



JUNE 2026

REA Members Support Their Communities!

Operation Round Up Distributes **\$20,100** in June!

Through the contributions of Runestone Electric Association's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board approved **\$20,100** to assist local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

REA's Operation Round Up Trust Board, a voluntary board of seven REA members, reviewed and considered 44 grant applications and distributed funds to 40 projects and programs. Community-based projects and programs have received over \$1.3 million since the program's inception in 2003. On average, participating REA members contributed \$6.50. Proof that small change adds up. Best of all, 95% of all funds collected are distributed as grants.

The deadline to apply for the next round of funding is **August 7, 2026**

Complete the application form at www.RunestoneElectric.com.

The following area organizations shared \$20,100 in grants.

Grant Recipients:

YOUTH

- » City of Starbuck – Kids Safety Camp (\$600)
- » Brandon-Evansville Trapshooting Team – Supplies (\$300)
- » Kids' Groundwater Festival (\$500)
- » Stevens County 4H – Robotics program (\$500)
- » Support Our Kids – Mental health program (\$500)
- » Zion Lutheran School Community playground improvements (\$500)
- » Radiothon to End Child Abuse -(\$600)
- » Minnewaska Trap Team – Supplies (\$300)
- » Alex Brush & Pallete Club – Youth community art fair (\$200)
- » Brandon/Evansville Summer Rec – summer ball and swim lessons (\$500)
- » Kalon Prep Academy – Post graduation event (\$300)

SENIOR

- » Pope County Council on Aging – Summer and fall events (\$500)

COMMUNITY

- » Wendell Legion & Auxiliary – Supplies for fundraiser (\$300)
- » Garfield Community Club – Garfield Days (\$250)
- » Gather and Give – Operation expenses (\$500)
- » Piece Makers Quilt Group – Supplies (\$300)
- » Alexandria Splashpad – Accessibility equipment (\$1,000)
- » Lake Area Quilters – Supplies (\$300)
- » West Moe Lutheran Church – Community barn dance (\$200)
- » Love Inc, DCLA – Transportation/bike ministry (\$1,000)
- » Mid-Minnesota K9 – Operational expenses (\$500)
- » Barrett Old Settlers Reunion – Kiddie carnival (\$300)
- » Douglas County Housing & Redevelopment Authority – Transportation assistance (\$500)
- » Sharing Love & Hope – Food pantry (\$1,000)

Fire Departments & First Responders

- » Leaf Valley Fire Department – Update SCBAs (\$1,000)
- » Lowry Fire Department – Pagers (\$1,000)
- » Garfield Relief Association – Turnout Gear (\$1,000)
- » Glenwood Fire Department – Rescue tool mount (\$1,000)



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Grant Recipients Continued:

Cemeteries

The following cemeteries received \$300 for maintenance and improvements:

- » Lake Ben Cemetery Association
- » St. Luke's Cemetery Association
- » Trysil Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery Association
- » Oscar Lake Church Cemetery Association
- » Aeneas Cemetery Association
- » Brandon Cemetery Association
- » Bethel Cemetery Association

Calling all non-profit organizations!

Area organizations are encouraged to apply for Operation Round Up grants. The deadline for the next round of funding is May 8, 2026. Application forms can be completed online at www.RunestoneElectric.com.

Operation Round Up® Group Photo



Representing some of the organizations receiving REA Operation Round Up grants in February include: First row l to r – Susie Sieben, Barrett Old Settlers Reunion; Natalie Runge & Callie, Mid-Minnesota K9; Diane Zeithamer, Sonya Anderson and Greg Billberg, Support Our Kids (SOKs); Marion Wrolson, Trysil Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery Association; and Heather Netland, Kalon Prep Academy. Second row l to r – Harold Peterson, Brandon Cemetery Association; Judy Hoffman and Deb Quernemoen, Shalom Lutheran Piece Makers Quilt Group; Rhonda Blaser, Vikingland Band Festival; Aaron Feltman, LOVE, Inc.; Barb Ziegelman and Lacey Baumann, Garfield Community Club; Alisa Henrichs, Brandon-Evansville Summer Rec; and Sadie Riedel, Courtney Murphy, and Heather Smith-Ahrens, Alexandria Splashpad. Third row l to r – Linzey Gerads, Douglas County Housing & Redevelopment Authority; Don Kalpin, Leaf Valley Fire Department; Terrill Morical, Brandon Community Club; Stan Stark, Aeneas Cemetery Association; Brian Dahl, Kid's Groundwater Festival; Kim Hanson, West Moe Lutheran Church Barn Dance; Cheryl Gebhardt, Brandon-Evansville Trap Team; and Susan Kalina, Pope County Council on Aging.