



Co-op Chronicle

November/December 2023



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Giving Back: UDWI REMC Community Fund

The UDWI REMC Community Fund, Inc. is a non-profit organization created in 2004 by the cooperative to provide members with an avenue to make a difference in their communities. The program allows members to round up their energy bills to the next whole dollar to generate and maintain the fund. Every quarter, nonprofit organizations located in the UDWI service territory have an opportunity to apply for a portion of these funds. The UDWI REMC Community Fund, Inc. Board of Trustees review the submissions and issue grants accordingly.

In 2022, the Fund distributed over \$55,000 to local nonprofits across 40 charity organizations, and 27 so far in 2023. To date, \$1,066,000.00 has been donated to local nonprofits!

One such organization, the Lyons Community Food Pantry, received a grant in June. This organization aims to help those in need by providing food items to the local community. The pantry receives donations from churches, local nonprofits, and residents.

The grant will be used to purchase food items to stock their shelves. The pantry runs on a grocery store model of distribution where recipients select the items they need based on the size of their household. Recipients can shop for food supplies twice a month.

A food pantry volunteer told UDWI they noticed the difference the organization was making and wanted to help. They recognized the increased cost of food and how difficult it can be for families to make ends meet and wanted to make sure that no child goes without food.

Started in a church basement, the Lyons Community Food Pantry outgrew its original location and now operates from the former town fire station. Distributions are held the first Saturday of every month from 9-11:30 AM and on the third Monday of every month from 3-5:30 PM. The pantry serves residents of Lyons and Switz City. Recipients are not required to enroll; the pantry is free. The organization is always looking for donations and volunteers. Anyone interested in helping may find contact information for the pantry at the bottom of the page!

As we head into this holiday season, UDWI encourages its members and employees to give back to our community in any way that works best for you. Whether you can volunteer or donate to a local food bank, participate in a toy drive, or round up your electric bill to donate to the Fund - anything you can give back makes a difference! Our Facebook page will share volunteer and donation opportunities this holiday season (and beyond!), so be sure to follow our page for more information and co-op news.

The Fund is now accepting applications for its next grant cycle. All nonprofit businesses in our service area are encouraged to apply! Please visit our website to learn more about the program and to start an application - the submission deadline is November 29.

To donate or volunteer with the Lyons Community Food Pantry, please contact 812-381-2133.



UDWI Fiber Partnership Updates

Smithville Update:

- Phases 1-6 are open for orders
- Phase 7 is still on track for 2024 design and construction



South Central Indiana REMC Update:

- Freedom Central and Freedom Northeast are finishing construction and drops to homes will be starting soon. Drops to homes are ongoing in Freedom West and Freedom Northwest. Engineering is complete for Freedom South and Freedom East, and mainline construction will begin shortly for Freedom South.
- If you are interested in receiving fiber internet service, please register as soon as possible at join.sciremc.com.

Customer Service Spotlight

This past October, UDWI celebrated National Customer Service Appreciation Week! This is an international celebration of the importance of customer service and the people who serve and support customers on a daily basis. In the last year, our team has taken over 26,000 calls and established accounts for over 100 new members! We are blessed with a great team who truly cares about the work they are doing.

Huge thank you to our team for everything that you do for our members, and hope you know we appreciate you everyday!



Danielle Marshall



Jennifer Field



Jessica Brown



Nikki Burns



Stacy Henry

Energy Assistance Programs for Members

As we enter the winter season, UDWI wants to remind its members of the **Energy Assistance Programs (EAP)** offered in our area to help reduce the financial strain many will face this season.

We encourage all UDWI members to contact their local energy assistance offices to see if they qualify for assistance, especially those with significant past due balances. Income guidelines, how to apply, and many other details can be found on the website of your local energy assistance office.

Below are the offices and counties they serve:

Lawrence and Martin Counties: **Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corporation**

Daviess, Greene, Knox, and Sullivan Counties: **Pace Community Action Agency**

Monroe and Owen Counties: **South Central Community Action Program**

Clay, Putnam, and Vigo Counties: **Western Indiana Community Action Agency**

Qualifications for UDWI REMC Board of Directors

Three candidates will be elected at the 2024 annual meeting. **Districts 5, 7, and 8 are up for election.** Candidates will be elected to serve a three-year term.

Interested candidates must contact the UDWI office to receive a candidate packet.

Completed packets must be turned in on or before Wednesday, January 24, 2024.

To be eligible to become a director of the REMC, a person must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be a member of the cooperative;
2. Must be a bona fide resident in the district which he/she is to represent;
3. Must not be in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the REMC, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to members of the cooperative;
4. Must not be a close relative of an incumbent director or an employee of the REMC.

Office Information

Upcoming Holiday Closures:

Veterans Day - November 10, 2023
Thanksgiving - November 23-24, 2023
Christmas - December 25-26, 2023
New Year's Day—January 1, 2024

Meter Testing Continues

UDWI meter technicians continue with routine meter tests in our entire service territory. Each employee will be driving a white utility van with our logo placard; identify these items before approaching any vehicle that may be in your area. Report suspicious behavior to local law enforcement. Like us on Facebook to stay up to date on current testing locations.

