

Community Commitment

Since the beginning of America's electric cooperatives, there has been a time-honored tradition of neighbors helping neighbors. We thank all Firelands Electric Co-op members who take part in this program and applaud your efforts to help make our community a better place to live for our children, families, neighbors, and friends.

In May 2023, Firelands' Operation Round Up reached a historic milestone by surpassing \$1.3 million in charitable donations since its founding 1995!

Operation Round Up Funding

The People Fund can provide financial assistance to individuals for extraordinary or special needs, such as funding for fire victims or special equipment for the blind, paraplegic, or others. It is meant to help with one-time needs that cannot be fully met through other agencies. For individuals, the maximum amount awarded is \$2,500. A grant must be used for a specific purpose, and the vendor must be paid directly.

For organizations, funding can be used for lifesaving equipment, educational programs, food banks, childcare programs, or to expand or add much-needed programs in the local community. For organizations, the maximum amount awarded is \$10,000.

Requests Not Funded

The People Fund is not meant to pay electric or other recurring bills. It is not intended to be a "sole source" of funding or provide normal operating expenses for already existing programs or organizations.

Funding Considerations

The Board of Directors looks at a variety of considerations when reviewing applications:

- Is it a special or extraordinary need?
- Are other sources of funding available for this request?
- What is the benefit to the community, cooperative members, and the general service area?
- What level of community support is there for this request?

FAQs

What is the People Fund?

The People Fund is a community service program that provides funding for charitable and benevolent purposes to individuals, families, and organizations in our communities.

What is Operation Round Up?

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by hundreds of electric cooperatives throughout the country. This program "rounds up" your monthly bill to the next highest dollar, with the change going into the People Fund. For example, a \$124.79 bill would be rounded to \$125.00 and the 21¢ would be donated to the People Fund. For the average member, that equates to about 50¢ a month, or \$6 a year. All donations are tax deductible.

What are the funds used for?

Funding can be used to help support a family devastated by a fire, or it might go toward helping defray the cost of a special wheel chair for a neighbor who can't afford one. Funds can also go to help a local fire department obtain critical lifesaving equipment or to rescue organizations, food banks, educational projects, libraries, child care programs, and much more.

How to apply for assistance?

Those interested should complete an application form. Applications for funding are reviewed several times each year by the People Fund Board, which makes all decisions about funding requests.

Operation Round Up applications and information can be obtained at Firelands Electric Cooperative's office or at www.firelandsec.com/operation-round.

Contact Firelands Electric People Fund Coordinator Shelley, with questions by calling 1-800-533-8658, or email roundup@firelandsec.com.



Scan QR code for additional info



Firelands Electric People Fund, Inc.

MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LOCAL AREA... WITH SMALL CHANGE!



Firelands Electric People Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 32 • 103 Industrial Drive
New London, OH 44851
1-800-533-8658
www.firelandsec.com

In 1995, Firelands Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees established the Firelands Electric People Fund. Also known as Operation Round Up, this charitable trust fund is voluntarily supported by members of the co-op, and is governed by a separate group of volunteers appointed by the cooperative's board of trustees.

The People Fund collects more than \$40,000 each year from Firelands Electric Cooperative members who allow their monthly bills to be "rounded up" to the next whole dollar. Operation Round Up then distributes these funds, through charitable grants, to local organizations and individuals with special needs or extreme hardships.

The average "round up" is just 50¢ a month, or \$6 per year. Firelands Electric members are automatically enrolled in Operation Round Up, but may opt out if they notify the office that they wish to be removed from the program. As of March 2024, 84% of the cooperative's eligible members were supporting the fund.

Virtually all funds in Operation Round Up are distributed in our local communities. The People Fund board members are not paid, and the small expense for operating the Fund is borne by Firelands Electric Cooperative. A list of recently awarded grants is available online at www.firelandsec.com.

People Fund Service Area

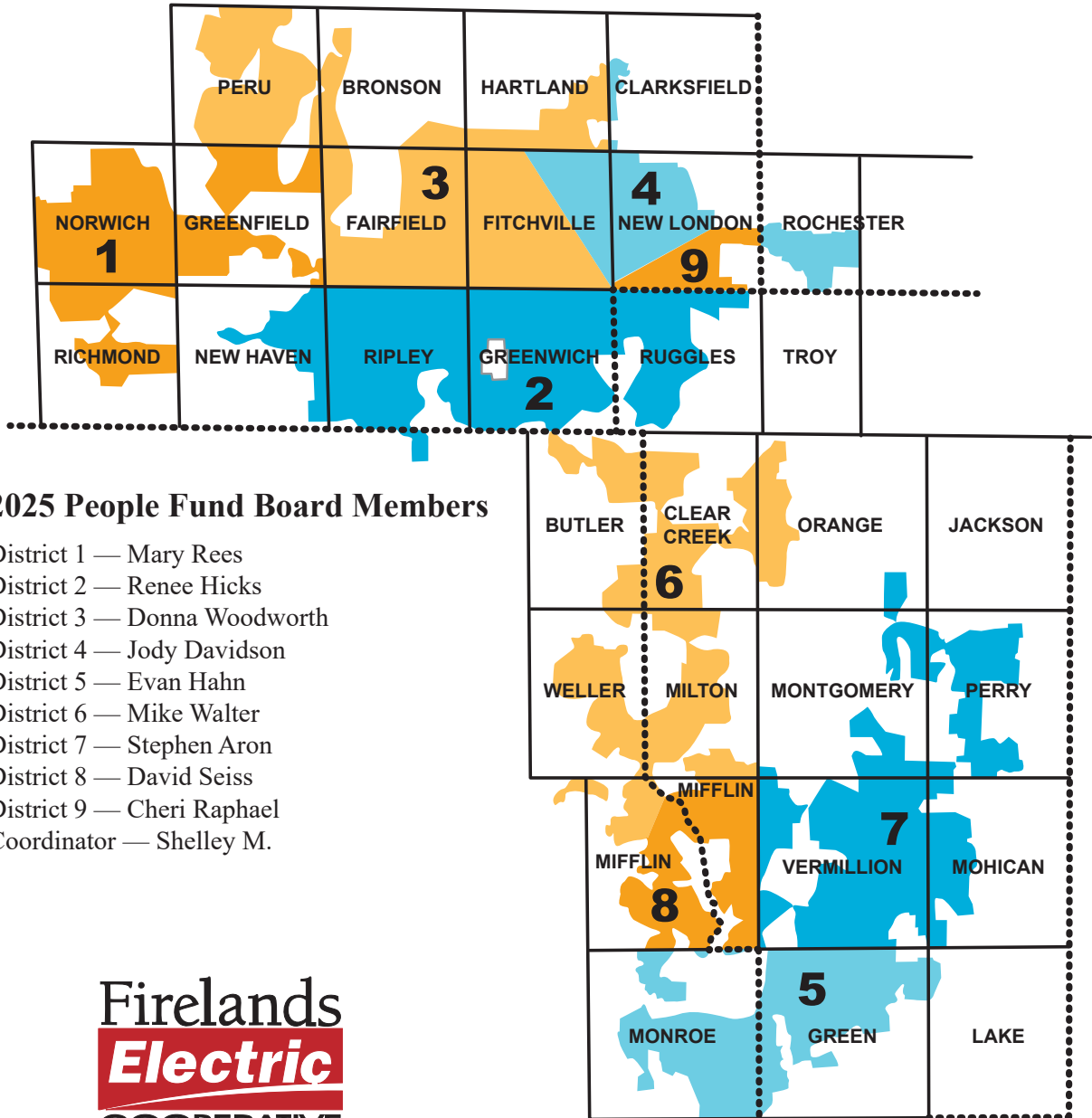
Organizations

Ashland, Huron, and Richland counties; Rochester and Brighton townships in Lorain County

Individuals

Ashland and Huron counties; Rochester and Brighton townships in Lorain County; Blooming Grove, Butler, Cass, Madison, Mifflin, Monroe, Plymouth, and Weller townships in Richland County

Firelands Electric Cooperative District Map



2025 People Fund Board Members

- District 1 — Mary Rees
- District 2 — Renee Hicks
- District 3 — Donna Woodworth
- District 4 — Jody Davidson
- District 5 — Evan Hahn
- District 6 — Mike Walter
- District 7 — Stephen Aron
- District 8 — David Seiss
- District 9 — Cheri Raphael
- Coordinator — Shelley M.



Making a Big Difference in Your Local Area....With Small Change!