



# Our Mission is to enhance the quality of life in our communities

**Grants** are awarded to non-profit, charitable organizations that provide humanitarian, educational or community development services within our 26-county area. A portion of the funds may be awarded to organizations that help individuals or families in crisis or to tax exempt organizations.

**Grants** are awarded by three independent boards of volunteer directors who evaluate every application in their region—north, central or south. They evaluate each application based on the specific project and unique needs of the region, looking for programs that enhance the quality of life in our communities by:

- Promoting good citizenship.
- Increasing the capacity of rural organizations to promote self reliance and independence.
- Supplementing local initiatives.

**Grants** may be awarded if they:

- Are one-time in nature, rather than on-going.
- Benefit a large number of people.
- Leverage funds from other sources.
- Distribute funds to organizations that help individuals or families in crisis.
- Help programs to increase their capacity to deliver services.
- Are for a tax exempt, non-profit or 501(c)3 organization.
- Enhance cooperation and collaboration among organizations.
- Avoid duplication of services.
- Help deliver services of an organization more effectively.

**Grants** are generally not awarded for:

- Daily school operations.
- Normal operating expenses.
- Fundraising or political campaigns.
- Loans or deficit spending.
- Endowment funds.
- Retroactive projects.
- Individuals.
- Faith-based organizations\*.

Every Great Lakes Energy Cooperative member may contribute to the People Fund by authorizing the cooperative to “round up” their bill to the next highest dollar (an average of 50 cents each month or \$6 per year). All contributions are tax-deductible. **There is no overhead.** All of the money contributed is returned to our local communities.

**Contact us for more information, a grant application or to enroll:**

**1-888-GT-LAKES (888-485-2537) [gtlakes.com](http://gtlakes.com)**



\*Faith-based organizations may receive funding for projects only if the project provides services to all community members, regardless of the community member's religious affiliation or participation, i.e. a food pantry, community dinner, etc.

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