

# LOCAL CHARITIES RECEIVE \$12,000 FROM OCONTO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AND COBANK



## CHECK PRESENTATION

On September 28, 2016, OEC employees distributed a total of \$12,000 to Lena Fire Department & Rainbow House.

(Checks accepted by: Lena Fire Chief, Craig LeFebre and Outreach/Legal Advocate for Marinette County Rainbow House, Jennifer Koceja)

It was an electrifying morning on Wednesday, September 28, when Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) employees donated \$6,000 to the Lena Area Volunteer Fire Department and \$6,000 to Rainbow House Domestic Abuse Services, Inc. This is the greatest amount of money that OEC employees have raised since the program began in 2004.

OEC employees worked all year to raise \$7,000. The largest events were the employee golf outing, a motorcycle ride, and the Bag Lunch To Go. CoBank, one of the co-op's lenders, also donated \$5,000 as part of its Sharing Success program.

"On March 17, we held our Bag Lunch To Go. We were able to deliver 230 bag lunches to businesses in the community within two hours," explained Katie Jagiello, co-op employee. "People enjoyed the pulled pork sandwich and the fact that lunch is delivered to them at their workplace."

Lena Area Volunteer Fire Department has been serving the Lena area since 1909. The department currently consists of 30 dedicated volunteers. The money it received is going toward the purchase of a Drager Thermal Imaging Camera. The camera will allow fire-fighters to see through smoke and darkness,

aid them in finding victims, pinpoint fires and recognize structural dangers before they cause injuries and deaths, as well as search out "hot spots" within the burn area to ensure that the fire is completely out.

Rainbow House serves victims of domestic violence and their children in Marinette and Oconto Counties. It has been actively serving the community for 35 years. The funds donated will go toward a new pilot initiative at Rainbow House. Rainbow House is organizing a domestic violence homicide response team in Oconto County. In the aftermath of a domestic violence homicide, family members are often too overwhelmed to know where to turn for support or answers.

Rainbow House is responding by creating a local team of professionals to assist. In times of crisis, Rainbow House is there to support families through their grief with resources and answers. This initiative is the first of its kind in the state of Wisconsin.

This is the twelfth year that co-op employees have raised funds for designated charities. Including this donation, they have raised a total of \$68,000. The employees at OEC are grateful for the support that the community and OEC members give to the charity.

## OEC Employees comment on why they like giving back to the community

- "The employees are having fun with each other doing something that isn't work related. I like that the charities on the receiving end are super appreciative of all the hard work we do to benefit them." — *Brenda Friction*

- "I like that the OEC Employee Charity shows that OEC is a supporter of our community and that OEC is not just a service." — *Terry Farrar*

- "I like the faces of the recipients as they are awarded the money." — *Pam Langlay*

- "I like that it is an employee driven event and that we have fun doing it!" — *Jan Stranz*