

NEWS RELEASE

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Carroll EMC members putting cash into classrooms

Recipients of 2009 Bright Ideas education grants announced

CARROLLTON, Ga. (Dec. 16, 2009) — Members of Carroll EMC are rewarding some area teachers who have some bright ideas about how to improve education.

Through the cooperative's Bright Ideas education grant program, 44 teachers from 26 area schools are sharing \$37,000 in funds to implement innovations in their classrooms. The grant recipients teach in schools throughout Carroll EMC's service territory.

"This year's program attracted more than 100 proposals from educators who are working to improve the quality of education here in west Georgia," said Carole Thompson, Member Service Assistant, who announced the recipients this week. "It's our hope that the grant money will benefit thousands of students throughout Carroll EMC's service territory."

The Bright Ideas grant program awards up to \$1,000 to teachers for innovative classroom-based projects. Now in its third year, the Bright Ideas program has funneled more than \$110,000 into area schools.

Bright Ideas grants are funded through the donations of Carroll EMC members who participate in the cooperative's Operation Round Up program. Thousands of co-op members elect to "round up" their electric bills to the nearest whole dollar to donate an average 50 cents a month per participant.

The Carroll EMC Foundation Board of Directors administers and oversees the distribution of these funds for a variety of community service projects including Bright Ideas. Operation Round Up funds also provide scholarships for local high school seniors and support many health and human service programs.

All cooperatives, including Carroll EMC, operate based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others. Participating in the Operation Round Up program is one way Carroll EMC members put these cooperative principles into practice.

Carroll EMC is a member-owned cooperative providing electricity to more than 49,000 homes and businesses. The co-op serves members in Carroll, Haralson, Heard, Paulding, Polk, Troup and Floyd counties. For more information about Carroll EMC, visit the cooperative's Web site at www.cemc.com.