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Contact: Missy Santorum: (843) 384-2419
fax: (843) 208-5553
e-mail: msantorum@palmetto.coop

Area Teachers Win Bright Ideas grants

Palmetto Electric Cooperative and Palmetto Electric Trust awarded \$29,010 in the sixth annual Bright Ideas grant program Wednesday, October 14 and Thursday, October 15 to winning teachers and their team members. This year, a total of 43 grants will benefit more than 7,000 students in southern Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper counties.

The Cooperative's Bright Ideas Patrol presented the money where it will be spent – the teachers' classrooms. Representatives from the Cooperative and the Trust greeted teachers with balloons, gift bags and their checks at each school. Next month, the cooperative will host a luncheon at Palmetto Electric's New River facility to honor the teachers and their administrators.

The Cooperative invited teachers earlier this year to submit proposals for innovative classroom projects. Last month, 84 grant applications, totaling over \$76,330, were received from teachers in the three counties.

Area winners are:

- Robbie White, *Saving Our Community History*, Fennell Elementary School
- Sally Williams, *WWW (It's a Wide Wide World)*, Varnville Elementary School
- Monique Smalls, *Introducing the C.A.S.T (Culturally Aware Students and Teachers)*, Varnville Elementary School
- Robin Hiers, *Creative Cubs*, Varnville Elementary School
- Michelle Altman, *HEARTS (Helping Educate All Regarding Technical Science)*, Wade Hampton High School
- Carole McGrath, *A Good Knight Story*, Wade Hampton High School
- Lindsey Bush, *"Truth Be Told"*, Wade Hampton High School
- Cheryl Griner, *I'm "Acting Out" Because I Read It, But I Don't Get It*, Hampton One Academy for Success

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- Robert Hanna, *You're not Educated, Until you are Physically Educated*, Hampton Elementary School
- Julie Huber, *APB – Acknowledging Positive Behavior*, Ben Hazel Primary School
- Kaye Hill, *Author! Author!*, Brunson Elementary School
- Kendra Thacker, *Project STRAW: Stories Told, Researched and Written*, Estill Middle School
- Sabita Sudhakaran, *Reflecting Telescopes*, Estill Middle School

The Bright Ideas grants are for local school teachers in grades K-12. The grants give teachers money to put innovative classroom projects into action.

Palmetto Electric Trust is supported by funds from Operation Round Up®, a program in which the Cooperative's members round their electric bill up to the nearest whole dollar. The program is a true example of how small change...changes lives. Additional funding was provided by Palmetto Electric's Million Dollar Hole-In-One Shootout and WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification) Chapters.

Palmetto Electric Cooperative, a member of Touchstone Energy®, is a not-for-profit, consumer-owned power cooperative providing electricity to over 68,000 consumers in southern Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton counties.

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