



SEMCO NEWS

Official Member Newsletter

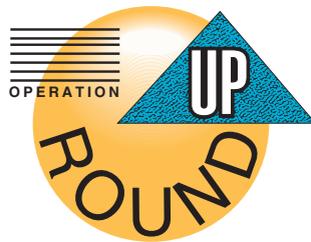
December 2019



A little loose change is all it takes to make a big impact on your community

With an average of 50 cents per month, Sumter EMC members raised more than \$30,000 this year

The holidays are the season of giving and a perfect time to think about one of Sumter EMC's founding principles, Concern for Community. Giving back to our communities while also providing safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members helps our local area thrive.



health and safety, emergency needs, charities and economic development. All contributions are tax-deductible and reported annually on each ORU participant's December and January billing statements.

Educating the next generation is near and dear to our hearts at Sumter EMC. Contributing to the education of local children helps impact their future. When we instill in them the importance of learning at an early age, it benefits them for

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We were thrilled to be able to award more than \$55,000 to community organizations in the Sumter EMC service area this year through our Operation Round Up (ORU) program. Grants are awarded by the Sumter Electric Membership Corporation Foundation Inc.

Each month, our members have an opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities with a little pocket change. Your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters have added up to more than \$1 million since ORU was implemented in 2003.

The funds benefit local organizations and agencies that serve their communities in the following areas: education,



The Sumter Electric Membership Corp. Foundation Inc. awarded a \$2,238 grant to the Lee County Retired Educators Association to purchase books for children.



The Positive Direction Youth Center used its \$2,579 grant to purchase a TV to use for educational purposes.



Community's Heart to Heart Inc. received \$1,800 to help fund a back-to-school backpack project.

Photos of more Operation Round Up grant recipients on Page 22D

Celebrating 100 Years of the Dani

The Jimmy F. Daniels farm in Sumter County was designated a Georgia Centennial Farm in 2019. The Centennial Family Farm award recognizes farms owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more that are not listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Daniels family was honored for their contributions to Georgia's agriculture heritage and recognized for their hard work to preserve agricultural resources for future generations.

Jimmy Daniels, a Sumter EMC member, is proud to have two sons (Ben and Riley) follow in his footsteps and continue farming their family land. Daniels, his wife, Monique, and son, Riley, attended the awards ceremony at the Georgia National Fair in October. The event was hosted by the Georgia Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Farm Bureau Federation, Georgia Department of Agriculture, Georgia EMC, Georgia Forestry Commission and Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter.

The family acquired the farm in 1917 when Jimmy's great-great-great aunt, Annie Driver, married George Glisson, who had owned the farm since 1885. The original farmhouse



Congratulations to Sumter EMC member Jimmy Frank Daniels and his family, recipients of the 2019 Centennial Family Farm award. Georgia Farm Bureau President Gerald Long, left, and Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black, right, presented the certificate to Daniels, his wife, Monique, and their son, Riley.

was torn down, and sometime in the 1950s, Daniels' grandfather, Frank Driver, built a new house, which still stands. The historic barn burned down in the 1960s; he says he remembers being a very small child and seeing the barn burn along with a trailer of cotton and a tractor.

"I started farming by planting my first wheat crop in the fall of 1987,"

says Daniels. "I worked with two other farmers until 1989. I began farming on my own in 1989. Today, my two sons and I farm about 1,150 acres. Of that total, 235 acres are in timber and the remaining is in row crops, including cotton, corn, peanuts and soybeans."

Daniels still owns 264 acres of the original farm. The remainder is owned by other family members.



Wells Family Farm



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your
Sumter EMC Board of Directors and employees*

Sumter EMC offices will be CLOSED: Dec. 24 & 25, 2019, and Jan. 1, 2020.

For emergencies, call (800) 342-6978. A dispatcher is on duty 24 hours/day.

REBATES

are available on a first-come, first-served basis to replace a central system electric or gas furnace with an electric heat pump. The rebate program ends on Dec. 31, 2019, or when the budget for the program is reached, whichever comes first. Call Sumter EMC today to see if you qualify!

Sumter EMC must inspect your existing heating system before any new work is done and again once all upgrades are complete.



Operation Round Up, Continued from page 22A

years to come. We hope you enjoy these photos of local organizations who are doing just that!

We are grateful for you—the members of our co-op—and your willingness to make a positive impact in the community. Our goal each year is to surpass the contribution totals from the previous year from members just like you!

Getting started in this charitable program is easy; you may sign up by calling the Sumter EMC office at (800) 342-6978 or online through our website at www.sumteremc.com. Start the new year off right by pledging to round your bill up to the nearest dollar; it's the gift that keeps on giving all year long.

For a complete list of ORU recipients, check out the Foundation pages located in the Community section of sumteremc.com.



Sumter County Elementary School designated its \$1,686 grant to be used for technology upgrades.



Terrell Academy purchased Chromebooks for the classrooms with its \$5,000 grant.



Sumter County 4-H was awarded \$500 for the purchase of a new computer. Through this grant from our foundation, Sumter EMC is proud to be a part of the effort to enhance students' educational experiences.

Renew your GATE sales-tax exemption certificates before Jan. 1, 2020

If you currently have one or more tax-exempt account(s) with Sumter EMC, **you must renew your GATE certification before Jan. 1, 2020, to continue receiving your sales-tax exemption.**

For details on how to renew your GATE certificate, visit our website at sumteremc.com/content/sales-tax-exemption.



Sumter Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.