

The power of pennies (for purpose)

Years ago, a simple idea came from a co-op in South Carolina—just round up the co-op member’s electric bill to the next dollar, and then use it to do good work in the community.

Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country, including Blue Grass Energy, use this idea to help members and organizations right here in our service area.

All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including “Concern for Community.” Our Pennies for Purpose program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. Co-op members who participate donate an average of \$6. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with other participants, it adds up to make a significant impact. The program is voluntary, and at any time, members can change their minds about participating.

Our program was started one year ago and is governed by a board of

volunteers that is separate from our board of directors.

As of December, we had 689 out of around 60,000 members enrolled. Even though our program is young, we just made our first

donation. The Pennies for Purpose board approved a donation of \$1,000 to the Pendleton County Education Foundation to be used for the future Miracle Point Playground.

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The Pennies for Purpose board is made up of members who volunteer their time. From left are Michael Bishop, Nicholasville; Rose Ann House, Richmond; Pamela Harper, Falmouth; Karen Lacefield, Lawrenceburg; and Lawrence Bailey, Berea. Not pictured: John Trisler, Salvisa. Photo: Barry Drury

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Rachel Settles, Editor



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We want to hear from you

From our youngest to our oldest members, many of you rely on some type of electronic device for news or connecting with others. Our smartphones, tablets and computers help us communicate and connect. Companies advertise a steady stream of messages and information, and we are constantly bombarded with one-way communication. But is anyone listening on the other end?

At Blue Grass Energy, we are not only listening, we appreciate hearing from our members. Whether you text us, respond to a survey or social media post, send an email or simply stop by and chat in person, we use your feedback to continue improving our service to you.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. Blue Grass Energy exists for one reason: to fulfill our purpose of making life better, the cooperative way. Equally important is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy for the members we serve. We hope you will consider us more than your energy provider, but also as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

The energy business is always changing. Electric vehicles, renewable energy sources and new technologies are impacting long-term planning. These are issues that we are already planning for. This is why we like to hear from you and other community members as we look toward the future, so we will know what is important to you.

So, as we start a new year, let us know if there is a way Blue Grass Energy can make life better for you and our communities. We work to learn about your priorities so that we can better serve you—because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. I hope you will connect with us in 2020.

I wish each of you a safe and prosperous new year.

By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams



TIM WEBB



WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2020 WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR.

Blue Grass Energy members who are high school juniors are encouraged to apply at bgenergy.com by selecting the Community tab and choosing Washington Youth Tour.

Deadline to apply is February 28, 2020.

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Pennies for Purpose

This playground will be fully accessible to children and adults who use wheelchairs, orthotic braces, walkers, etc. The playground will have rubberized turf, ramps to get onto equipment, swings that allow children to remain in their wheelchairs and much more. In

other words, Miracle Point will open recreational activities to our youngest members in Pendleton County, and that perfectly aligns with our purpose of making life better, the cooperative way.

As the program continues to grow, we're excited for the opportunities to

support our members and the needs of our communities. If you would like to learn more, sign up to participate or request a donation, visit the Pennies for Purpose section at bgenergy.com or complete the coupon below and return it with your bill.



Pennies
for purpose

Complete the information below and return with your bill to enroll in Pennies for Purpose. By participating, your bill will round up to the nearest dollar.

Name _____

Account _____

Address _____

Account _____

Home phone # _____

Email _____

Cell phone # _____

We respect your privacy and do not share email or other personal information with third parties.



INTRODUCING OUR 2020 CHARITY PARTNER

PARKINSON'S FOUNDATION

Each year, Blue Grass Energy chooses a charity to work with for the year. We partner with a local nonprofit organization that benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. In 2020, we are partnering with the Parkinson's Foundation.

We will raise money to benefit the many members in our communities that are affected by this disease. Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder that

affects predominately dopamine-producing ("dopaminergic") neurons in a specific area of the brain called substantia nigra.

The Parkinson's Foundation vision and mission aligns well with our purpose of making life better, the cooperative way.

Their vision and mission is: *Parkinson's Foundation makes life better for people with Parkinson's disease by improving care and advancing research toward a cure.*

In everything we do, we build on the energy, experience and passion of our global Parkinson's community.

If you would like to learn more about the Parkinson's Foundation or how to become involved, visit their website at parkinson.org.



Winter farm safety tips

During this season of freezing temperatures, keep safety first when working around the farm and with block heater plugs/extension cords. Here's a few tips to help:

- Don't drive over your extension cord. This can cause cracking or breaking during bitterly cold weather.
- Cover your block heater plug-in with its protective cover.
- Unplug your block heater by using the hard, rubber end. Pulling on the electrical cord can cause breakage and potential electrical issues.
- Have your block heater cord inspected each fall by a qualified mechanic.
- Properly install electrical wiring with covered GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets, caged lights and conduit-encased wires. All electrical circuit panels should have closing and latching doors.
- Use heavy-duty extension cords with three-prong plugs that include a ground.

- Do not plug multiple extension cords together to obtain desired length, but use one cord for the required length needed. Remove extension cords that have frayed plugs or have cuts in the external rubber-insulated sheathing.
- If employing heat lamps, use infrared bulbs that have auto shut off when turned over.
- Use a heavy duty three-prong timer to help conserve energy.

