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## 2012 named International Year of Cooperatives

Electric cooperatives and other members of the co-op family are taking center stage globally this year, by designating 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives.

The celebration began in October 2011 when U.S. cooperatives traditionally celebrated National Cooperative Month. The International Year of Cooperatives' theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," resonates with co-ops in the electric, banking, food, retail, housing, and marketing arenas.

"We're surrounded by a diverse mix of cooperatives," states Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives and public power districts. "No matter what kind of co-op you belong to, two things are clear: we put people first, and we are innovators. By getting

neighbors and communities to work together, co-op members build a better world."

### What are Co-ops?

Cooperatives are a global network of independent, local businesses owned by those they serve.

"We share a common set of business principles and values like self-help and democracy," explains English. "Each co-op exists to meet the needs of its members."

According to the Washington, D.C.-based National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA), more than 29,200 cooperatives nationally employ 2 million Americans. One in every four Americans is a co-op member, but the scope of the cooperative network doesn't stop at the border.

"Co-ops are a major economic force in industrialized countries and provide a powerful business model for



developing nations," notes Paul Hazen, NCBA president & CEO.

More than 1 billion co-op members exist worldwide, and co-ops generate 100 million jobs globally.

Cooperatives strive for sustainable development of communities through member-driven policies, with co-op leaders elected by members.

### Lighting the World

Electric cooperatives like CHEC are leaders, delivering power and light to 42 million consumers in 47 states covering more than 75 percent of the nation's landmass. CHEC, founded by members of our community in 1945, serves 5,593 members on Hatteras Island.

Not only does 2012 mark a global celebration of the cooperative business model, it also marks the 50th anniversary of NRECA International Programs, a division of NRECA. The theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," shines in the work NRECA International Programs does every day.

In the United States, co-ops helped electricity evolve from a luxury to an essential part daily life. Yet more than 2 billion people around the globe still live without power—64 million in Latin America, 500 million in Africa, and more than 1 billion in Asia.

Learn more about how you can help electric co-ops build a better world at [www.NRECAFoundation.coop](http://www.NRECAFoundation.coop). For more information about co-ops, visit [www.go.coop](http://www.go.coop).

### Important Notice for Cape Hatteras EC members

The Committee on Nominations will be considering qualified candidates for two seats on the CHEC board of directors. The board seats for District 2 (Frisco) and the District at Large will be elected in 2012. The incumbent directors, Tami Thompson and Elvin Hooper, have indicated their interest in seeking re-election.

Any member of Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative who is interested and qualified and would like consideration as a nominee for the board of directors, should submit his or her name and resume to the Committee on Nominations by the deadline of 5:00 pm Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012.

Any 50 or more members of CHEC, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing by petition. Nominee(s) by petition must be listed in compliance with the By-Laws and the petition delivered to CHEC before Friday, March 2, 2012. Qualifying nominees by petition will be included on the ballot for election.

Additional information is available from Susan Flythe, General Manager, at (252) 995-5616 ext. 224 or [susanf@chec.coop](mailto:susanf@chec.coop).

# CHEC celebrates Bright Ideas month by awarding local deserving teachers

Throughout the month of November, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, including Cape Hatteras EC, awarded Bright Ideas education grants to deserving teachers across the state. The grants make possible innovative, classroom-based projects that would otherwise go unfunded. This year, CHEC will contribute a total of \$3,000 to two teachers on Hatteras Island. All together, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives will collectively contribute nearly \$600,000 to fund more than 550 Bright Ideas projects this year.

Sheree Markley, second grade teacher at Cape Hatteras Elementary School, was awarded a grant for her project, "Outdoor Learning Center." This grant will allow for a Learning Center to be created in an open, outdoor area with six handicap-accessible picnic tables. The space will include several simulated animal habitats made from natural materials by the students. The tables will be covered with a pergola to provide shade and shelter and create a natural station for the observation of wildlife.



Evan Ferguson and student with an Otis Spunkmeyer advertisement.

Evan Ferguson, marketing education teacher at Cape Hatteras Secondary School, was awarded a grant for her project, "Otis Spunkmeyer School-Based Enterprise." The grant will help fund the purchase of equipment and supplies needed to start a school-based enterprise selling Otis Spunkmeyer cookies. Both the marketing classes and CHSS chapter of DECA will bake the cookies, display and package them, market the products, set up point of sale during school lunch and other events, and be responsible for finances.

To find out more information about the Bright Ideas grant program,



Sheree Markley stands on the future site of the Outdoor Learning Center.

visit our website at [www.chec.coop](http://www.chec.coop) or the Bright Ideas website at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com). Become a fan of "Bright Ideas Education" on Facebook to receive regularly updated news about the program.

## CHEC welcomes new employees

Cape Hatteras EC welcomes Mark McCracken of Hatteras Village and Josh Austin of Buxton as linemen trainees. They both started at



CHEC on Oct. 30, 2011. Mark and Josh will begin the extensive five year training program that is required to become a journeyman lineman.

## Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships: Applications now online!



North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, including Cape Hatteras Electric, are providing all-expenses-paid scholarships for 27 deserving young women to attend the Kellie Harper Basketball Camp at N.C.

State in Raleigh and 27 young men to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC in Chapel Hill this summer. Both camps will be held during the month of June and will work closely with each camper to develop fundamental skills that will help the young athletes excel both on and off the court.

CHEC will send one girl and one boy to the 2012 camps. Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to apply. CHEC will begin accepting applications on Jan. 3, 2012. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2012.

Applicants will be judged on their academics, extra-curricular activities and accompanying essay. Students can download an application at [www.ncelectric-cooperatives.com](http://www.ncelectric-cooperatives.com).

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camps program provides a unique educational and athletic opportunity for outstanding students across our state and is yet another way the cooperatives are demonstrating their commitment to North Carolina communities.



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