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Contact: Tray Hunter: (843) 208-5550
Cell: (843) 422-5277
e-mail: thunter@palmetto.coop
Missy Santorum: (843) 384-2419
e-mail: msantorum@palmetto.coop

Area students are the winners with Bright Ideas Teacher Grants

Palmetto Electric Trust and Palmetto Electric Cooperative awarded \$44,907 to winning teachers and their team members through the fifteenth annual Bright Ideas grant program. The prize team visited classrooms and awarded grants on Monday, October 29, Tuesday, October 30 and Wednesday, October 31.

Earlier this year, teachers from southern Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton counties submitted proposals for innovative classroom projects. A total of 95 grant applications, totaling over \$85,657, were received. “This year we are excited to award 50 grants to benefit more than 9,000 students in our three county service area,” said Berl Davis, president and CEO of Palmetto Electric Cooperative.

The Cooperative’s Bright Ideas Prize Team surprised the winning teachers and presented the money where it will be used – in the classrooms. Representatives from the Cooperative and the Trust greeted teachers with balloons, gift bags and their checks at each school. Later this month, the cooperative will host a luncheon at Palmetto Electric’s New River facility to honor the recipients and their administrators.

Area winners:

- Anita Padgett, *All Ears*, Ben Hazel Primary
- Michelle Purdy, *Bookworms for Life*, Ben Hazel Primary
- Tracey Preston, “*Egg-cellent*” *Life Cycles*, Brunson Elementary School
- Latasha Smart, *It’s a Bird. It’s a Plane. It’s Spheros.*, North District Middle School
- Robin Taylor, *Digging Deeper*, Varnville Elementary School
- Heather Skinner, *Hit the Press*, Wade Hampton High School

The Bright Ideas program was created in 2004 as a way to benefit local school teachers in grades K-12. These grants give teachers the money required to put their innovative classroom projects into action. Since the program’s inception, area teachers have received over \$510,256 in grants.

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Palmetto Electric Trust is supported by funds from Operation Round Up®, a program in which the Cooperative's members round their electric bill up to the nearest whole dollar. The program is a true example of how small change...changes lives. Additional funding was provided by Palmetto Electric's Million Dollar Hole-In-One Shootout and WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification) Chapters.

For more information on the Bright Ideas grant program, contact Palmetto Electric Cooperative at (843) 208-5551 or visit www.palmetto.coop

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About Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Palmetto Electric Cooperative is a non-profit electrical distribution utility that is owned by the members it serves. The Cooperative serves over 70,000 consumers in southern Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton counties. Palmetto Electric's mission is to provide diversified, innovative energy and related services to its members consistent with sound business practices, while always acting in a community-building leadership role. For more information, visit palmetto.coop or call 843-208-5551.

Palmetto Electric is also a member of Touchstone Energy, which is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 742 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to approximately 40 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and a longstanding commitment to communities.