

McDonough Power Cooperative Cares Giving back to the Communities we serve

More than 190 area children will be warm this winter thanks to the Cooperative Cares Fund of McDonough Power Cooperative. The cooperative's employees, retirees and directors have donated to the fund, as well as sold salvaged scrap metal items to raise monies throughout the year. The cooperative works with the schools in the co-op's service territory to locate children in need. 539C6-266B This was the sixth year for the cooperative's "Coats for Kids" program. Cooperative employees delivered new coats to schools for area children in need of a warm, winter coat. "Sometimes we forget how fortunate we are. It's really a privilege to share our goodwill with others who genuinely need it," says President/CEO Mike Smith. "It's always a humbling process for everyone involved in the program."



Pictured (l-r) is Maureen Hazell, Principal of Edison School in Macomb and Kelly Hamm of McDonough Power.



Pictured (l-r) delivering coats are Kelly Hamm of McDonough Power, Debbie Ulm, Secretary at Lincoln School in Macomb, Rosemary Platt, Principal at Lincoln School and Michele Lovell of McDonough Power.



**Our office will be closed January 2
for New Year's.**



McDonough Power Cooperative

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7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

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All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Youth Tour 2012

We want to encourage high school students to learn more about government and their role in it ... and provide a select group of student leaders with a chance to get an up-close look at their government.

McDonough Power Cooperative is once again sponsoring its "Youth to Washington" and "Youth to Springfield" programs this spring. McDonough Power and its sister cooperatives across the state have sponsored these programs for over 50 years in an attempt to introduce students to government and the political process. Today, many "alumni" of these programs work in state or federal government or have gone on to serve as elected officials. Two retired members of the Illinois General Assembly are "alumni" of our programs.

McDonough Power will sponsor two sophomore or junior students from each high school in its service area on an all-expense paid bus trip to Springfield on Wednesday, March 28, 2012. During the day, students and their counterparts from other Illinois high schools will meet their elected senators and representatives at the Capitol and learn first-hand about the

workings of state government. In addition the students will tour the Supreme Court and other historic sites of Springfield during the day.

McDonough Power will also sponsor two of these students on a weeklong, all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. on June 15-22, 2012. During the week in the nation's capital the Illinois student contingent will hopefully meet with Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk. The U.S. Representatives will meet with students for a luncheon while on Capitol Hill. **533B8A-266B**

The two "Youth to Washington" representatives will be selected from the contingent that tours Springfield on March 28. (The two students will be chosen from their written and verbal responses to judges who will interview student representatives the afternoon of the Springfield trip.)

McDonough Power works with area high school staff to select student leaders who are interested in government and the political process and would benefit from this program. If you are a junior or senior in high school (or know someone who might be interested), please contact your school guidance counselor before February 1 for more details.



Tip of the Month

Switch to energy-saving halogen incandescent lightbulbs to cut lighting energy use by 25 percent. These bulbs last three times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and can easily be dimmed. Want to save more? Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) cut lighting energy use by at least 75 percent. Learn more at energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Member-benefit program brings value to community residents and businesses

As your electric cooperative, it's important for McDonough Power to provide its member-owners with safe, reliable power. Yet our service goes beyond the wires. It's also important that we offer additional value that has an enormously positive impact on everyone in the community. And as a Touchstone Energy® co-op, we strive to meet that goal on a daily basis.

That's why McDonough Power, in conjunction with the other Touchstone Energy co-ops serving 22 million member-owners nationwide, participates in the Co-op Connections® program. This card-based member benefit program is designed to deliver added value to our members — residential and business — by offering valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses. And it's free.

Whenever a Co-op Connections cardholder — whether from McDonough Power or from one of the hundreds of Touchstone Energy co-ops across the country — shows the Co-op Connections card at a participating business, they receive a discount. Equally, those businesses benefit from increased customer visits by co-op members participating in the program. And it's easy to spot which local businesses are participating. Look for the Co-op Connections stickers in their windows, or simply log on to the McDonough

Power's Web site — www.mcdonough-power.com — and check out the list of participants.

Members of the co-op can also save at the pharmacy. There are over 48,000 chain and independent pharmacies in the program — including Wal-Mart, Walgreens and CVS to name a few. Showing the card when purchasing prescription medications can save you between 10 and 60 percent. Note that pharmacy discounts are not insurance, and are not intended as a substitute. So far this year, members of McDonough Power alone have saved almost \$6,500 at the pharmacy.

You might be thinking at this point — where is my card? Members who do not have a card or have misplaced it may stop by the cooperative office and request one. **6430C9-272C**

For those smart phone users — yes, there's an app for that! By downloading the app on your smart phone you will:

- Have a virtual card (front and back) with vital prescription discount info on your phone.
- Use your phone's GPS feature to find

businesses that accept the card, if any are nearby.

- Identify your favorite discount deals and save them in "My Deals" for easy access.



For iPod Touch, iPhone, iPad: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/co-op-connections/id425692910?mt=8>

For Droid Phones: <https://market.android.com/details?id=com.vfourweb.coopconn>

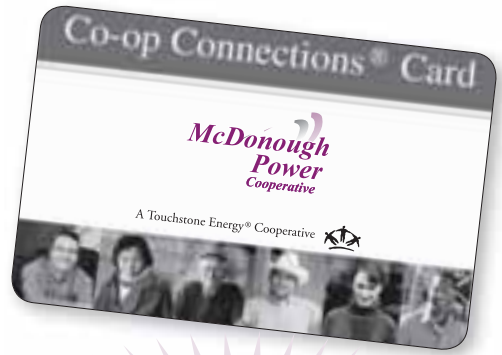
For Blackberry: <http://appworld.blackberry.com/webstore/content/51988?lang=en>

So while our number one priority is keeping the lights on, McDonough Power is committed to bringing additional value to our members and the communities we serve. The Co-op Connections program is just another way to accomplish that goal. That's the cooperative difference.

We have recently added a few new local businesses to the program. See page 16d for all of the local offers. Again, a full listing of local and national deals is available at www.mcdonoughpower.com, click on "Show Me the Deals".



Visit us at www.mcdonoughpower.com and click "Show Me the Deals" for all the details on your Co-op Connections Card.



All About You — Sale on hair and nail products as well as spa packages • 309-833-2294

Amana Bear Plumbing, Heating, and Electric — 10% off all parts and labor • 309-833-5446

Attic Decorating — 10% off any prepaid order of upholstery fabric • 309-837-4045 • www.atticdecorating.com

Cafe Aroma — 10% off total bill on Monday's and Tuesday's • 309-837-2233

Cedar Creek Candles — 10% off any purchase • 309-734-8166

Cole's Photography — \$10 discount off any sitting, plus 4 additional proofs free with order • 309-627-2546 • www.colesphoto.com **641D9-202C**

Culligan Water of Macomb — Sale on Culligan equipment • 309-833-5537 • www.culliganofmacomb.com

Drs. Distin and Doyle — 10% off frame with purchase of lenses • 309-734-3108

Enchanted Florist — 10% off wrapped flowers • 309-837-9159

Encore Consignment — 10% off all regular priced items • 309-833-3006 • 309-734-4411

Envy — 20% storewide discount on regular priced items Sundays and Mondays • 309-836-3689

EPH- Electrical, Plumbing, & Heating — 10% off labor • 309-837-3830

Grand Escape Day Spa & Salon — 10% off all spa services • 309-833-2020 • www.grandescapedayspa.com

Inselhaus Bed and Breakfast — 10% discount off regular priced room rate • 309-833-5400

J, B, & D Siding — 30% off on windows, 38% off on siding, and 15 % off on roofing • 309-837-7733

Lil' Stitches — 10% off everything on Tuesdays • 309-837-2909

Lora's Bookkeeping — 10% off income tax prep • 309-734-7115

McDonough County Farm Bureau — 10% off Soy Candles • 309-837-3350 • www.mcdonough-countyfarmbureau.org

Minus Muffler — Buy 5 oil changes, get the 6th free • 309-837-6444

MORE Medical — 20% Cash Sale Items Discount • 309-837-6673

Promission Auto & Tire — Buy 4 oil changes, get the 5th one free • 309-772-3333

Quick Print & Signs — Receive a discount on in-house printed cards • 309-833-5250

Quinn's Corner — 10% discount on purchases every Tuesday • 309-462-2377

Sugar Hollow Studios — 10% off any regular priced items • 309-333-4436

The Bike Shop — 10% off accessories, parts and repairs • 309-833-5748 • www.bikeshopmacomb.com

Start the New Year off Right — Use Your Co-op Connections Card for Great Deals and Discounts!!

The Scrapbook Nook — 10% off all regular priced items • 309-776-3891

The Wine Sellers — 10% off any purchase over \$15.00 • 309-836-9463

Tropical Isle Tanning Salon — 15% off all salon offerings • 309-836-3904 • www.tropicalisletan.com

Uppercase Living — Free gift with purchase • 309-331-4192 • <http://tracyann.uppercaseliving.net>

Vision Consultants, Ltd. — 20% off frames, excluding already discounted frames • 309-833-5557

Western Illinois Credit Union — Credit Union Membership Eligibility for McDonough Power Members • 309-298-2986 • www.wicu.org

MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

