

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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From the General Manager/CEO



Our history, our future

By Rick L. Eichelberger

ONE OF my favorite quotes has always been, “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Yet sometimes remembering our history with the goal of repeating it can actually be a good thing. As the nation’s 30,000 cooperatives celebrate National Cooperative Month this October, it is a great time to take a look back — and a look forward.

Take the history of your electric co-op: New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) was founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. Big investor-owned power companies thought they couldn’t generate enough profit so they bypassed rural areas. The citizens of several of our communities actually built and maintained their own “rural electric lines” a decade before any rural electric cooperative in the country was formed. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of the cooperative to take over and maintain these lines and establish additional lines. Once established, annual meetings were the

“must-attend” event of the year. The co-op — on behalf of the member — committed to provide the community with electricity.

Fast forward to today — and tomorrow. New Enterprise REC currently serves about 3,600 member accounts. We have returned nearly

\$1 million to our members since 2012 in capital credits.

We understand the spirit that helped create this co-op must be continually nurtured. While times and

technology will continue to change, our commitment to you will not.

Although we started out to provide electricity, our impact (with your support) has grown.

As we continue to look toward the future, you can be confident that New Enterprise REC will commit to explore new ways to help our members and our community.

Over the years, as we’ve listened to you and your fellow co-op member, we know that we have to keep pace as technology and consumer tastes evolve. As always, we welcome your participation as we plan for the future. 



'Giving is not just about making a donation; it is about making a difference'

By Brawna L. Sell

NEW ENTERPRISE Rural Electric Cooperative member Ila Jean Diehl is making a difference by using her talent of sewing. She began making dresses to include in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes a few years ago.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children with the good news of Jesus. These

gifts are shipped outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease, and children living on Native American reservations in the United States.

In 1990, Operation Christmas Child was started by Dave and Jill Cooke from the United Kingdom. Three years later, the Wales-based shoebox gift project merged in a partnership with Samaritan's Purse. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to over 146 million children in more than 100 countries. For many of these children, the packed shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

Jaki Steward shared her story about what a difference a simple shoebox made in her life on Sept. 12, 2017, at the Bedford Presbyterian Church. Jaki was left at an orphanage in Guatemala by her young mother when she was only a few months old. Sharing a room with 12 other girls, Jaki learned to protect the few possessions she had.

Cuddling the stuffed animal, she received in her shoebox, Jaki felt special, loved and cared for. She finally had something to call her own. Jaki also received a toothbrush in her box. Most Americans wouldn't think a



ANTICIPATION: Two small girls peek into their shoebox with curiosity.

toothbrush could be special, but it is if you have to share a toothbrush with nine other girls. Jaki now lives in the United States after being adopted. She is packing shoeboxes to share the love of Jesus with other children who are growing up like she did.

Along with toys, hygiene products, school supplies and clothing, the boxes are filled with the most beautiful treasure, "The Greatest Gift," a booklet

in more than 75 languages sharing 11 scripture stories and an invitation for children to follow Christ.

Ila Jean has a friend from Martinsburg, Pa., who also makes small dresses for Operation Christmas Child. So, she was able to get the pattern from her. Before these dresses can be packed into shoeboxes to head to other countries, they must be approved by Operation Christmas Child. After the approval, Ila

PHOTO BY OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Jean started to make her special gifts. Her enclosed porch is her work room. As she sews, she can look out at her vegetable garden, flower beds and the wooded area around her home.

Some of these little dresses are made from pillowcases, while others are made from T-shirts, tank tops and material given to her by friends. If the material is plain, she adds ruffles, lace, buttons, or ribbons to make the dress more decorative. Baby onesies are also fancied up with ruffles and lace.

Yard sales are great places to purchase T-shirts, tank tops or pillowcases. Material is used wisely. "Leftovers" or scraps aren't thrown away; they are used for smaller dresses or ruffles. We are in the age of re-using, re-purposing and recycling, a practice Ila Jean has been doing for a long time.

A stack of these beautiful dresses sits on Ila Jean's table ready to be folded small enough to fit into a shoebox. She doesn't have an exact number of how many she makes each year; it depends on her available time.

Ila Jean's days are very busy. She volunteers at the Southern Cove Fire Company Auxiliary at different events. When you go to a turkey meal on a Sunday, know that Ila Jean was one of the ladies who prepared your delicious dinner with all the trimmings.

As you drive up to her house, you will see beautiful flower beds and her vegetable garden. She said she has been asked why she grows such a large garden. With a smile, she answers, "To give the produce away." When I was there, she was baking cookies for a neighbor.

Ila Jean's gifts and talents are used to help people near and far. She makes gifts for the battered women in our area. She can take a simple washcloth and make it into a useful gift for women who have left their abusive homes. She folds the washcloth into thirds with the ends lightly stitched shut. The terrycloth then becomes a small carrier for soap, a toothbrush, toothpaste and deodorant, an item approved for distribution by the American Red Cross. She works on

these over the cold winter months.

"I'm a giver, not a receiver," she explains.

After talking to Ila Jean for a short time, you know this is true. She has a very giving heart and always helps whenever and wherever she can.

If you would like to fill an Operation Christmas Child shoebox, it isn't too late. Why not make this a service project for your youth group, your 4-H

club or the local Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups?

Shoeboxes can be dropped off in Breezewood, Buffalo Mills, Clearville, Fishertown, Hopewell, Imler and Snake Spring (exact locations, dates and times were not available at this writing). For more information and to find a drop off location near you, go to: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>. 🌟



PHOTO BY LINDA WILLIAMS

PROUD: Ila Jean Diehl holds two of her special dresses. One is made from a T-shirt and the other from a pillowcase.

KIDZcorner

Electricity questions and answers

Why does electricity go out during a storm?

Answer: There are multiple reasons why you could lose electricity during a storm. First, of course, is the weather. Winds, heavy snow, and ice can all cause trees or heavy branches to fall on power lines, knocking them down. Lightning could also hit power equipment or trees near it.

Another cause is if a motor vehicle hits a power pole and damages or breaks it. Construction equipment like cranes and excavation machinery can also sometimes damage power poles or lines.

Lastly, we occasionally need to de-energize lines in an area so workers can safely perform maintenance.

What would we do without electricity?

Answer: Without electricity, we would have to use kerosene or propane to light our homes, and we wouldn't be able to watch movies, use computers, or talk on cell-phones or cordless phones (because we wouldn't be able to charge them).

So, we would hand-write everything, we would talk on old-fashioned landline phones, we would hand wash and dry our clothes and dishes, and we would have to keep our food cool in an ice chest buried in the ground! And this doesn't even begin to explain how our schools, businesses, manufacturing and transportation would be affected. Life would certainly not be the same without electricity.

How do you get electrocuted?

Answer: Death from electric shock, known as electrocution, can happen if you come in contact with electricity from any source, including a power line, electrical appliance or power cord. Even a small amount of electricity from a string of holiday lights can kill a person. That's why it is so important to stay far away from power lines, and to learn to use electrical appliances, lights, and cords safely. (You can also be electrocuted if you are struck by lightning, so make sure you know how to stay safe during thunderstorms as well.)

How do the power lines go around the world?

Answer: Power lines don't exactly go all the way around the earth, but they do stretch long distances between power plants where electricity is generated, and the homes and buildings where it is used. Power lines run from power plants along tall transmission towers to substations, where their voltage is reduced by transformers. From there, electricity travels along distribution lines, and then along service wires to homes and other buildings. This complex network of transmission lines, distribution lines and service wires is what energizes the world.

Can you use static electricity to charge things and appliances?

Answer: In principle, yes, you can. But it's not very practical. Here's why. Static electricity means an imbalance of electrical charge inside or on the surface of some material. Most materials are electrically neutral because the positive and negative charges inside their atoms balance each other out. A static charge builds up where electrons (what electricity is made of) migrate so that one area has a net positive charge and the other has a net negative one – but where there's no way for current to flow between them. That energy, though, still has to come from somewhere. One example is the little spark that jumps from your fingers to a metal door handle if you've been shuffling around on carpeting. A static charge from the friction builds up on your skin and grounds itself through the handle. The famous inventor Nikola Tesla, dreaming of abundant free energy, developed a device that could capture the tiny static charge in ordinary air. It was enough to light up a small bulb. But a generator gives you a much bigger and more consistent flow of electricity – and if the generator is powered by wind or solar energy, the electricity is still basically free once the equipment is paid for.

Get the jump on drafty windows

Windows provide our homes with light, warmth and ventilation. But when winter sets in, they can have a downside.

Placing your hand against a window pane on a chilly fall morning proves the point: if the pane feels cold, it's a good bet you can reduce energy costs by either insulating your existing windows or installing new, energy-efficient upgrades.

Insulating with draperies is a low-cost, quick fix to drafty windows and can reduce heat loss from a room up to 10 percent. And they're just as helpful in hot summer months by blocking sunlight. White plastic-backed drapes can reduce heat gain by up to 33 percent.

Interior storm window panels are another low-cost fix (available at most hardware stores), and consist of flexible or rigid plastic installed over or adhered to existing window panes. Installation is fairly simple, and panels are either taped on or mounted with Velcro, magnetic strips, or snap-in seals. Put them up in autumn and remove them in spring to reduce winter heat loss by up to 50 percent.

If you're in the market for new windows, be sure to choose energy-efficient models that will shave heating, cooling and lighting costs year-round.

Energy Star® has established a set of energy performance ratings, tailored to four climate zones across the United States, to guide you in selecting windows perfect for your home. These performance ratings are broken into several categories, although the two most basic are U-Factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC), which can be found on window stickers or packaging.

In simple terms, U-Factor measures how easily heat can flow through a window, not counting direct sunlight. The lower the number, the more energy efficient the window.

SHGC measures how much heat from sunlight can be absorbed by the window. A high number means the window remains effective at collecting heat during winter. A low number provides greater shading ability and may be best for Southern climates.