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LPEA Round Up Foundation Celebrates 30 Years of Community Giving with More Than \$59,000 in Mid-Year Grants

DURANGO, Colo. – For 30 years, the La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Round Up Foundation has demonstrated the power of small acts of generosity. Since its founding in 1996, thousands of LPEA members have voluntarily rounded up their monthly electric bills, creating a lasting source of support for local nonprofits and community organizations across Southwest Colorado.

As the Foundation celebrates its 30th anniversary, it is also celebrating another milestone. During the first half of 2026, LPEA invested **\$59,068** in local nonprofits through two community investment programs. The Round Up Foundation awarded **\$30,550** in member-funded Round Up Grants to 14 nonprofit organizations, while an additional **\$28,518** in Educational Grants—funded through unclaimed capital credits—supported 13 organizations advancing educational opportunities across the region.

"The Round Up Foundation is a reflection of what makes a cooperative different," said Carrie Hugus, LPEA Community Outreach Specialist. "For 30 years, our members have chosen to invest in their neighbors by donating just a few cents each month. Those small contributions have grown into more than \$2.5 million in community support, proving that when a community comes together, even the smallest gifts can make an extraordinary impact."

2026 Mid-Year Impact

- **\$30,550** awarded through Round Up Grants to **14 nonprofit organizations**
- **\$28,518** awarded through Educational Grants to **13 nonprofit organizations**
- **\$59,068** invested in **27 local nonprofit organizations**

Since January, member contributions have generated more than **\$60,000** through monthly bill round-ups. Every dollar remains local, supporting organizations that improve the quality of life throughout LPEA's service territory.

The Round Up Foundation administers two distinct grant programs. Round Up Grants are funded through voluntary member contributions, while Educational Grants are funded separately through LPEA's unclaimed capital credits. Together, these programs strengthen education, community services, and quality of life throughout Southwest Colorado.

Celebrating 30 Years: The \$30 for 30 Years Campaign

To commemorate the Foundation's 30th anniversary, LPEA has launched its **\$30 for 30 Years** campaign, inviting members to celebrate three decades of local giving by making a one-time \$30 donation or enrolling in **Round Up Plus**, which allows members to contribute an additional monthly amount beyond rounding up their electric bill.

Today, more than **16,400 members** participate in the Round Up program, making it one of the region's most successful member-supported charitable giving programs. Whether supporting volunteer fire districts, food banks, arts organizations, or youth programs, every contribution stays in La Plata and Archuleta counties, helping strengthen the communities LPEA members call home.

"Every month our members demonstrate what it means to be part of a cooperative," Hugus said. "Together, we've built something that has improved lives for 30 years, and we're excited to continue that legacy for generations to come."

Since its inception, the LPEA Round Up Foundation has awarded **more than \$2.5 million** to local nonprofit organizations, reinforcing LPEA's commitment to building stronger, more resilient communities.

Members can join the Round Up program, enroll in Round Up Plus, or participate in the **\$30 for 30 Years** campaign by visiting lpea.coop/round-your-lpea-bill.

Eligible nonprofit organizations serving La Plata and Archuleta counties may apply for grants of up to **\$3,000** through the Foundation's online application. Applications are reviewed monthly by the LPEA Round Up Foundation Board of Directors. Learn more at lpea.coop/round-foundation.

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About LPEA Round Up Foundation

Founded in 1996, the LPEA Round Up Foundation is a member-supported charitable program that invests in stronger communities across La Plata and Archuleta counties. Through voluntary bill round-up donations from LPEA members, the Foundation awards grants to local nonprofit organizations addressing community needs, while also administering Educational Grants funded through LPEA's unclaimed capital credits. Together, these programs have invested more than \$2.5 million in local organizations, supporting education, health and human services, emergency assistance, environmental stewardship, youth development, and community vitality. Learn more, apply for a grant, or participate in Round Up lpea.coop/round-foundation or enroll at lpea.coop/round-your-lpea-bill.

About LPEA

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is a locally owned, member-governed electric cooperative serving approximately 37,000 homes and businesses across Southwest Colorado. As an independent co-op, LPEA is committed to keeping power reliable and affordable while ensuring members have a direct voice in how their energy future is shaped. LPEA serves a diverse region, from rural communities and Tribal partners to growing towns and businesses, each with different energy needs. Whether members are focused on keeping the lights on, managing their bills, or adopting new technologies like solar and battery storage, LPEA is working to meet them where they are. In 2026, LPEA joined the Southwest Power Pool, expanding access to a broader mix of energy resources to strengthen reliability, reduce costs, and support a cleaner, more flexible energy future, while keeping decisions local. Learn more about LPEA at lpea.coop.