

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

3596 Brumbaugh Road  
P.O. Box 75

New Enterprise, PA 16664-0075  
814-766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177

FAX: 814-766-3319

Website: [www.newenterpriserec.com](http://www.newenterpriserec.com)

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**Monday through Friday**  
**7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

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**814-766-3221**  
**1-800-270-3177**

## From the General Manager/CEO



# Thank you and so long!

By Rick L. Eichelberger

IT TOOK some time get here, but this will be my final appearance in your *Penn Lines* manager's column. Yes, after more than three decades, I am retiring at year's end. I must laugh now when someone digs out one of the early columns and I see the long-haired, bearded guy with my name next to it. Funny, you do see a lot more beards these days, so maybe I was on to something. I suppose if you wait long enough, things do come back around. Change is inevitable.



Retirement is a welcome change, but leaving something that's been a part of your life for so long is never easy. I began this job in 1985, and I've seen a lot of changes in that time. The one constant has been the cooperative and its commitment to you. Safe, reliable and affordable electricity never gets old.

After more than 30 years in this industry, I am convinced the cooperative business model is the ideal fit for providing electric service to our communities. As a member-owned business, New Enterprise Rural Electric is invested in the communities it serves. The not-for-profit cooperative model allows for margins — revenue above what is needed to maintain and

upgrade the electric system — to be returned to the members in the form of capital credits. This practice keeps money in our rural areas — instead of seeing it go to distant shareholders. That's a commitment to community you don't see from a lot of businesses these days.

As I take my leave, I urge you to keep supporting your cooperative. Elect dependable directors from your areas and you will find the employees of New Enterprise Rural Electric will not fail you. It takes all of us to make this system work.

I want to thank everyone for their support and friendship along the way. Being able to live and work in the same area I grew up in has made my career very rewarding. If we only take the time to open our eyes a little wider, there is so much beauty in our Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon areas. So, as I potentially have more time on my hands, I intend to look at more things a little closer. Of course, I will need to retrain my mind to look away from utility poles and wires. That will be a challenge, but I'm sure I will find other things to do with my time. Maybe I'll start that beard again.

Thanks again for everything. It's been my honor and pleasure to serve as your general manager and CEO. 

# Fabric of Faith shows love to community

By Brawna L. Sell

“It isn’t how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.” — Mother Teresa

We see people in need all around us. We know there are people in our communities who could use some help. There are many reasons why this help is needed, but that doesn’t matter. People need help. This need was seen by a few women of the Yellow Creek Church of the Brethren, and they decided to do something about it.

After prayer, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative consumer-member Debbie Steele, Debby Spring and Jennifer Koontz felt God was telling them to start a clothing bank at their church. So, they took a leap of faith and started a clothing bank. The name God provided for the clothing bank was Fabric of Faith. In 2009, the clothing bank opened its doors for the first time at the Yellow Creek Church of the Brethren.

It wasn’t long before many more people — young and old — wanted to help and got involved in this great ministry.

“We are so blessed with kind and caring people who volunteer,” Koontz says.

The founders say God has provid-



HELPING OUT: Ruth Ann Mearkle pauses for a photo break while helping at the clothing bank.



FOUNDERS: From left, Jennifer Koontz, Debbie Steele and Debby Spring are the founders of Fabric of Faith, which began in 2009.

ed the location, the workers, money, clothing and other items needed in the community.

Once the clothing bank was open, they needed a way to let people know they were open. They found that family, friends and Facebook were great ways to spread the word. Business cards were designed and handed out at Love In The Name of Christ (Love INC) in Everett. Ads were placed on the radio and the Shoppers’ Guide. At the 2013 Everett Christmas Parade, gloves were handed out to people along the parade route.

The upstairs location at the church worked for many years, but the clothing bank began to outgrow the location so the search was on for a new building. At the time, the Northern Bedford School District no longer required a doublewide trailer that had been used for classrooms.

Organizers thought this would be the perfect building for a new clothing bank. The group placed a bid for the trailer and was awarded the building. It now sits beside the church. Money

was raised to remodel the doublewide before the job of moving items could begin. Early in 2016, the one-time classroom building was ready to house the Fabric of Faith clothing bank. This building also doubles as the church fellowship hall.

Many items of clothing, shoes/boots, furniture, household items and home décor are donated, but money is also



needed to help families in need. Fundraising has been very important. Organizers have had an auction, and prepared and served

meals for the church, other churches, and local groups.

From a clothing bank that started with a few families cleaning out their closets, the project has transformed into a clothing bank that serves its community well. It is a place for families to get clothing and other items throughout the year.

Back-to-school and Christmas shopping are a financial hardship for many families who are struggling to make ends meet. The clothing bank can help relieve the stress of coming up

with money to purchase clothes or the stress of increasing balances on credit cards. Sometimes the need is beyond what Fabric of Faith has, but they may be able to provide money to a person or family.

The group is happy to see people leave with large bags of clothing and



other items. Children's bright, excited faces are worth more than words can say. Some of these children may have found the shoes they had always want-

ed, the perfect shirt or a pair of jeans that fit just right.

Fabric of Faith is like a mall for many. If it wasn't for the church's clothing bank, many people would go without "new" clothing, footwear and supplies.

The clothing bank doesn't have set hours. Whenever there is a need, their "open" hours are just a phone call away. You don't need any money when you go shopping at Fabric of Faith. Everyone is eligible for this great service. All are welcome. You may have all the clothing you need, but you know someone who doesn't. The clothing bank can fill that need. A few healthcare workers stop by and pick out clothes for their patients.

A clothing drive is held at least every other month. Advertisements for the clothing drive are in the Shoppers' Guide, on a local radio station or on Fabric of Faith's Facebook page. People from Bedford, Blair and Fulton counties donate items to the clothing drives.

Remember what season it is or what is just around the corner when donat-

ing. Please donate clothes that fit the season.

Donated items include: men's, women's, children's, and baby clothes and footwear, furniture, appliances, dishes, and home décor. Children's and baby clothing are the fastest-moving items.

One time, the clothing bank received the full contents of a deceased person's home. Before donating large items, please call to see if the clothing bank can use the items.

Christmas is just around the corner. Why not go through your closets and donate this Christmas season? Hats, gloves, coats and winter boots are needed in the cold winter months. You will make many smiling faces with your donation. 🙏

## WANT TO DONATE? CALL:

**Debbie Steele** 814-928-4634

**Debby Spring** 814-928-4320

Visit Fabric of Faith's Facebook page.

## There is help paying your electric or heating fuel bill

THE Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income families pay their heating bills. The program started Nov. 1, 2017, and ends April 6, 2018.

To receive help:

- ▶ You don't have to be on public assistance,
- ▶ You don't need to have an unpaid bill, and
- ▶ You don't have to own your home.

Two grants are available: cash and crisis.

Cash grants help families pay their heating bills. This is a one-time payment that is sent directly to the utility or fuel provider. Cash grants range from \$200 to \$1,000. These grants are based on your household size, income and type of heating.

Crisis grants are for an emergency situation where you are in danger of losing your heat. You can receive more than one crisis grant during the

season. The maximum benefit amount is \$500.

Emergency situations include:

- ▶ Broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be repaired or replaced,
- ▶ Lack of fuel,
- ▶ Termination of electric service, or
- ▶ Danger of being without fuel or of having utility service terminated.

To apply for this program, go to [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) or call your county assistance office:

Bedford County – 800-542-8584 or 814-623-6127

Fulton County — 800-222-8563 or 717-485-3151

Huntingdon County — 800-237-7674 or 814-643-1170

Bring the following information when applying:

- ▶ Names of people in your household,
- ▶ Dates of birth for all household members,

- ▶ Social Security numbers for all household members,
- ▶ Proof of income for all household members, and
- ▶ A recent heating bill.

You may qualify for a LIHEAP grant if your household income meets the income guidelines listed below:

Household Size	Household Income
1	\$18,090
2	\$24,360
3	\$30,630
4	\$36,900
5	\$43,170
6	\$49,440
7	\$55,710
8	\$61,980
9	\$68,250
10	\$74,520

For each additional person add \$6270.

# KIDZcorner



## Attention high school juniors

**THE** Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C., for a week in June every year for more than 50 years. New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) believes students should see their nation's capital up close. This is an outstanding opportunity to learn about democracy and leadership. The trip isn't all about learning; there is time spent enjoying historical sites of Washington, D.C., attending an All-States Dance, a trip down the Potomac River, and a night at the theater. These are just a few of the "fun" activities you will experience while on Youth Tour.

New Enterprise REC has been a strong supporter of the Youth Tour program. Each year, New Enterprise REC sends high school juniors on this fabulous trip to our nation's capital. The 2018 Youth Tour will be held June 10-15, 2018.

The requirement list is short. You must be a high school junior who attends Forbes Road, Northern Bedford, Southern Huntingdon or Tussey Mountain, or are home-schooled. Your parents or legal guardians need to be consumer-members of New Enterprise REC.

Nearly 50,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America have participated in this program. Some Youth Tour alumni have gone on to design airplanes, to lead companies and to serve in the highest ranks of our government, including the U.S. Senate. Don't be surprised if you run into a former Youth Tour participant who is a congressional aide on Capitol Hill. While several of Youth Tour's alumni work in Washington, D.C., you will find even more alumni in your own community.

### ORIGINS AND HISTORY

Nearly 60 years ago, then-U.S. Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago. The senator and future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

What started out as a few young people working during the summer in Sen. Johnson's office is now an event that brings more than 1,800 high school students from across the United States to Washington, D.C., every summer.

### SUPPORT OF NEW ENTERPRISE REC DIRECTORS

New Enterprise REC directors believe it is important to teach students why electric cooperatives were created and how government works. Students come away from this outstanding trip with memories and friendships that last a lifetime.

Still not sure if this trip is for you? Why not check out the Youth Tour's website: [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop)? On this website, there are student, parent, educator and alumni sections, plus other sections. You can go to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Facebook page.

If you are interested, contact Brawna at the cooperative's office at extension 4602 or by email at [bsell@newenterpriserec.com](mailto:bsell@newenterpriserec.com). Information will be sent to each school's guidance counselor and will be added to our website in December.



ON TOUR: 2016 Youth Tour Students are, from left: Madison Burket, Maize Husick, Danika Reed, Kara Wright, and Baylee Swope.

## Food drive

Last year, we held a food drive from November to January and gave the donated food to three local food banks. Thank you for being so generous.

Once again, we will have our food drive through January 2018. All non-perishable food, hygiene products or paper products are welcome to fill our truck (right) many, many times. Some suggestions for items to donate include: canned meats and stews, soup, peanut butter, cereal, pasta, rice, baby products, toilet tissue, paper towels, or health and beauty products. 🌟

