



## *Press Release*

*June 2004*

### *Kankakee Valley REMC Makes Contribution to PDS Workshop*

Kankakee Valley REMC's community outreach program, Operation Round Up, made a contribution to the sheltered workshop at Pulaski Developmental Services (PDS). The sheltered workshop, a United Way funded program, provides employment for adults with developmental disabilities.

Individuals who work at PDS are offered employment in light industry, including assembly and packaging services. While employed, consumers earn wages consistent with their work performance. Jobs are done for several local industries, like Webb Printing, The Braun Corporation and Galbreath, Inc. However, there is not always enough work to maintain fulltime employment. When jobs are not available, PDS staff provide other kinds of programming to consumers. Monies gained from donations like this one from Operation Round Up help pay for this programming.

Consumers involved with the workshop are a productive part of the community. They provide services for business and industry, they earn money to spend in the community, and they pay federal, state and local taxes.

Peak Community Services is the umbrella agency for Woodlawn Center in Logansport and Pulaski Developmental Services in Winamac. The agency provides employment and vocational, educational, residential and supported living programs to adults diagnosed with a developmental disability in Cass, Pulaski and surrounding counties. Peak Community Services is a United Way agency. Peak Community Services celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> year of doing business in September 2004 (Woodlawn Center) and April 2005 (PDS).

#### **SMALL CHANGE THAT CHANGES LIVES**

Since the time Kankakee Valley REMC was formed in 1939, they have been dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in northern Indiana. They accomplish this by active involvement in a number of important community support programs. One of their most successful community efforts has been the Operation Round Up® program.

Founded by Palmetto Electric Cooperative in 1989, and adopted by Kankakee Valley REMC in 1999, Operation Round Up has been an incredibly successful way to help the community. Through Operation Round Up, Kankakee Valley REMC automatically rounds up a participating member's electric bill to the next highest dollar. That pool of money is then allocated to a variety of worthy causes throughout the service area. With the possible participation of over 16,000 customer members, the money raised through Operation Round Up has the potential to make an



overwhelming difference for the community.

The average donation per participating member is approximately \$6 per year; the most they can contribute is \$11.88 per year. Small change indeed. But multiplied by 16, 000 customers, it is "small change that changes lives."

Every donation is made to applicants in our local area, and all of the contributions go to worthwhile needs, not to the administrative costs of running the program. What is most rewarding about the concept of Operation Round Up is that it is an extension of the concept of neighbor helping neighbor that built the electric cooperative.

The Operation Round Up Trust is separate entity from the REMC with its own board of directors consisting of leaders within the community. The Operation Round Up program is intended to benefit people and organizations within the Kankakee Valley REMC service area. Operation Round Up funds may be used for community service projects, economic development, education and youth programs, environmental projects, emergency energy assistance and disaster relief. Operation Round Up funds may not be used for political purposes.

The Operation Round Up funds are kept in a trust fund and are dispersed as directed by the Operation Round Up board. Individuals and organizations within (or serving within) the Kankakee Valley REMC service area may apply.

The Operation Round Up program is voluntary. Each new customer is automatically signed up to participate, but any customer who wishes not participate may notify REMC by calling the office at 219-733-2511 or 800-552-2622. Any customer who previously decided not to participate and has now changed their mind, may sign up for Operation Round Up by calling the REMC office.

Applications are available at the Kankakee Valley REMC office. Interested parties can contact the Corporation office at (219) 733-2511 or (800) 552-2622 for information regarding the Round Up Program or to receive an application. The application may also be downloaded from the website. The completed application must be submitted to the Operation Round Up Trust Board for consideration at their next scheduled meeting.

Information about Operation Round Up was obtained from the Kankakee Valley REMC website. Please visit the site to get an application - or to see a list of fund disbursements - at <http://www.kvremc.com>.