

## ROUNDING UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**THE HOLIDAYS ARE A TIME TO COME TOGETHER** with family, friends, neighbors and the members of your community, and while we hope that everyone is free to enjoy the spirit of the season, we recognize that this time of year isn't always easy on our wallets. From a job layoff to an unexpected illness or injury, there are several reasons why someone may suddenly be feeling financial woes, so EnergyUnited is here to help.

Dating all the way back to our roots, our commitment to community has never wavered, and in times like these our mission goes beyond providing reliable, affordable energy to the Carolinas. That's why we started Operation Round-Up, a program that allows members to round up their monthly electric bills to the next dollar and donate the difference to the EnergyUnited Foundation. Monthly donations can range anywhere between a penny and 99 cents, making the average individual contribution around six dollars a year. While it may not sound like much, it certainly adds up—leading to more than **\$100 MILLION RAISED BY OPERATION ROUND-UP OVER THE YEARS**.

So where does all of that money go? Through the EnergyUnited Foundation, all of the funds donated via Operation Round-Up are used to provide assistance to families and individuals who cannot meet their needs themselves. EnergyUnited also awards grants to a variety of community-based nonprofit organizations, who also provide much-needed assistance throughout the region.

Operation Round-Up is just one of the many ways EnergyUnited and its members are able to lend a helping hand during the holiday season. To learn more about our charitable efforts or to get involved in fundraising and volunteering opportunities at EnergyUnited, contact us at **1-800-522-3793**.



### FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

With the holidays quickly approaching, I'm reminded more and more of the giving spirit that makes this season so special. It's a time of the year when differences can be set aside and generosity can be shared. In fact, as we move closer to Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and the various other holidays celebrated across our region, one thing keeps coming to mind: capital credits.

As a member of this electric cooperative, you actually own a portion of EnergyUnited, and one of the benefits of being a member-owner is the allocation of "margins" in the form of capital credits. In other words, when EnergyUnited makes more money than it needs for operating costs, capital improvements and reasonable cash reserves, we return that money to you - just in time for the holidays.

As a not-for-profit company, EnergyUnited strives to only collect enough revenue to properly operate and maintain the cooperative. Any margins made beyond that are allocated based on membership years, which means that not all members get a check every year. For example, if you were a member of EnergyUnited in the years 1990, 2002 or 2003, you'll be receiving capital credits this year!

These capital credits are just one of the many things that makes being part of a cooperative so great. We're here to provide reliable, affordable energy to our community, because putting our members first isn't seasonal, it's how we do things year-round. Happy holidays to you and your family!

-H-Wayn Willows

H. Wayne Wilkins

#### **A GIFT FOR YOU!**

This year, we'll be returning **\$3.5 MILLION** to those who were members in the years:



## ECK THE HAL WITH HOLIDAY SAFETY

We love seeing our community light up with holiday spirit, but we don't like seeing home fires and electrical accidents increase during the winter months because of it. So when it comes time to put up your holiday decorations, keep these lighting tips in mind to ensure a safe yet festive season.

Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights, from our online Energy Efficiency Store.



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Keep candles on a sturdy base to prevent tipping. Never leave a lit candle unattended.

**Carefully inspect all electrical** decorations for loose or exposed wires before you use them.



Never mount, support or position light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.

Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses and turn them all off before leaving home or going to sleep.

# WARM UP THIS WINTER TH ENERGYUNITED PROPANE

Sign up for EnergyUnited Propane to enjoy reliable, affordable and oh-so-warm propane service—just like you already do for your electricity.

CALL 1-888-895-4114 OR VISIT ENERGYUNITED.COM/PROPANE TO LEARN MORE.



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