



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

UPDATE



December 2020



A Message From The COO Theresa Quiroz

Volunteer to make a positive impact

With the holiday season upon us and the New Year just around the corner, I can't help but reflect on the gratitude I feel for our community. I think most will agree this has been a year like no other—certainly not in my lifetime. And while we've seen our share of challenges, I am heartened by the ways in which we have all pulled together to make our communities stronger.

Rio Grande Electric Co-op recently helped organize a group donation to seven (7) charitable organizations providing services to members throughout its large service territory. With the help of our generous business partners, that effort yielded \$32,200 to benefit local families in 18 counties across RGEC's service territory. This month, we are in the midst of a holiday toy drive in Kinney County that will bring joy at Christmas time to children in need. While these efforts are focused around the holidays, for the Co-op, our concern for community is a year-round endeavor.

Because we are a co-op, volunteerism and giving back are a part of who we are. Several Co-op employees are volunteer firefighters and first responders, putting their lives at risk to help others; while many Co-op employees also coach youth sports, assist in church/school productions, or serve on local boards. I look at volunteerism as the gift that keeps on giving. While it's difficult to quantify the impact that volunteers have, I do know they make a tremendous difference in our community and make our corner of the world a better place. Many organizations depend on volunteers to fulfill their mission. Volunteers fill in gaps and spread joy and compassion through their efforts. Even assisting with the smallest tasks can make a big impact in the lives of people, animals, or an organization in need. Often a big commitment or special skills are not needed, just someone who cares.

I hope you'll consider volunteering. Give an organization or cause that you care about the gift of your compassion, time and talent. In addition to the organization and the community benefitting from your efforts, you will receive a gift as well. Not only will you enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are helping a good cause, you will likely make new friends, expand your social network, strengthen existing skills, or learn a new one.

Volunteering may provide additional dimension and purpose to your life. In the process, you will be a role model for your family because your commitment will offer a powerful lesson to your children. It will show them first-hand how one person can make a big difference and strengthen the community in which they live.

At the end of the day, the gift of volunteerism is a gift that will continue giving all year long. So, this holiday season, consider starting a new tradition—give the gift of time. From all of us here at RGEC, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

