

# CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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# COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

GIVE THANKS. SPREAD CHEER.


A LETTER FROM  
**OUR CEO H. WAYNE WILKINS**



2020 has brought a lot of challenges our way, but despite that, or perhaps because of it, we've grown more grateful for our health, blessings and the communities that support us. And it's just in time. November always brings a spirit of gratitude and community. I'd like to reflect on the aspects that we all have to be thankful for.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has presented significant struggles for many of us, we're fortunate that we've also seen some wonderful and positive results arise. For example, the EnergyUnited Foundation has donated over \$75,000 this year to nonprofit organizations throughout our 19-county service area. We are grateful to our members who have participated in the Operation Round-Up program to provide financial assistance to those who need it. This spirit of gratitude has also moved us to give back to the communities we serve through outreach programs like Youth Tour and Bright Ideas.

These generous actions and selfless deeds remind us of all the individuals that enrich our communities both far and wide. Though the lens is sharply fixed on the state of our country, we shouldn't forget the brave men and women who fight for our freedoms and keep our nation safe. This Veterans Day, thank a military member for all they do. There's a lot to be grateful for in living in the United States, and from the bottom of our hearts we thank the brave individuals who inspire and protect our great nation, and positively impact the communities we love and serve.

  
**H. Wayne Wilkins**

# ENERGYUNITED GIVES BACK

EnergyUnited is proud to support our members and surrounding communities in many ways. The resources and assistance we provide to our members and community organizations through the EnergyUnited Foundation impact tens of thousands of lives throughout our 19-county service area each year, sometimes in more ways than initially realized.

Just ask Beth Rummage, executive director of The Life Center of Davidson County. This summer, Beth accepted a \$5,000 grant from the EnergyUnited Foundation to The Life Center that helped provide 10 individuals with 10 days of adult day health services for respite. The grant award was celebrated by The Life Center and the EnergyUnited Foundation during a virtual check presentation in June. Cooperative leaders also learned of an upcoming fundraiser scheduled by the Life Center to provide additional assistance for adult day health services.

When we learned that volunteers for the fundraising event were needed, our team offered to lend a helping hand. By all accounts, the event was very successful. The Life Center sold and packed 1,590 barbecue chicken meals in three hours, while volunteers also delivered over 800 meals to businesses in our community that had placed orders. This event raised \$6,500 and exceeded its original fundraising goal of \$5,000.

“The Life Center is very grateful for the time and efforts of the EnergyUnited officials that volunteered during our Port-a-Pit fundraiser,” Rummage said. “We were truly blessed to have them volunteer for this event.”

The proceeds from the fundraiser will allow two older adults to be removed from The Life Center’s waiting list, which means two individuals with dementia are now attending the center and receiving the desperately needed supervision and monitoring of their chronic disease.

These needs are thankfully being met by the outstanding people from The Life Center of Davidson County. We are thankful for their contributions and service to the people of Davidson County. This experience had a meaningful impact on the two individuals who benefited from the services that were funded from the event proceeds, but it also had a meaningful impact on our volunteer team of cooperative leaders.



**Wayne Wilkins**  
CEO



**John McMurray**  
COO



**Thomas Golden**  
CSO AND VP OF  
ENERGY SERVICES



**Debra Citta**  
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE  
ENERGYUNITED FOUNDATION



## ORGANIZATIONS WE FUNDED DURING COVID-19



Life Center, Pharos Parenting, United Way of Iredell, UW of Davidson, YMCA, Lexington Housing Development and St. Francis Spring Center.



As a member-owned business, EnergyUnited continually assesses the value of its assets and business ventures. We understand that our commitment to supporting and serving our communities starts with a fiduciary commitment to you, our valued member. Therefore, EnergyUnited is announcing the sale of its propane business operations to ThompsonGas, a privately owned propane business headquartered in Frederick, Maryland.

Under the terms of the agreement, EnergyUnited will also establish a partnership with ThompsonGas to market its propane products and services while we continue to assess the energy needs that exist in our service areas. If you currently receive service from EnergyUnited Propane, you can rest assured that these employees will continue to deliver great service with the support and leadership of the ThompsonGas family.

Additionally, all EnergyUnited members who receive propane service from EnergyUnited Propane will continue to receive the following benefits as customers of ThompsonGas:

**10 cents off, per gallon | Free safety checks | Tank installation discounts**

We are excited to begin our partnership with ThompsonGas and to help the company build on the successes that EnergyUnited Propane has experienced over the past 20 years. To all our EnergyUnited members who have supported this business venture, we thank you. To our wonderful, diverse group of current propane customers, we can confidently say that we believe the best results of our original investment are yet to come.



# LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If you have recently experienced a job loss or wage reduction and you are struggling to pay your utility bill, you may qualify to receive assistance from the EnergyUnited Foundation or from another local nonprofit agency. Furthermore, you may be eligible to receive assistance from your county Department of Social Services (DSS) office. DSS offers two well-known utility bill assistance programs, the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) and the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). Are you eligible to receive assistance from LIEAP? Check out the eligibility requirements below and be sure to contact DSS if you have any additional questions regarding program eligibility and funding.

## LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP)\*

- Helps individuals and families pay their heating bills.
- Assistance is in the form of a one-time payment made directly to the heating provider. Households including persons age 60 or older or disabled, receiving services through NC Division of Aging and Adult Services are eligible to apply from December 1 to March 31 each year.
- All other households, including those with persons age 60 or older or disabled receiving services through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, are eligible to apply from January 1 to March 31 each year.
- \$40,298,637 will be available to counties December 1, 2020, to assist with heating needs.
- Approximately \$18 million will be available to counties November 1, 2020, from CARES Funding for heating needs.

## BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- *Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets eligibility criteria.*
- *Meet the income test (130% federal poverty level).*
- *Have liquid resources less than \$2,250.00.*
- *Be responsible for their heating costs.*

**Households are eligible for \$300, \$400 or \$500 per state fiscal year; amount is determined by household size, income and primary heating source.**

For more information and a detailed list of community organizations that offer utility bill assistance programs in your county, visit **[ENERGYUNITED.COM/ASSISTANCE](https://www.energyunited.com/assistance)**

*\*Source: NC Department of Health and Human Services guidance, issued August 18, 2020.*

## COOLING TEMPERATURES HELP YOU **BEAT THE PEAK**

Help hold down power costs! Join thousands of electric cooperative members in our service area by managing your energy use during peak times. Peaks occur on the coldest winter mornings and hottest summer afternoons, when the demand and cost for electricity is the highest.

### **ENROLL IN PEAK TIME PERKS** YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!

Do you have or are you planning to purchase a Google Nest or Honeywell Home smart thermostat? If so, we encourage you to enroll in **PEAK TIME PERKS**, a program for EnergyUnited electric residential members that rewards you for allowing us to adjust your thermostat during peak periods. When you sign up, you'll be credited \$50 on your electric bill. And for each year after that, an additional \$20 will be credited to your account.

ENROLL IN THESE PROGRAMS AT [ENERGYUNITED.COM/DEMAND-RESPONSE](https://www.energyunited.com/demand-response)

## ENERGYUNITED MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### HOW DEBORAH BARHAM **BEATS THE PEAK**

Longtime EU member Deborah Barham entered into our smart thermostat giveaway by signing up for Beat the Peak in September. She has been thrilled with the energy-and money-saving results and even more excited about winning a brand-new Google Nest thermostat. The programs and her new smart thermostat help Deborah save smarter. She says, "We have always adjusted our daily needs to be mindful of our power usage and tried to be conservative. Having a Nest thermostat helps us visually see our energy use and make adjustments."

When asked what other thoughts she had to share, Deborah said, "I highly recommend that everyone participate in these programs. We all need to work together to make a difference in conserving energy. EnergyUnited is a great company and we appreciate their efforts to provide our energy needs. And we appreciate the support."



# CONGRATS BOARD MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce the winners of this year's  
Board of Directors Election:



**Jeannette Overby**



**Glenn Smith**



**Edgar Cartner**

## OUR ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

EnergyUnited held its Annual Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020. The 2020 Annual Meeting included reports from our CEO and Board President. We also shared the results of the 2020 Board of Directors Election, and announced the winners of our Vote & Win contest. Scripts and videos of these reports and announcements can be found at

**[ENERGYUNITED.COM/DIRECTOR-ELECTIONS/](https://www.energyunited.com/director-elections/)**

Three lucky winners voted and won a \$100 Visa Gift Card each!  
These individuals were randomly selected. **Congratulations to:**

**Debbie Dunn**  
Lexington, N.C.

**Joel P. Hendren**  
Stony Point, N.C.

**Wendi A. Amos**  
Davidson, N.C.

## MEET OUR SEPTEMBER E-BILLING WINNER

Congrats to our lucky winner who won the  
September e-billing giveaway.

**Aaron Lieto**  
Huntersville, N.C.

### **READY TO TAKE YOUR SHOT AT A \$100 VISA GIFT CARD?**

Sign up today for e-billing under **My Account** and be automatically entered to be one of our three winners in October!



# VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE

Join us in thanking our veterans this November 11. We are truly grateful for everything they have done for our great country.

## 2021 YOUTH TOUR

Each year, EnergyUnited seeks high school applicants for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The program, open to sophomores and juniors, will take students on a historic journey to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and the United States government while visiting the historic sites of the nation's capital. Interested individuals could be one of about 45 rising seniors from all over North Carolina who join 1,800 students from across the nation in D.C.

Applications accepted **November 1 - December 31**. All EnergyUnited applicants must reside in a home or attend a high school serviced by EnergyUnited.

VISIT [ENERGYUNITED.COM/YOUTH-TOUR](https://www.energyunited.com/youth-tour) TO APPLY.

