

Hendricks Power Cooperative and the Hendricks County Community Foundation Contribute to Anti-Texting and Driving Program

By Heather Thompson, Hendricks Power Cooperative

Danville, IN- Hendricks Power Cooperative worked in conjunction with the Hendricks County Community Foundation to provide a grant to GTG: Just Killed Someone. This is an anti-texting and driving program sponsored by the Purdue Extension of Hendricks County. A check was presented to Pittsboro Police Chief Christi Patterson and Beth Switzer, Extension Educator. The cooperative used \$1,000 of Operation Round-Up funds for the contribution and the Community Foundation added \$2,500, creating a total grant of \$3,500. This amount covered the remaining balance needed to launch the program.

The simulator experience, geared toward the approximately 7,800 high school age youth in Hendricks County, will be available in June 2010. The intent is to reduce the number of texting drivers on the road, by educating these young adults about the risks and dangers associated with texting and driving.

"Not only can this possibly save the life of the driver, but it can also save the lives of other people traveling and/or working on the roads," said Beth Switzer, Extension Educator for the Purdue Extension of Hendricks County.

According to a study released by the National Safety Council (NSC) in January 2010, a minimum of 200,000 crashes each year are caused by drivers who are texting. The announcement came on the one-year anniversary of NSC's call for a ban on all cell phone use and texting while driving. "We use our Operation Round-Up funds in ways we hope make a big impact on the communities we serve," said Dana Servaes, Director of Corporate Marketing at Hendricks Power. "This program gives a firsthand account of the dangers of texting while driving and is a good reminder for all of us to put safety first."

For more information on this program, contact Beth Switzer at (317) 745-9260.



Pictured above from left to right: Susan Rozzi, Hendricks County Community Foundation; Chief Christi Patterson, Pittsboro Police Department; Beth Switzer, Purdue Extension of Hendricks County; and Dana Servaes, Hendricks Power Cooperative.

About Hendricks Power Cooperative

Hendricks Power Cooperative provides electricity and energy services to over 26,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in west central Indiana. Formed in 1936, the cooperative is owned and controlled by the members they serve. For more information regarding Hendricks Power Cooperative and other related services, please visit www.hendrickspower.com.

Operation Round-Up is a voluntary fundraising program that lets members round-up their energy bill to the next whole dollar- the difference is then deposited into the Hendricks Power Cooperative Operation Round-Up Fund which is held at the Hendricks County Community Foundation.

Together, Hendricks Power and the Community Foundation determine the most appropriate uses to benefit the community.

About Hendricks County Community Foundation

The Hendricks County Community Foundation has been working to improve the quality of life in our community since 1996. It manages a \$7 million collection of funds that are created by individuals, families and organizations for charitable purposes in education, the arts, community enhancement, environmental needs, health and human services and youth programs. For more information, please contact the Hendricks County Community Foundation at 317.718.1200.

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