



The official
publication
of the members of
Indian Electric
Cooperative

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Cooperative Members Help Local Girl Fight Leukemia

Members stand behind family through participation in Operation Round Up® program

At 7 years old with bright brown eyes and dark hair spiraling down her back, Madi McCurry is the picture of health.

The fourth of seven children, Madi's world is an active one. When she's not in her first grade class, she's playing with her siblings, or holding a squirming Labrador puppy that is one of two recent litters, or running in the pasture to check on the family's miniature horses, including a colt born on St. Patrick's Day which she has named Shamrock. A little shy at first, Madi's natural curiosity about the world around her soon overcomes the shyness and then no one is a stranger.

Madi, short for Madisyn, is relatively healthy now, but she hasn't always been so fortunate. She was diagnosed with acute myelogenic leukemia when she was 2 years old. Madi has spent a lot of her young life traveling back and forth from her rural Cleveland home to doctors' offices and hospitals, taking medications and undergoing treatments to battle the frightening disease. Madi's story is touching because this cute, active little girl and her family did nothing to cause this disease to take up residence in their lives. It's simply a case of a bad thing happening to good people.

As difficult as it was at times, Madi's parents, Shawna and Brett, are quick to point out the blessings they say they have received throughout her illness. One of the first ones they mention is the help they received from IEC's Operation Round Up® program.

Currently in its ninth year, Operation Round Up® is based on the voluntary participation of co-op members who allow their electric bill to be rounded up to the next highest dollar each month. That amount is held

in a fund administered by the IEC Foundation, a nine-member board separate from IEC's Board of Trustees. The Foundation regularly reviews applications and disburses funds to help people such as the McCurrys.

Brett is employed with the Ford glass plant in Broken Arrow and has what the McCurrys describe as good insurance. "They have been good to pay for Madi's medical expenses," says Shawna, although the company has changed insurance providers three times in

see Madi McCurry on page 4...



Spotlight on the IEC Foundation

IEC members appointed to oversee Operation Round Up® share their thoughts on the program

Operation Round Up® is beneficial to more than just the people or organizations needing financial assistance. Members of the IEC Foundation who review the applications and disburse the funds, are touched by the people they meet through the program and feel they benefit from being able to help a neighbor.

“Operation Round Up® is a wonderful program,” says Janice Burgess, Terlton, who has been on the board since the program’s beginning. “I have a lot of people tell me we’ve helped them when they had no other avenue available to them. I like being a part of that; I haven’t grown tired of it.

“Being on the board has made me more informed about the needs of our communities,” she adds. “There are so many people in the same boat, needing help. People will stop me and say ‘I appreciate you so much’ and I’m so thrilled I can help them.”

Jackie Larkin, another original Foundation member, from Oilton agrees it’s a wonderful program.

“We’ve been able to do a lot of good,” she says. “I especially like it when we’re able to help children or families with children. It’s sometimes hard on your heart to hear about these situations, but I enjoy being able to help.”

Marlene Braught of rural Sand Springs says she’s impressed with how the program has been able to help so many people.

“For the amount of money we have to work with, it’s amazing how many people we can help,” she says, adding it’s harder than she thought it would be to sit on the Foundation board and learn of the needs in the area.

“I’m glad we can help senior citizens who don’t have any family nearby and who fall ‘between the cracks.’ We’ve been able to help them buy glasses and false teeth; things we don’t really think about needing, but that are very important to someone who doesn’t have them.”

“I agree with Marlene that I’m amazed at the number of lives this program has been able to impact,” says Anna Harris of Sand Springs. “We have helped fire departments, youth organizations like FFA, and so many, many children who were in need. Operation Round Up® is quite a bargain for less than \$12 a year.”

Virgil Cravens of Fairfax says being able to do good for people who find themselves in bad situations is rewarding to him. “I’m proud we’ve been able to help people get life’s basics, like groceries, pay rent or house payments. I’ve learned the needs are there and I enjoy being able to help.”

Not being the stereotyped big assistance agency is impressive to J.W. Casper of

Pawnee. “We review the applications, make the decisions and use the money as we feel best helps someone,” he says.

“We aren’t restricted like some big agencies are.”

“This is a satisfying, fulfilling way to serve people,” says IEC Foundation president Gene Perry of Westport. “This organization meets the needs of both individuals, families and organizations when many of them don’t have anyone else to turn to. I am proud to be a part of it.”

“It’s very rewarding to know we have such a caring program available,” Jack Ditto of Cleveland says. “It’s personally rewarding for me because I can see the genuine gratitude of the people we’ve been able to help.”

Jan Moore, of Mannford and the Foundation’s newest member, is impressed with the number of people helped by Operation Round Up®. “At my first meeting, I was blown away by the number of applications we receive and the number of people we help. I realize it’s impossible to help everyone, but we do try to help as many as we can and I feel good about that. Because any one of us could find ourselves in these situations.”

**THE
LAMP**

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The Operation Round Up® Challenge

IEC members participating in Operation Round Up® donated more than \$55,400 to worthy causes during 2002. Nearly \$20,000 has gone to 13 charitable organizations and 22 families since January 1 of this year. You can be a part of this exciting community effort by signing up for Operation Round Up® on your IEC account.

Since the Round Up® program simply rounds your bill up to the next highest dollar amount, your participation will never cost more than 99 cents per month for a maximum contribution of \$11.88 per year. No part of the funds raised go to Indian Electric and donations are never used to pay utility bills of any kind.

Sixty percent of IEC members currently support Operation Round Up® efforts. An increase in participation of just 10 percent could raise as much as \$14,850 over the next year for schools, fire departments, charitable causes and families in need. We challenge you to exam your bill this month. If Operation Round Up® does not appear in the detail area of your statement, give us a call at (918) 358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750 and sign up to take part in this valuable community-building effort. For more information, or to register for Operation Round Up® online, visit our web site at www.iecok.com/roundup.



Virgil Cravens
District 9

RECIPE



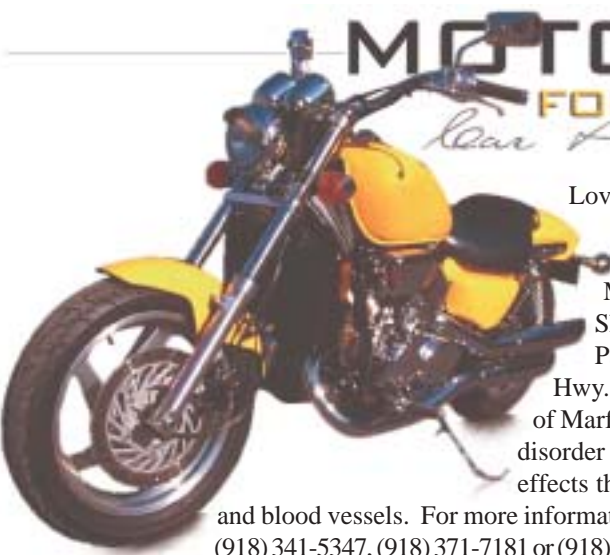
Tortilla Pinwheels

- 8 oz. dairy sour cream
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 4 oz. can diced green chilies, drained
- 4 oz. can chopped black olives, drained
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- Garlic powder to taste
- Lawry's® Seasoned Salt to taste

Mix all the filling ingredients together thoroughly. Divide the filling and spread evenly over tortillas; roll up tortillas. Cover lightly with plastic wrap, twisting ends; refrigerate for several hours. Unwrap; cut in slices (an electric knife works best). Lay pinwheels flat on a glass serving plate, garnish with parsley. Leave a space in center of plate for small bowl of salsa, if desired.

Community Calendar

- April 15** **Town Meeting with Congressman Frank Lucas**
3-4 pm - Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce
- April 19** **Handy's Free Easter Egg Hunt**
11 am - Ben Johnson Cultural Park - Pawhuska, OK
- Lion's Easter Egg Hunt & Warriors' Kids' Run**
Memorial Stadium - Pawnee, OK
- Springfest**
Courthouse Square & Pawnee Bill Ranch - Pawnee, OK
- April 20** **Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast**
Pawnee Bill Ranch - Pawnee, OK
- May 2-4** **OSTA Steam & Gas Engine Show**
Steam Park - Pawnee, OK



MOTORING FOR MARFANS
Car & Bike Show

Love bikes and cars? Then join other enthusiasts from around the state on April 26 for the first Motoring for Marfans Car & Bike Show. The show, held at Feyodi Park just south of Cleveland on Hwy. 64, will raise funds for research of Marfan Syndrome — an inherited disorder of the connective tissue that affects the lungs, eyes, skeleton, heart and blood vessels. For more information on participating, call (918) 341-5347, (918) 371-7181 or (918) 862-3625.

Madi McCurry

...continued from page 1

the past few years. "The hospital requires a co-pay up front, and there are other expenses that go with Madi's illness and taking her to Houston."

The McCurrys take Madi to famed M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. They try to take the least expensive route, whether it is flying or driving. And although the medical facility has a Ronald McDonald House and a Rotary House International for families of sick children, they are usually full. "A lot of the hotels around the hospital offer discounted rates for families of seriously ill children," she says. "But there are expenses that also go with being down there for her treatments." Shawna says a normal trip to Houston lasts three to five days, although they have been there for longer periods also. She says the minimum cost associated with these trips is between \$400 and \$500.

Although the McCurrys participate in Operation Round Up®, they had never considered asking for assistance from the Foundation. "We completed and sent in the application after an interested IEC employee sent it to us," explains Shawna.

After receiving the application, IEC Foundation board member Janice Burgess contacted the McCurrys to learn how the Foundation could best help them. Janice then told the board of plans to perform a transplant on Madi in early 2002 using stem cells from two of Madi's younger siblings. The Foundation agreed it could help the McCurrys meet some of their financial obligations and costs associated with the Houston trips.

"I was speechless when I received the letter saying they had approved our application," says Shawna. "To say we appreciate it just doesn't say enough. We were so blessed by the Foundation's actions. It made me realize that just when we thought everything was going down hill, something like this would happen to get us up again."

Madi's progress is monitored regularly and she is scheduled to return to Houston in early April to have a tumor behind her eye removed, but Shawna says Madi's doctors don't feel the tumor is related to leukemia. "The doctors tell us she is cured of the leukemia and Madi tells me not to worry about anything; she's in God's hands," says Shawna.