



**For Immediate Release:**

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**ENERGYUNITED FOUNDATION GIVES \$10,000 TO RAINBOW KIDZ OF IREDELL COUNTY**

**STATESVILLE, N.C.** - The EnergyUnited Foundation recently approved a grant for \$10,000 to Rainbow Kidz of Iredell County, located in Statesville, NC. Rainbow Kidz, a program at Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County, is a school-based program that provides group counseling to children who are experiencing grief from an illness or the death of a loved one and teaches them important coping mechanisms so they can use life lessons to resolve their grief related issues.

“We are very grateful for this generous donation to help children and their families who are affected by grief and illness in our community”, said Leigh Ann Darty, LCSW Director of Rainbow Kidz. “Your amazing support will help to ensure that no child grieves alone in Iredell county .”

Rainbow Kidz also moves beyond consoling a child for their loss by providing participants with the life tools necessary to overcome loss and deal with future loss or crises that can arise later on in life. Rainbow Kidz is offered to all Iredell County public schools at no cost to families or school, and is funded through community donations only.

“The EnergyUnited Foundation granted \$10,000 to Rainbow Kidz to assist them with providing services to children during their grief journey. This money will allow them and their families who are in grave need of assistance, said Debra Citta, EnergyUnited Foundation Administrator. “I am very grateful that the EnergyUnited Foundation has a board of nine dedicated volunteers who review applications every month and determine how much to grant to individuals and nonprofit organizations. I’m thrilled to be part of an organization who gives back to the community.”

EnergyUnited’s grant comes as Rainbow Kidz recently hosted a week-long summer program – Camp Rainbow, which has been in existence for seven years now. During the five days, which are spent at the Boy Scout Camp on Davie Avenue in Statesville, they share their stories in grief groups and also participate in fun activities that are designed to help them cope with their loss, from martial arts to yoga to drumming to swimming.

Rainbow Kidz is such an important program that does great work in our community, and EnergyUnited’s support makes us better able to serve the children in our community.” said Karen Lawler, Director of Outreach at Hospice of Iredell County.

**About the EnergyUnited Foundation** At EnergyUnited, we make it easy for members who want to give something back to their community. Developed and launched by Hardeeville, S.C. - based Palmetto Electric Cooperative in 1989, this “members helping members” program allows electric cooperative consumers to round up their monthly electric bills to the next whole dollar amount. The extra pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters then flow into a fund managed by individual electric cooperatives and used to assist worthy community organizations as well as fellow members who fall on hard times. Some 250 local electric co-ops nationwide currently run Operation Round-Up programs, which have raised more than \$100 million over the years. Through our Operation Round-Up program founded in 1996, members can round up their monthly electric bills to the next dollar, with the difference going to the EnergyUnited Foundation. Monthly donations can range from a penny to 99 cents; on average, individual donations will be about \$6 a year. The amount donated is indicated on a member’s monthly electric bill. Annual contributions are shown on the member’s January bill. To participate in the Operation Round-Up program, contact EnergyUnited at 1-800-522-3793.



*Pictured from left to right: Debra Citta, EnergyUnited Foundation Administrator, Shelly Luttmann Phelps, LCSW Rainbow Kidz Grief Counselor, Leigh Ann Darty, LCSW Director of Rainbow Kidz, Maureen Moore, Communications Manager, EnergyUnited*



*Pictured from left to right: Leigh Ann Darty, LCSW Director of Rainbow Kidz, Maureen Moore, Communications Manager, EnergyUnited, Shelly Luttmann Phelps, LCSW Rainbow Kidz Grief Counselor, EnergyUnited, Debra Citta, EnergyUnited Foundation Administrator*