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**Immediate**

**NEWS RELEASE**

For additional information contact,

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**People’s Energy Cooperative Trust - Operation Round Up® grants $25,644 to local organizations**

**ORONOCO, MN, March 1, 2019** — People’s Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up® Trust Board provided $25,644 in grants this quarter to the following area organizations:

* $1,200 - Chatfield Brass Band, Inc. in support of the Chatfield Brass Band 50th Anniversary Summer Concert Series
* $2,200 – Plainview Area Community Youth Center & PEM Area Dining for lighting / electrical upgrades and a new storage cabinet
* $2,000 – Gamehaven Council, Boy Scouts of America in rural Rochester for lighting upgrades and enhancements
* $1,000 – The Grace Foundation in Rochester for a new gymnasium sound system and equipment
* $650 – MN Council for the Gifted and Talented – Rochester GATEway Chapter in support of the 2019 Rochester GATEway Science Fair
* $6,489 – Plainview-Elgin-Millville School District for a dual-purpose scoreboard at Eckstein Field
* $1,000 – Hawthorne Helps in Rochester to purchase supplies for the “mini-store”
* $1,000 – Zumbro Education District, South Campus in Byron for the purchase of a painting hood fume exhaust system
* $750 – Immanuel Lutheran School in Plainview for the purchase of new library content
* $1,855 – Ability Building Center in Rochester for the purchase of a water bottle filling station
* $2,500 – Zumbro Valley Health Center in Rochester for the purchase of bus passes and taxi gift cards for patient use
* $1,000 – Bundles of Love Charity in Rochester to purchase supplies for new-born care baskets
* $500 – Stewartville Public Schools in support of Dancing Classrooms
* $500 – Kasson-Mantorville Community Education in support of the Penumbra Theatre performance

The People’s Energy Cooperative Trust - Operation Round Up® fund started in 2002 and grants funds to a variety of charitable, educational, community and youth-related programs and events.

The program is funded by donations made by members of People’s Energy Cooperative who voluntarily have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. Approximately 17,000 members currently participate with the average donation of $6.00 a year per member, demonstrating that small change can make a big difference.

Applications for funding are considered on a quarterly basis. The funds are held separately from the People’s Energy Cooperative operating accounts and are administered through the Board of Trustees comprised of seven People’s Energy Cooperative member volunteers.

To be considered for second quarter grants in 2019, applications must be submitted no later than March 20, 2019. Program guidelines and applications for Operation Round Up® donations are available at www.peoplesenergy.coop or by calling the Cooperative at (507) 367-7015 or (800) 214-2694.

**About People’s Energy Cooperative**

People's Energy Cooperative is a member-owned electric cooperative celebrating over 80 years of delivering retail electric power to its nearly 18,800 member-owners in Olmsted, Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Wabasha and Winona Counties. People's Energy Cooperative is a Touchstone Energy® cooperative and a member-owner in the Dairyland Power system of electric cooperatives that generates and transmits reliable electric power in 62 counties of four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois).

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