

## Community Connects Us All



### Shaun Lamp

President & Chief Executive Officer

I grew up watching my parents serve their community through their personal and work lives. My mom was a teacher and my dad worked on a shipping vessel on the Great Lakes just like his father and grandfather. They were invested in the people surrounding us and worked hard to make our town a better place. In short, they were committed to their community. It is their example that inspires me to explore opportunities for volunteer service and ways to commit my time to both my community and our cooperative.

I am involved as a volunteer board member for the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce, a member of a Broadband Advisory Committee, and the chair of the zoning board of appeals for my local township. As a registered nurse and an active participant on various boards within our school district, my wife is also very involved in our community. We contribute to our local Habitat for Humanity and our local church, and I also referee high-school basketball games across northern Michigan. While there is always more that could be done, this list continues to expand and change as my time allows.

Giving back doesn't have to be time consuming. In fact, just by being a member of this cooperative, you're taking part in something bigger than yourself. Great Lakes Energy is involved in our local communities every single day. It's just one of many reasons I'm proud to be a member and even prouder to work here.

The People Fund supports nonprofit organizations across our service area and since 1999 has awarded more than \$4 million in grants. It's supported solely by the money collected from members who agree to have their bill rounded up to the next whole dollar. None of the money is used for overhead expenses. I have been participating in the People Fund for as long as I've been a member. If you haven't already, I hope you'll consider joining us.

**In 2022 alone, our Classroom Grants program funded 18 school projects totaling nearly \$30,000.** This initiative has been in place for 10 years and allows us to provide support to innovative programs and ideas in rural schools. We collaborate with our power supplier to offer these grants and it's another example of how your co-op supports those we serve.



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And finally, our Youth Tour program is back up and running this year after a short hiatus due to the pandemic. In collaboration with other cooperatives across the nation, we provide an educational opportunity for high school sophomores and juniors to learn more about co-ops and our government with a trip to Washington, D.C. Applications for Youth Tour are due Feb. 28. Please encourage youth in your community to apply to this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Our employees live where they work - they're your friends and neighbors and like me, they invest their time and knowledge to help their communities thrive. From volunteering as soccer coaches, to leading robotic teams, to taking part in their church, to volunteering as board members, they find purpose in giving their time. Connecting to our communities is the cooperative way and we're glad you're a part of it.



# Great Lakes Energy Powers Classroom Technology

Great Lakes Energy recently awarded \$29,823.95 in grants to help 18 classrooms implement technology-based programs in their schools.

Grants awarded for the 2022-2023 school year bring the total to 272,800 for 186 projects since GLE launched its program in 2012.

These schools received classroom grants for the 2022-2023 school year.

- ▶ Allendale Christian School, Allendale, \$2,000 for a weather station
- ▶ Delton Kellogg High School, Delton, \$1,927.13 for Canon cameras
- ▶ East Jordan Elementary School, East Jordan, \$1,450 for project-based solar energy lessons
- ▶ Ellsworth Community School, Ellsworth, \$2,000 for a dynamic cart and track system
- ▶ Forest Area Middle/High School, Fife Lake, \$1,889.83 for a sound system
- ▶ Harbor Springs High School, Harbor Springs, \$1,699 for underwater remotely operated vehicles
- ▶ Lincoln Elementary, Cadillac, \$2,000 for STEM kits
- ▶ Ludington Elementary School, Ludington, \$1,800 for Sphero Indi robots
- ▶ Mason County Central Schools District, Scottville, \$1,738.99 for a drone and 360-camera
- ▶ Oakridge Middle School, Muskegon, \$1,986 for robotics equipment
- ▶ Patricia St. Clair Elementary, Hesperia, \$1,335 for an iPad, stand, and hands-on material
- ▶ Riverview Elementary School, Big Rapids, \$2,000 Little Bits STEAM sets
- ▶ Shelby Middle School, Shelby, \$2,000 for an exploratory class in manufacturing technology and careers
- ▶ South Maple Elementary, Gaylord, \$1,103 for light tables
- ▶ South Maple Elementary, Gaylord, \$896.27 for circuit boards
- ▶ Steeby Elementary, Wayland, \$400 for Cricut Maker machine
- ▶ Thornapple Kellogg High School, Middleville, \$1,598.73 for photography enhancement equipment
- ▶ Wolverine Elementary, Wolverine, \$2,000 for a Smartboard

Online applications for the 2023-2024 school year open in September 2023. To learn more, visit [gtlakes.com/youth-programs/](http://gtlakes.com/youth-programs/).

## 2023 Youth Tour

The Youth Tour provides a free, once-in-a-lifetime learning and leadership experience attended by students from electric cooperatives all over the country. In 2023, Great Lakes Energy will send four students, from **June 14-18**, to Washington, D.C. to participate in our first Rural Electric Youth Tour in more than two years!

*Highlights of the trip include:*



**WASHINGTON, D.C. TOUR**



**NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES**



**HISTORICAL LANDMARKS TOURS**



**YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**



Applications are currently being accepted and must be submitted for review by Feb. 28, 2023.

Visit [cooperativemyouthtour.com](http://cooperativemyouthtour.com) to learn more and apply online.



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