

POWER *Talk*

January 2019
Volume 11, Issue 1
Published for Members of
Great Lakes Energy

A supplement to
Michigan Country Lines

Help Your Community With The People Fund



Bill Scott
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

January is always a fresh start. A new year brings new possibilities and new opportunities—a chance to do even better than we did the year before.

And while the holidays may be over,

our opportunity to give back to our communities continues.

As an electric co-op, Great Lakes Energy puts the needs of our members first in conjunction with the seventh cooperative principle, “Concern for community.” The Great Lakes Energy People Fund is a convenient way for our

members to give back, to improve, and strengthen the communities in which they live. For less than a \$1 each month, members in 2018 were able to provide \$218,770 in People Fund grants to local charities and non-profits. I encourage you to review the *2018 People Fund Annual Report* attached to the January issue of *Michigan Country Lines* to see the diverse organizations your contributions benefited.

The People Fund program makes it easy for members to give back to their communities. We simply round your monthly electric bill up to the next whole dollar—meaning little work and low cost for you—and place the change in a fund. One hundred percent of the money collected is then granted to non-profit organizations within the communities of our members. The People Fund Board of Directors, made up of local volunteers,

awards grants to organizations within their local region. Local directors mean you can count on your change going toward the specific needs of each region.

If you want to be a part of strengthening your local community through the People Fund program, you can find a sign-up card in the *2018 People Fund Annual Report*. You are also able to enroll on our website or call our office and a representative can assist you. We also ask you to encourage your neighbors to join.

If you already participate in our round-up program, thank you for making the People Fund possible. Because of you we have been able to grant over \$3.5 million to charities and organizations within your communities since 1999.

Let this new year be the year your small contribution has a huge impact.



Join People Fund Plus

Now, you can make a greater impact in your local community with People Fund PLUS.

Choose a People Fund donation level in addition to your rounded-up amount. Your donations are awarded in the form of grants to local community nonprofit groups.

All People Fund contributors earn the chance to win a \$100 bill credit twice per year. In 2018, the People Fund awarded \$218,770 in grants to local nonprofits. Visit gtlakes.com to see the list of grant recipients in your area.

JOIN TODAY!

Working together, we can help enhance our local communities and meet the needs of so many.

Here's how it works:

\$65.42 Bill
\$00.58 People Fund Round-Up Amount
\$ 2.00 People Fund PLUS Amount
(or any even amount you choose)
\$68.00 Total Bill

Sign up today by contacting us at
1-888-GTLAKES or visit gtlakes.com.

Country Lines Photo Contest Winner

Terry Euper of Hersey is the 2018 winner of the Great Lakes Energy Photo Contest in *Michigan Country Lines*.

He received a \$200 credit that was applied to his December 2018 Great Lakes Energy bill.

His winning photo above, which appeared in the November/December issue, was selected in a random drawing of all contest entries that appeared in *Michigan Country Lines* in 2018.

Thank you to the many GLE members who participated. Members are welcome to send in photos for our 2019 contest. See page 9 in the January *Country Lines* issue for details.



GLE awards nearly \$30,000 in learning grants

For the seventh year in a row, Great Lakes Energy showed support for local communities by awarding nearly \$30,000 in grants to promote learning, innovation and technology in the classroom.

The 19 schools within GLE's service area awarded grants for their learning projects are:

- **Allendale Christian School:** \$1,000 to help fund iPads for music class.
- **Cadillac High School:** \$2,000 for Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Computer Science Essentials.
- **Charlevoix Middle School:** \$1,950 for data gathering and analysis project in science and math classrooms.
- **Covenant Christian School, Ludington:** \$1,379 for document camera and projector for student presentations and instruction.
- **East Jordan Middle/High School:** \$900 to help fund video equipment to enhance video production class.
- **Ellsworth Community School:** \$1,949.99 for Spheros Robot Material for STEM class.
- **Grant High School:** \$2,000 for high school engineering and career readiness training initiative.
- **Inland Lakes Elementary, Indian River:** \$1,406.04 for STEAM supplies (i.e., Legos, Spheros, Osmo kits).
- **Mason County Central School, Scottville:** \$2,000 for Tower Gardens to grow plants indoors using aeroponic technology.
- **McBain Middle School:** \$2,000 for Wonder Workshop Dash Robots.
- **Newaygo Public Schools:** \$2,000 for Rural Robotics and Coding with Misty II.
- **Petoskey High School:** \$2,000 for Project Impact to improve transition services for students.
- **St. Mary School, Big Rapids:** \$1,000 to help fund iPads for STREAM programs.
- **Thornapple Kellogg High School, Middleville:** \$750.48 for classroom podcast studio.
- **Tri-County High School, Howard City:** \$2,000 for water quality testing project.

- **Vanderbilt Area School:** \$1,682.60 for place-based forestry project materials to promote sustainability and community involvement.
- **Walkerville Public Schools:** \$2,000 for sturdy headphones and Chromebooks/iPads.
- **Wayland High School:** \$792.09 for Sun Sprint Solar Car kit.
- **White Cloud Elementary:** \$941.24 for light table with manipulatives to explore letters, shapes and colors



Luke Francis received a \$2,000 Great Lakes Energy grant to help fund a rural robotics and coding project that will benefit some 120 middle and high school students he teaches at Newaygo Public Schools.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Looking Out for You

1323 Boyne Avenue, P.O. Box 70
Boyne City, MI 49712

WEB: www.gtlakes.com

TEL: 888-GT-LAKES

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/greatlakesenergy

Great Lakes Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.