anyone's overdue bills. It is meant to help organizations and agencies offer new programs and services that are badly needed in our communities.