

LOCALNEWS

Operation Round Up helps local programs

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The North Star Community Trust Board has awarded nearly \$9,000 to various local organizations.

The board reviewed 29 applications July 16 that sought more than \$31,000, making it difficult to select the organizations for which to award the nearly \$9,000, said board members.

Many local programs and organizations benefit from Operation Round Up, a voluntary member-driven, fundraising program of North Star Electric Cooperative Inc.. The program is designed to provide financial assistance for worthwhile projects and charities in the area. Donations are given to organizations to help make the area a more pleasant and safe place to live.

All funds for Operation Round Up are contributed by the member-owners of North Star Electric and the money is put into a trust fund that is separate from electric accounts. The trust is administered by its own board of directors comprised of people from across the area.

Operation Round Up directors are appointed by North Star's board members and must be members of the cooperative. The cooperative's general manager is a non-voting member of the board.

Organizations from the area may apply for a donation from the Operation Round Up Trust. The applicant must be charitable in nature and be working to meet a need in the area. The Operation Round Up Board meets twice a year and decides if an applica-

tion meets the guidelines of the trust and if funds are available.

If a member chooses to be part of Operation Round Up, their bill is rounded up to the next highest dollar. For example, if a bill is \$96.47, the computer will round up the bill to \$97. The additional 53 cents is placed in the trust and distributed to local charitable and community-based programs.

About 80 percent of North Star's members have chosen to participate in Operation Round Up and it is expected that contributions will be about \$18,700 each year. That money goes right back into the community, say board members.

The average annual contribution from a member is about \$6. The most that could be contributed in a year by a member is \$11.88, at 99 cents for 12 months.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The following people are involved in the recent Operation Round Up and its donations. Front row from left, Julie Lepisto, Mary Jo Winkel, Kimberly Perkins, Michael Silvers, Wendy Moyer, Mary Ellen Lehman. Second row, Julie Jaksa, Donald Robertson, Irene Hauner.

If a member of North Star Electric or a non-member of the cooperative would like to make an additional contribution, contact the North Star Electric office.

At the July meeting, \$8,945 in Operation Round Up funds were distributed to various qualifying programs and organizations throughout the area.



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

OUTDOOR SERVICES

Voyageurs Visitor Center Picnic Area
10:00 a.m.

August 11th

If it is raining we will have the Service at Church
820 4th Street, Int'l Falls



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2013 International Falls Bass Championship

Come for the Fishing...Stay for the Fun!

Friday, August 23 • 8:00 p.m.

CASTING CALL

Deadline to enter is August 17th

Entry Fee:
\$25/person
\$35/2 persons
\$40/4 persons

1st Place: \$500
2nd Place: \$400
3rd Place: \$300
People's Choice: \$500

Entry forms available online at **www.ifallsbass.com**
Deadlines are coming up fast, so get your entries in today for these musical talent shows!



International Falls Teen Idol

Thursday, August 22nd • 7:30 p.m.

In Smokey Bear Park under the Big Tent

1st Place - \$150 • 2nd Place - \$100 • 3rd Place - \$75
4th Place - \$50 • 5th Place - \$25

Entries open until **Aug. 17, 2013**
\$20 entry fee

Applications at the Chamber of Commerce. Contestants 8-15 years of age are eligible to enter.

Submit entry form & entry fee for either event to:
Casting Call, c/o Carol Pullar
P.O. Box 906, Int'l Falls, MN 56649

Weekend Entertainment Pass
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