

DECEMBER 2024

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Providing
Cooperation
among
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A newsletter for the member-owners of



Randolph Electric
Membership Corporation

A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dennis Mabe

The Power of Generosity Cooperatively Making a Difference

Dear Members,

As we embrace the Christmas season, we're reminded of its profound meaning—the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth. This season brings with it a spirit of kindness, hope and renewal, inspiring us to give generously and care deeply for our families and neighbors. We share the belief that together, we can make a difference in the lives of those around us. This sentiment seamlessly aligns with your cooperative's commitment to the Seventh Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community.

My children are adults now, but when they were growing up, I would tell them, "A person's life should be better because you are in it..." This idea is about living life with purpose and intentionality. It means that our presence, actions and interactions should have a positive impact on others. While I'm not perfect by any means, I truly try to live my life by this saying.

Last year, a friend gave me a book titled *The Rocking Chair Prophet* by Mark Kelly. This book explores themes of purpose, fulfillment and spiritual wisdom through the eyes of a wise old man who shares lessons with a young man who is searching for deeper meaning in life.

"Generosity has the power to rehumanize the world."

—Mark Kelly

The Rocking Chair Prophet

One significant topic was generosity. Kelly points out that generosity doesn't always mean giving money; there are many other ways to give. Some of these ways are simply expressing your appreciation for someone or something, visiting a neighbor who is lonely or supporting a local business in your area. Mark Kelly writes, "Generosity has the power to rehumanize the world. Generosity cures sick and injured cultures."

At their core, acts of generosity are rooted in concern for our community and love of others. The desire to demonstrate this concern for our neighbors is one of the reasons our People Helping People (PHP) program was created.

This program embodies the mission and unity that Christmas represents. The PHP program enables members to "round up" their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. The extra change goes into the PHP account, which is used to fund requests for assistance from members in need of financial help because of circumstances outside of their control.

Each participating member contributes an average of just \$6 per year (or about 50 cents per month). This program reflects the spirit of Christmas and celebrates the blessings of our cooperative community all year long.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the PHP Board of Directors for their dedication and stewardship. Their commitment ensures that each contribution is used wisely, helping those in our community with true compassion. Their work behind the scenes makes all the difference, guiding our efforts to serve more people with dignity and care. I encourage you to carry the Christmas spirit forward by signing up for the PHP program this month to support your fellow members.

Lastly, I want to leave you with more inspiring words from Matthew Kelly, "Astound people with your generosity. Use your one short life to do the most good for the most people. Generosity is one of the few things in this world that still has the power to intrigue people."

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a joyful season filled with giving, gratitude and meaningful connection.

**Cooperatively yours,
Dennis Mabe, CEO**



HIGHFALLS ELEMENTARY

Bright Ideas winner and art teacher Brianna Scott (right) and Principal Matthew Moore (left) with kindergarten students at Highfalls Elementary



Randolph EMC Invests in Innovative Education

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

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation recently awarded \$14,000 in Bright Ideas grants to educators. The funds will support classroom projects in the subjects of agriculture, science, art, and more in local schools throughout REMC's service territory.

"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."

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

For 30 years, North Carolina's electric cooperatives collectively have awarded more than \$14 million in Bright

Ideas funding for over 14,700 projects supporting teachers and benefiting more than 4 million students. Since 1994, Randolph Electric has invested over \$350,000 in grants.

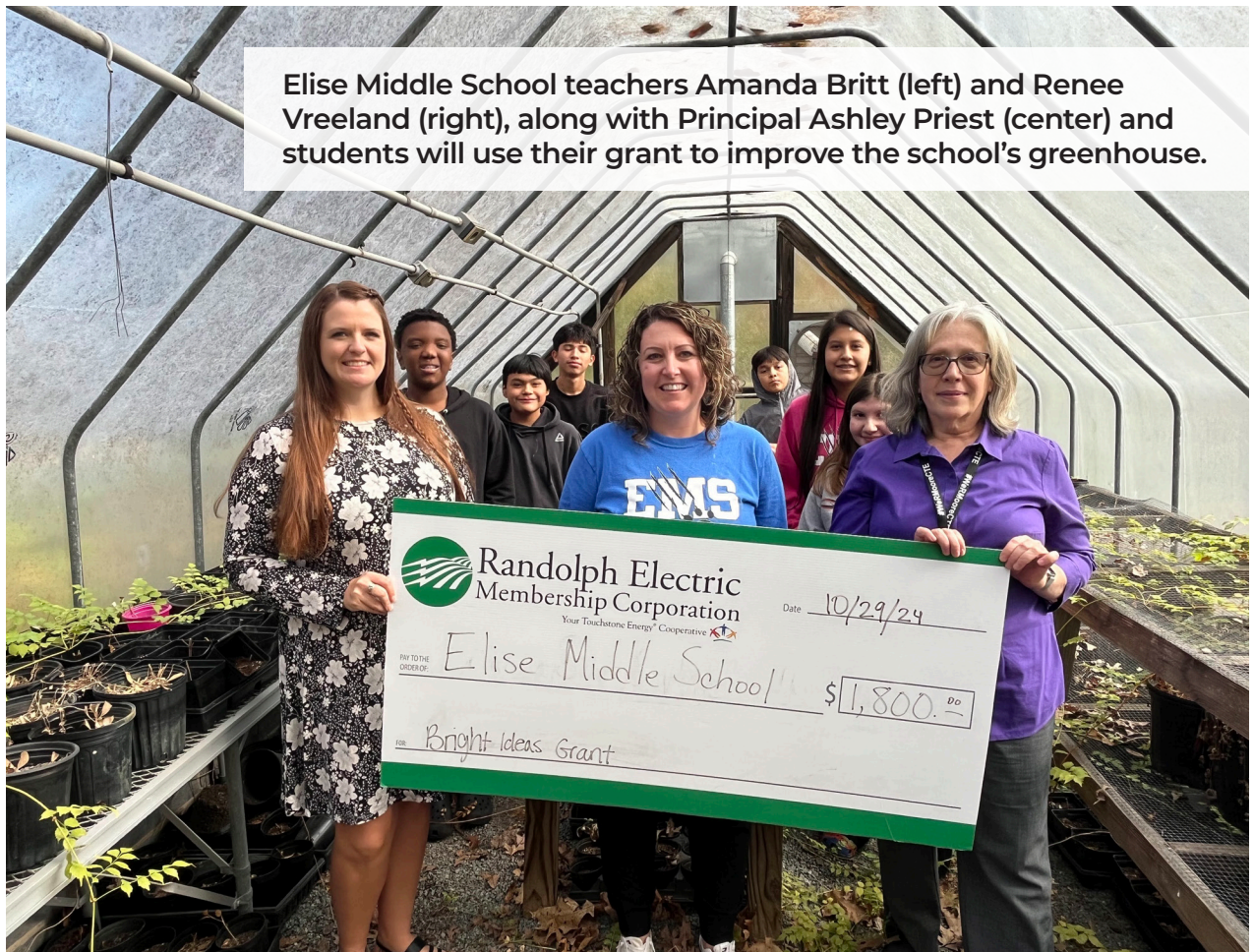
The grant program is part of REMC's ongoing commitment to building a brighter future through the support of education.

Moore County

Brianna Scott of Highfalls Elementary in Bennett won \$650 for a Palette of Possibilities: Tools for Creative Expression. This project enhances the quality of art education by ensuring access to a variety of art materials, fostering creativity and improving fine motor skills.

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Elise Middle School teachers Amanda Britt (left) and Renee Vreeland (right), along with Principal Ashley Priest (center) and students will use their grant to improve the school's greenhouse.

Amanda Britt and Renee Vreeland of Elise Middle in Robbins won \$1,800 to improve the school's greenhouse and establish a Future Farmers of America chapter. Through an introduction to the fields of agriculture, horticulture and agri-tech, students will gain leadership skills, learn about sustainability and prepare for careers in modern farming.

Matthew File of Robbins Elementary won \$1,250 for an autism support curriculum to better aid students with the disorder.

Randolph County

Kristen Toscano of South Asheboro Middle won \$450 for a SAMS Comet Café Cart. One goal of the project is to provide students with essential life skills, including responsibility, teamwork and customer service. A second goal is to improve students' skills in communication, math and daily living through real world applications.

Cassandra Salabak of Guy B. Teachey Elementary in Asheboro won \$1,200 for low-tech coding and

creative engineering. This project will teach students how to code at a young age and will improve their persistence, resilience, logical reasoning and problem solving.

Yuliya Skeen of Farmer Elementary in Asheboro won \$600 for her project, Introducing Young Minds to 3D Printing. She will demonstrate how science and math work together to produce amazing creations with this engineering tool.

Jessica Hoffmire of Uwharrie Charter Academy Elementary in Asheboro won \$1,215 for her project, STEAMing it up in the Kitchen. The focus of the project is to provide students with culinary engineering experiences.

Melissa Brown of New Market Elementary in Asheboro won \$1,000 to construct an outdoor learning environment. In a sensory-calming garden, students can de-escalate from over-stimulation and can focus on sensory-seeking tasks if experiencing hyposensitivity.

Montgomery County

Nora Beasley of West Middle in Mount Gilead won \$1,000 for her project, Enhancing Learning with Star and Galaxy Projectors. This project will elevate the STEM learning experience for third-grade students by integrating solar system models into the classroom environment.

Shawanna Long of West Middle won \$420 for her project, Rocking Wolverines: Exploring Rocks and Minerals. This project aims to enhance students' understanding of Earth's systems through hands-on exploration of rocks and minerals.

Christy McIntyre of West Middle won \$410 to introduce sixth-graders to various ecosystems. This hands-on initiative will enhance understanding of energy flow and ecological interactions within different environments.

Miranda Duell of West Middle won \$380 for a project that will increase sixth-grade students' comprehension of electrical circuits and energy transfer through interactive, hands-on learning.

Tera Pollard of Mt. Gilead Elementary won \$500 for her project, Enhancing STEM Education with a Smart

Weather Station. Her goal is to help students better understand earth's systems and their influence on weather and climate patterns.

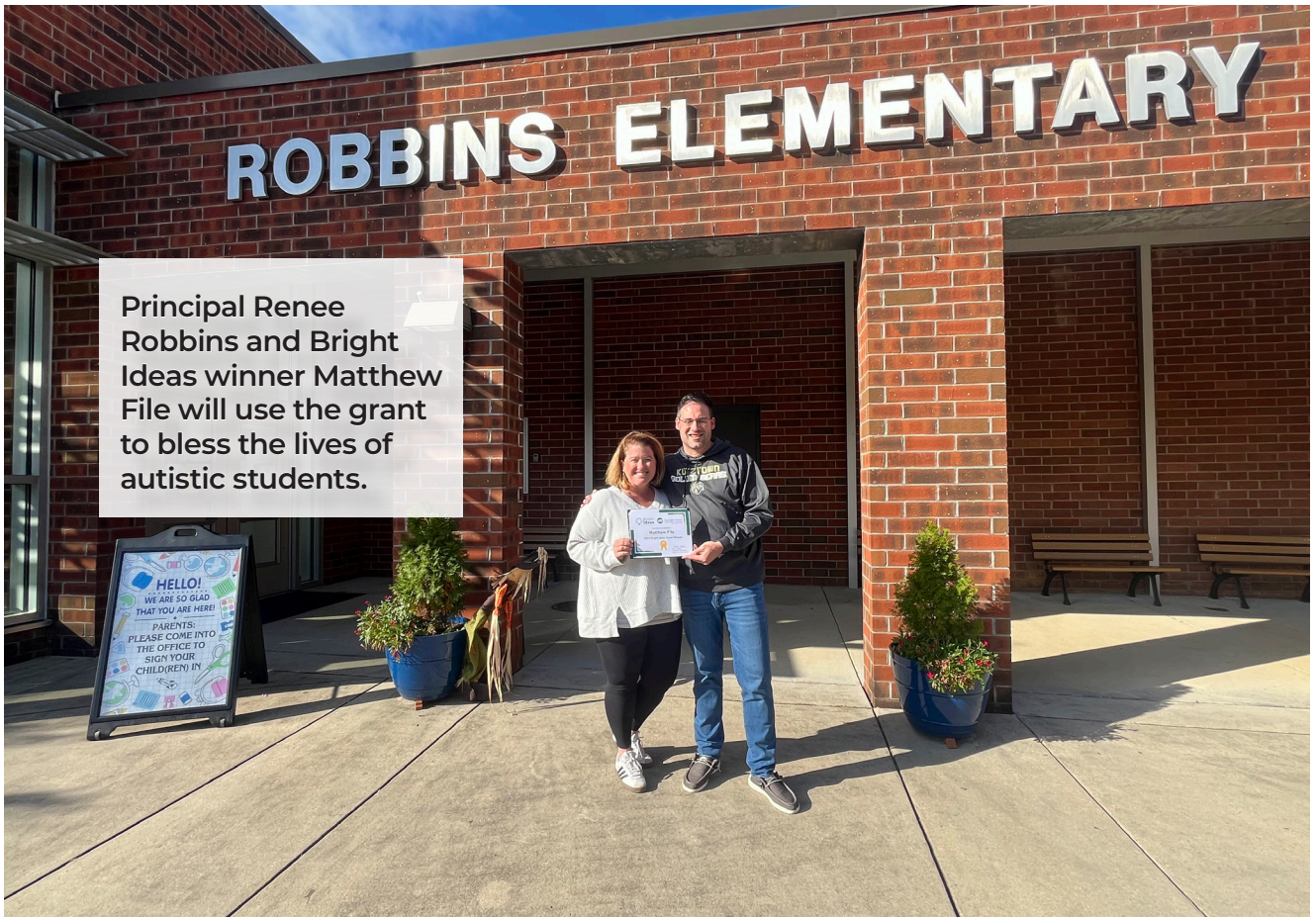
Samantha Aguilar of Page Street Elementary in Troy won \$450 for her project, Empowering Tomorrow's Innovators: Sparking Interest in Green Energy. The project's tactile kits will allow students to explore renewable energy concepts.

Hollie Ritter and Lauren Williams of Green Ridge Elementary in Biscoe won \$1,500 to create a space for children with sensory needs. The project provides a calm, supportive environment for preschool students who demonstrate special needs or difficulties with overstimulation or other sensitivities.

Chatham County

Christa Daniel of Chatham Central High in Bear Creek won \$1,750 for her project, Explore Learning Gizmo. This program allows students to assume a real-world profession and investigate multiple options leading to the best solution. Some examples include reorganizing the water treatment process to prevent a disease outbreak, adding species back into an ecosystem to restore the population's balance and investigating the movement of planets in space.

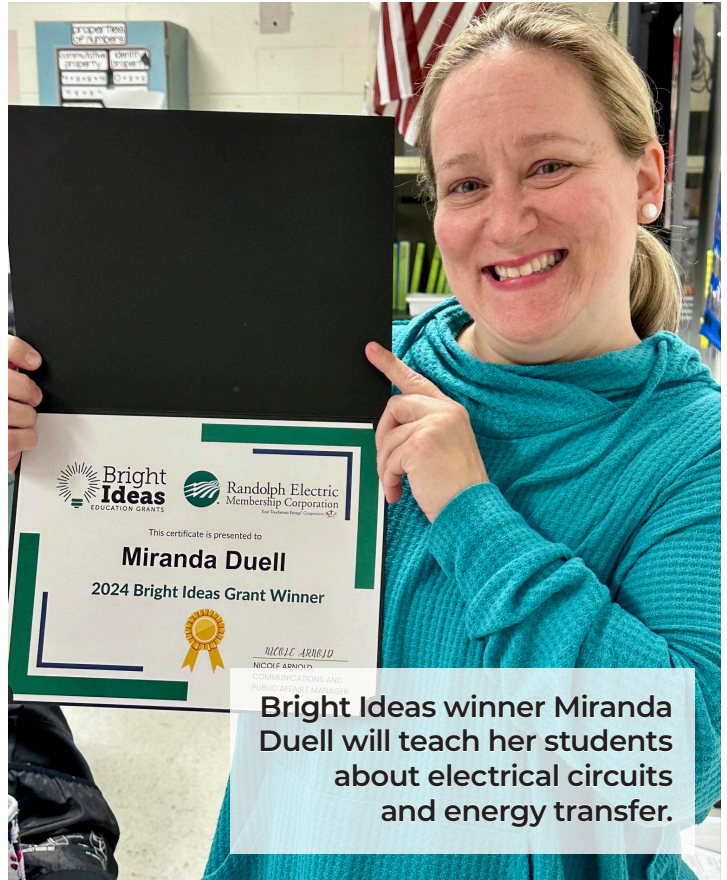
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How To Apply

If you know an exceptional educator who may benefit from a classroom grant, please encourage him or her to apply for the 2025 grant cycle. Applications will re-open in April 2025 and are collected through mid-September.

More information about Bright Ideas can be found at RandolphEMC.com or by contacting Nicole Arnold at Nicole.Arnold@RandolphEMC.com or 336-625-5177.



Warm Hearts Win Cool Prizes!

Round up your electric bill for PHP and be entered to win this **Yeti Cooler Gift Bundle!**

Winner to be announced on Facebook Friday, Dec. 13



Scan to enter



Current and new sign-ups eligible now through Dec. 12



People Helping People

Round Up to Give a Hand Up with Randolph EMC

RandolphEMC.com/people-helping-people

MERRY CHRISTMAS



AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our offices will be closed
Tuesday, Dec. 24,
Wednesday, Dec. 25,
Thursday, Dec. 26,
and Wednesday, Jan. 1,
in observance of the holidays.



Wishing you a joyous and
festive Christmas filled with love,
laughter and cherished moments
with loved ones.



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

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Nicole Arnold Editor

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RandolphEMC.com

Congratulations to RCC Empowered Scholar, Nicole Bernabe Garcia

Inspired by healthcare workers to who aided her daughter, mother now seeks to become a nurse

A little over two years ago, Randolph EMC member Nicole Bernabe Garcia's world turned upside down. In August 2022, her four-year-old daughter was diagnosed with cancer.

The healthcare journey brought healing to her child and a profound sense of gratitude to Garcia.

"By the grace of God, she is nearing the end of treatment," said Garcia. "Throughout the entire process the nurses and physician assistants at Brenner's Children's Hospital became family. It's because of their care and dedication that I was inspired to become a nurse myself."

Garcia enrolled at Randolph Community College (RCC) in Asheboro and became eligible for Randolph EMC's endowed scholarship. REMC's Empowered Scholarship seeks to honor a member or a child of a member-owner of the cooperative. To qualify, a student must have a grade point average of 3.0 or above and exemplify the values of the cooperative, including integrity, accountability, innovation and community involvement.



Garcia hopes to join the nursing program at RCC and eventually plans to transfer to UNC-Greensboro to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She hopes one day to work in the pediatric oncology unit so she can help other families during their cancer journeys.

REMC congratulates Nicole Bernabe Garcia on her outstanding achievement. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



NC Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour

High School Sophomores and Juniors can apply now through Friday, Jan. 17, 2025. The tour takes place June 15–21, 2025. Call Nicole Arnold at 336-625-5177 or email her at Nicole.Arnold@RandolphEMC.com with questions.

