

# Watts Working

## Randolph EMC Invests in Innovative Education

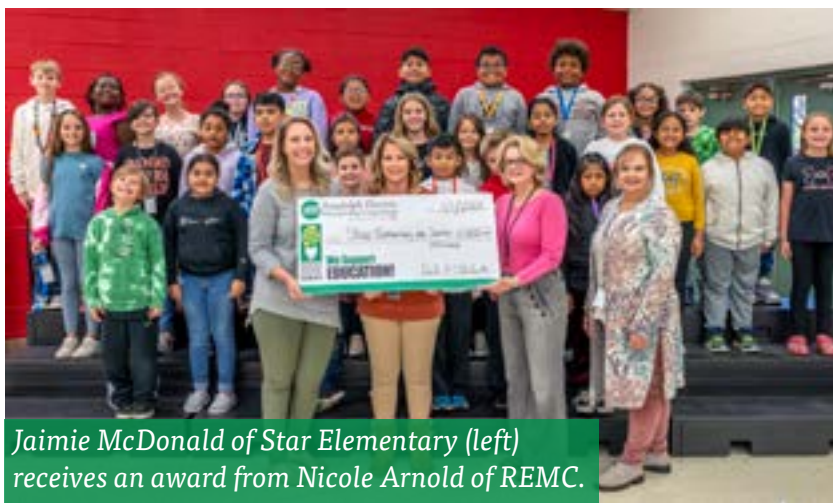


### Awards \$14,000 to Local Schools for 'Bright Ideas'

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation recently honored educators by awarding \$14,000 in Bright Ideas grants to 14 educators. More than 3,300 students at schools in the REMC service territory will benefit from these grants. The funds will support classroom projects in the subjects of science, art, physical education and more.

“Randolph EMC is committed to our core value of caring for our communities. One way we accomplish that is by investing in education,” said Communications and Public Affairs Manager Nicole Arnold. “We commend these educators for striving to make learning fun and engaging for students.”

Randolph EMC is one of 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina offering Bright Ideas grants



Jaimie McDonald of Star Elementary (left) receives an award from Nicole Arnold of REMC.

to local teachers. Grants are awarded for projects in all subject areas, such as music, art, history, reading, science, math and more. Bright Ideas grants support local teachers with creative ideas to increase innovation, expand learning opportunities and enhance student success in K-12 classrooms.

Since 1994, North Carolina’s electric cooperatives collectively have awarded more than

\$14 million in Bright Ideas funding for over 13,500 projects supporting teachers and benefitting more than 2.5 million students. Over the past 29 years, Randolph Electric has invested over \$330,000 in these grants.

The grant program is part of REMC’s ongoing commitment to building a brighter future through the support of education.

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## Randolph County

**Kelsey King of Farmer Elementary** (pictured right) in Asheboro won \$1,700 for a STEM activity cart. This all-in-one mobile center is packed full of STEM materials for tons of hands-on projects. The cart will allow for both structured and unstructured activities where students can be creative and use their imagination.

**David Necochea of Eastern Randolph High** in Asheboro won \$1,200 to equip a JROTC Cadet for Life physical fitness program. This program will assemble enough fitness equipment to create a modular, customizable development program so cadets can focus on individual areas of improvement.



Kelsey King of Farmer Elementary

## Moore County

**Lauren Hussey of High Falls Elementary** in Robbins won \$950 for her project, Uh-oh! Better Get Gizmo. Gizmos are virtual math and science labs and simulations that bring powerful new interactive learning experiences to classrooms. Gizmos provide hundreds of opportunities to bring math and science to real life.

**Amanda Britt of Elise Middle** in Robbins won \$1,800 for her project, Integrating Hydroponic Plants, Technology and Math for Enriched Science Education. Students will investigate plant needs to develop a deeper understanding of the conditions necessary for healthy growth and development.

**Jennie Wray of Robbins Elementary** won \$1,000 to equip a digital library. Kindles in the classroom give students more choices to read from trying to spark their interest in reading to growing students that have a love for reading.

## Montgomery County

**Nora Beasley of West Middle** (pictured left) in Mount Gilead won \$1,000 for her project, Lego Spike Education Sets. This project will enhance the school's STEM lab and enable students to actively engage in robotics and programming.

Additionally, she aims to establish a STEM club that can utilize these tools, with the long-term goal of participating in a STEM competition.



Nora Beasley of West Middle with Principal Adam Matthews



Tera Pollard of Mt. Gilead Elementary (right) and Principal D. JaMese Black

## Montgomery County continued

**Michelle Williams of Troy Elementary** won \$900 for her project, Revitalizing Music Education. She will introduce technology for modern, blended and holistic learning experiences.

**Kimberly Simpson of West Middle** in Mount Gilead won \$900 for her project, Wind Turbines STEM Enrichment. Students will work in groups to build wind turbine models and learn about wind power.

**Jaimie McDonald of Star Elementary** (pictured on page A) won \$1,800 for her project, IXL Program for Students. The online program will be used to supplement instruction in the classroom for ELA, math, science and social studies.

**Amy Reynolds of Montgomery Learning Academy** in Troy won \$525 for her project, Serenity Soundscape. She will acquire white noise machines with soothing sounds, students with behavioral challenges can improve their emotional well-being and focus.

**Jack Cagle of Montgomery County Schools** won \$700 to enhance well-being through meditation and soothing sounds in elementary schools.

**Tera Pollard of Mt. Gilead Elementary** won \$500 for her project, Unleashing World Explorers with a Smart Globe. With the smart globe, students will explore global

## How To Apply

If you know an exceptional educator who may benefit from a classroom grant, please encourage him or her to apply for the 2024 grant cycle. Applications will reopen in April 2024 and are collected through mid-September.

geography, cultures and historical events to gain a deeper understanding of the world.

**Elizabeth Divine of Montgomery Learning Academy** in Troy won \$1,000 for her project, Motivating To Learn. She will use the funds to provide an incentive system for positive behavior.

**Jon Lachance of Page Street Elementary** (pictured below) in Troy won \$450 for his project, Tablets for Tots: Empowering STEM Education with Transformative Learning Experiences. Students will have hands-on access to cutting-edge technology, fostering their creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



Jon Lachance of Page Street Elementary

# PHP Board Honors Chrissy Haynes

At the fourth quarter meeting of the People Helping People (PHP) Board of Directors, the cooperative honored chair Christina Haynes for her leadership.

The PHP Board of Directors elected Christina (Chrissy) Haynes as chairperson in Jan. 2022. Haynes is the N.C. Cooperative Montgomery County Extension Director and works in community and rural development. She has served six years on the board.

PHP liaison and Community and Public Affairs Manager Nicole Arnold presented Haynes with a plaque commemorating her service.

"Chrissy's deep insight into nonprofits, her compassion and her



*Chrissy Haynes (left) accepts her plaque from Nicole Arnold.*

empathy for members in distress made her leadership crucial to the mission of PHP," said Arnold.

The PHP Board of Directors consists of seven members. Each director serves a three-year term with the opportunity to renew a term based on the director's desire

to continue and the approval of fellow board members.

Congratulations, Chrissy, and thank you!

# A Letter from Mrs. Santa

*Dear Randolph Electric Member-Owners,*

As I write this letter to you, Santa is getting ready to deliver presents to the homes of the many good boys and girls who live in the Randolph Electric service territory. I am so proud of them because they have been good all year.

There are so many children on Santa's Nice List that he will have his work cut out for him in the REMC area! Santa and his reindeer are planning numerous stops and will have to work quickly to complete all deliveries before Christmas morning dawns.

That's why I wanted to put a special word in the ears of all those who take care of the very good children of Randolph Electric.

I have learned that our friends at REMC are offering a **security light promotion now through the end of this year**. Outdoor security lights are very near and dear to my heart. With security lights, Santa and his precious reindeer have a much easier time finding rooftops and delivering gifts.

Now, Santa doesn't like me to share this information, so we will have to keep this just between us. But I need to tell you that in years past, after Santa has delivered all his gifts and returned to the North Pole, he and his reindeer are somewhat worse for the wear. I have noticed several sprains, strains and bruises, not to mention the beat-up condition of the sleigh.

How do these injuries occur? Well, Santa doesn't want you to know, but on occasion, he sprains his ankle because he can't see so well when he is walking on those rooftops. Last year, Rudolph led the whole team to a barn, and Comet slid down the metal roof!

**What would help Santa and our sweet little reindeer so much is an outdoor security light. And my friends at Randolph Electric have told me that from now until the end of the year, members who have new connections installed can receive**



**the first three months of their security light bills free of charge! Now, that's a special Christmas bonus that benefits everyone.**

**Outdoor security lights are an excellent way to make your place a lot safer for your family, your friends and your annual visitors from the North Pole.**

And you can get them in the standard streetlight model or a more old-timey model, the Traditionaire. Now I won't tell you how old I am, but I will tell you that I tend to like antiques, so we installed Traditionaire models all over the North Pole. This has allowed our elves to host reindeer games well into the night. I am so thankful that these lighting choices allow our hard-working teams to have fun after a long day of making toys and training for Christmas Eve.

Be sure to look at these models on the REMC website. Then go by the office or call REMC and schedule your security light installation as soon as possible. Remember you can still connect a new light in the new year, but the promotion for three months free ends Dec. 31.

Thank you for caring about Santa Claus and our fleet-footed little reindeer.

Merry Christmas!

*Mrs. Santa Claus*



# A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

## GIVING BACK & THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Dear Members,

The month of December is traditionally considered a month of giving. We show our love and appreciation to our family and friends by presenting them with gifts in remembrance of the greatest gift ever given, when Jesus Christ left heaven's glory, wrapped Himself in human flesh and was born into the world.

Giving back to our communities is in Randolph EMC's DNA. Our goal is to strengthen and improve the quality of life in the communities we serve, and we do that in many ways throughout the year. Providing safe, reliable and affordable power with exceptional service is what we strive to deliver every day. But that's just one piece of a larger puzzle that makes up how your electric cooperative improves our local communities.

For decades, your cooperative has supported the Bright Ideas Program that provides schoolteachers with resources to implement creative programs that will improve our kids' classroom experience. To date, \$337,000 has been invested to grow our future generation of leaders.

We also assist local fire departments with USDA zero-interest loans so they can purchase needed equipment to effectively respond during emergencies and keep our communities safe.

Throughout the year, your employees hold several fundraising events to support local programs and organizations. Gift basket auctions, raffles and other fun and creative activities provide opportunities for employees to give of their personal funds to raise money for these agencies that are so important to our communities.

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is an organization we have supported for several years. This organization collects new, unwrapped toys and distributes them as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in our communities. This month, employees' monetary donations will be used to purchase sports equipment for children in Randolph, Moore and Montgomery counties. It warms my heart to know that we've played a part in making a child's Christmas a little brighter by providing him or her with a toy from his or her wish list.



We are a long-time supporter of Relay for Life, as well. This year, at the employee-managed Relay for Life Golf Tournament, an outstanding \$10,500 was raised for cancer research. This brings the total to \$206,500 raised since the inception of this fundraiser. In addition, for 2023, employees collectively donated almost \$23,000 to our local United Way.

### People Helping People

You, our member-owners, also make a difference by supporting our People Helping People (PHP) program. Each month, members participating in PHP have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar. Randolph EMC collects that "spare change" and deposits it into the PHP account. The primary purpose of PHP is to address charitable needs and provide financial assistance to members in Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham and Alamance counties. Since the program began in 2001, PHP has helped families in our communities by donating over \$190,000.

PHP is a tax-deductible, approved 501(c)(3) organization that is

governed by a volunteer board of directors who represent communities throughout Randolph EMC's service area. This is a very dedicated and capable group.

The current PHP Board members are the following: Dianne Brooks, Pauline Brower, Jared Byrd, Lisa Cox, James Upton, III and Amy Williams. Chrissy Haynes, the current Board Chair, is rotating off the PHP board and will be replaced by Paige Roberts. I would like to thank this group for all their hard work and for the care and concern shown to fellow members and the communities we serve. They are responsible for administering the funds for this worthy program. We appreciate their leadership and commend them for their willingness to serve.

Currently, 2,300 members are donating to our PHP program—about 6.9% of our 33,500 accounts. We are so grateful to you who have been a part of this program and are very proud of the work done with that "spare change" over the years. But I'll ask you to think for a moment about what PHP could do if more members participated.

The average donation is just 50 cents per month, so if every REMC account signed up for PHP, we could raise \$201,000 in just one year! Even if just 25% of members participated, we could raise more than \$50,000 in one year. That money would go back into our local communities by assisting members who need a hand up.

In addition, for the last several years, PHP has received funding from cooperative lender CoBank and their Sharing Success program. This program

requires the cooperative to match the dollars awarded.

To date, through this effort, \$126,700 has been administered through our Community Grants program to local nonprofits. Money for the Community Grants program does not come from the "spare change" collected from member accounts; they are kept completely separate.

The spirit of giving is demonstrated by Randolph Electric employees and members, making our communities a better place to call home. Working together, we all can make a difference. As 2023 comes to a close, signing up to support PHP is one of the simplest ways you can help make a difference in our local communities. Please call us at 1.800.672.8212, or enroll online by signing in to your account on REMC's Member Service Portal at [RandolphEMC.com](https://RandolphEMC.com).

As we enter this Christmas season of giving, our hope is that your holidays will be filled with joyous and memorable times spent with family and friends.

We all seem to be pressed for time more than usual during the holidays. Please take time to remember the true reason for the season—the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas to all!

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert  
Chief Executive Officer



Randolph Electric Membership Corporation provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to more than 33,000 member accounts in Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham and Alamance counties.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Electric Service

Asheboro ..... (336) 625-5177  
..... (800) 672-8212  
Robbins: ..... (910) 948-3401  
..... (800) 868-7014  
Report Outage ..... (877) REMC-OFF  
..... (877) 736-2633

Account Info  
& Bill Payments: ..... (877) 534-2319  
Business Hours: ..... 8 am – 5 pm, M-F

### Board of Directors

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Visit Randolph EMC Online

[RandolphEMC.com](https://RandolphEMC.com)

# Congratulations to First-ever RCC Empowered Scholar Sharon Flinn

Member Earns Collegiate Scholarship Endowed by Randolph EMC

Five years ago, Randolph EMC embarked on a journey to create an endowed scholarship at Randolph Community College (RCC) in Asheboro. The goal of the endowment was to aid a local college student and Randolph EMC member achieve his or her education.

Now that the endowment has matured, RCC and REMC are pleased to announce that Sharon Flinn has earned this outstanding achievement.

To qualify for the award, a student must have a grade point average of 3.0 or above and must be a member or REMC or a child of a member/owner of REMC. REMC also honors a student who exemplifies the qualities of integrity, accountability, innovation and community involvement. These characteristics are the values that REMC strives to demonstrate as a cooperative.

Flinn has focused her studies on Business Administration at RCC,

and she plans to graduate with her associate's degree in 2025. Her goal for her study is to acquire the management skills and professional growth necessary to foster successful entrepreneurship. When she completes her degree at RCC, she plans

to continue her studies by obtaining her bachelor's degree.

Flinn enjoys RCC's flexible class schedule, since it allows her to continue working. In her community, she is active at East Side Baptist Church, where she attends a women's Bible study group.

While Flinn is a remarkable example to her son, who also attends RCC, she points to her mother as her primary role model.



*Sharon Flinn with Michael Trent of REMC*

"My mother has been one of the most influential people in my life and has always inspired me to be my authentic self," said Flinn. "She has a positive and optimistic attitude that if you work hard for what you believe in, you can achieve anything you apply yourself to."

REMC congratulates Sharon Flinn for her achievement. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



Students, APPLY NOW!  
The deadline to apply is Friday, January 12, 2024.  
The tour is June 15-21, 2024.  
Call Nicole Arnold at 336.625.5177 or email her at [Nicole.Arnold@RandolphEMC.com](mailto:Nicole.Arnold@RandolphEMC.com) with any questions.

