

NEWS & VIEWS

Helping the show go on

It's about the kids. You know the ones. They spent months on end preparing projects, caring for and training animals, practicing their stage presence, and readying themselves for the biggest week of summer: The Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair.

When the COVID-19 pandemic threatened to take it all away, Fair Board members, Purdue Extension employees, and countless volunteers said, "Not so fast." That's when JCREMC's leadership started to ask, "How can we help?"

Each year, your electric cooperative is proud to support our local community in a variety of ways, including county fair sponsorship. While this year's fair had to look different, the co-op's commitment remained.

"The kids who participate in 4-H and the Johnson County Fair Queen Contest, and

the people who make the county fair happen, work so hard all year long for this," said JCREMC CEO John Sturm.

"It's amazing how resilient everyone has been and the monumental efforts they've put forth to make sure the show could go on. Our goal was to support them in that endeavor and to make sure our community knows that as a company and as residents, we truly do care."

Here are the ways JCREMC supported this year's fair:

- Queen Contest Title Sponsor, including hosting workshops and interviews.
- General Fair Sponsor, including webcasting.
- Provided judging for 4-H electric projects.
- Donated funds to the Johnson County 4-H Recognition Fund, to benefit 4-H livestock exhibitors in lieu of the auction.



JCREMC CEO John Sturm presents a \$1,000 check to Miss Johnson County 2020 Emma Spurgeon. Spurgeon was also named Miss Congeniality.

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The JCREMC Community Fund awarded \$19,987 in Operation Round-Up® Grants as part of the Spring 2020 grants cycle. Read on to learn about the funded projects.

Franklin Heritage, Inc. Thank You Essential Workers

Franklin Heritage, Inc., works to preserve the historical character of Franklin, Ind. With grant funding, the organization is presenting a 'Thank You Essential Workers' program, which invites workers who were deemed essential during the COVID-19 shutdown to attend a film for free at the Historic Artcraft Theatre with family or guests. Attendees also receive a complimentary popcorn and soda.

franklinheritage.org

Tracks4Vets Boots on the Ground

The Boots on the Ground campaign seeks to raise awareness for how Tracks4Vets works to restore purpose, hope, and community to veterans injured in service. With grant funding, volunteers will collaborate to construct stands to hold military boots and ammo cans to serve as a receptacle for cash donations. Donations are dedicated to participation in awareness events and platforms to foster the organization's mission.

tracks4vets.com

Johnson and Shelby County VASIA Key Box Program

Johnson and Shelby County VASIA is a public guardianship program dedicated to helping seniors and incapacitated adults achieve the

highest degree of independence possible. Their Key Box Program will make Knox Boxes available for seniors and incapacitated adults. These boxes allow first responders to reach key access faster in case of emergency, without property damage. The Knox Box Key Box Program is already already setup in many of the Johnson County Fire Departments. The grant funds will go to purchase residential Knox Boxes for the fire departments to loan to those unable to purchase them.

jcvasia.org

Beats for Bristol, Inc. App Development

Beats for Bristol works to support families who have experienced pregnancy or infant loss, raise awareness through education, and increase community support. The organization will develop an app that will allow for accessibility to prenatal education, pregnancy loss supports, and resources for both families and medical providers. In addition, the app will better reach the silent grievers - the fathers of loss.

beatsforbristol.com

Franklin Education Connection Water Bottle Fill Station

Franklin Education Connection supports innovative, creative, and proven ways to help Franklin Community Schools students be successful in and beyond the classroom. With their grant funds, the organization will add a water bottle filling station at the high school. FCHS currently has two water bottle fill

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stations in place and is in need of a third at the Performing Arts Center, which hosts thousands of visitors each year. Incorporating a third fill station will positively impact the environment and increase water consumption of students and faculty members.

franklineducationconnection.org

Edinburgh Fire and Rescue

Stabilization Struts for Vehicle Rescues

Edinburgh Fire and Rescue provides fire protection and first response to the Edinburgh community and surrounding area. Their grant award will allow them to add rescue stabilization struts to the equipment available on rescue vehicles. These struts will be used to stabilize vehicles that are inverted or unstable so first responders can more safely extricate patients at the scene of a motor vehicle accident.

www.edinburgh.in.us

Community COVID-19 Relief

In addition to grants, the JCREMC Community Fund allocated \$30,000 to local COVID-19 disaster relief. Of that, \$5,000 went to Johnson County Senior Services and \$25,000 was appropriated to the Johnson County Community Foundation to fund emergency response grants for distribution to area food banks, student relief programs, and domestic violence agencies.

Fall 2020 Grants

Applications for Fall 2020 Operation Round-Up® Grants will be available October 1 at jcremc.com/operation-round-up.

Annual Meeting funds support COVID-19 relief

When COVID-19 forced the cancelation of the 2020 JCREMC Annual Meeting, event organizers and cooperative leadership made the decision to divert \$10,000 of funds to local food pantries and front-line charities responding to the pandemic-induced needs of our community.

Organizations receiving an equal share of those funds are:

- **Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County** - jcpantry.org
- **The Lord's Locker for Such a Time as This** - facebook.com/thelordslockerforsuchatimeasthis
- **Johnson County Senior Services** - jcseniorservices.org
- **Great Harvest Food Pantry** - greatharvestfoodpantry.org
- **The Refuge Inc.** - therefugeinc.com

Learn more about these organizations and how to support their COVID-19 relief efforts at the web addresses above.

Information that was slated for presentation at the 2020 Annual Meeting is available at jcremc.com/annual-meeting-2020.



CEO to host virtual town hall

JCREMC CEO John Sturm will host a virtual CEO Town Hall meeting for cooperative members on September 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Facebook Live. The free event is a chance for JCREMC members to hear an update on the state of the cooperative and to ask questions. Members can submit questions ahead of time at custservice@jcremc.com with the subject line "CEO Town Hall." Questions posed in the comments during the live segment will be answered as time allows. Those not answered during the live segment will be answered in the following days. Account-specific questions cannot be answered via social media, and will be directed to Customer Service. Join the meeting at [facebook.com/jcremc](https://www.facebook.com/jcremc).



Say 'no' to signs on utility poles



Although utility poles seem like a convenient place to hang signs advertising a lost pet or an upcoming garage sale, the nails, staples, and tacks used to hang them pose a threat to utility workers. These sharp objects can damage personal protective equipment, leaving lineworkers vulnerable to electrocution. Please help make sure our line crews make it home safely. **Do not hang signs on utility poles.**

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

JCREMC publishes [News & Views](#) as a service to our members. Past issues are available at jcremc.com.

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