



More Power to You

*Happy Holidays* From REC!



The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate.

The season is marked by family, special foods, seasonal decorations, and lots of festivities. We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones.

However, given the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays also can offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. All of us at Rock Energy Cooperative are grateful for you, the members of the co-op. While our main focus is providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we also want to give back. We want to help

our members and the communities they live in thrive.

Rock Cooperative Care is one of the ways we help. This is our energy assistance program that benefits co-op members who might otherwise fall through the cracks because their incomes are too high to qualify for federal programs, but too low to make ends meet.

We launched Rock Cooperative Care in 2010 to help members going through tough times. Since then, more than \$275,000 has been awarded to members. If you think you might qualify for assistance, check out the income

guidelines on page 20C. Be prepared, because you never know.

All of us at Rock Energy sincerely hope you and your family have a wonderful and safe holiday season. As you decorate your home, please keep safety in mind. Make sure your holiday lights are in good working order, don't overload circuits, and never use frayed or worn extension cords.

It truly is a privilege to serve your energy needs during the holidays and throughout the year. If we can do anything to improve our service, please let us know.

*Seasons Greetings  
from all of us at  
Rock Energy Cooperative!*



MY CO-OP



# "...JUST HAPPY TO HELP!"

## REC Employee in the RIGHT PLACE at the RIGHT TIME

Most people have been in Michelle Piper's shoes before — rushing to get somewhere, 8 million things on your mind, and in your haste, you misplace something of value. In Michelle's case, the "something of value" was her purse that she left on the roof of her car!

A new Rock Energy member in the Rockton area, Michelle didn't realize, of course, she had left her purse on top of her car before she took off down the road in the late morning hours on Oct. 15. A couple miles down the road, her purse eventually fell off the car roof. Yep, there it sat, in the middle of the street. Until, that is, a REC employee passed by. What happens next... well, we'll let Michelle explain! See the note below that Michelle sent REC about the entire situation.

### NOTE TO REC FROM MEMBER MICHELLE:

*"I had just recently moved into my new home in Rockton. On Oct. 15 I was working in the yard all morning trying to get the outside work done before the big "freeze" the next day and I was exhausted. All I can say is, I had a lot of my mind!*

*I was loading items in my car to take to a friend in Roscoe. While doing so I set my purse on top of the roof of the car. Without realizing the purse was still on the car, I simply drove off. For some reason, as I was a few miles away, I had this sinking feeling about my purse, so I looked on the passenger seat where I always put it, and it wasn't there. Of course, I panicked and pulled over and checked the entire car as I immediately knew what I did. I turned around and started searching my route for my purse with no luck. I was hoping that maybe I left it in my garage or the house, and not on the car roof.*

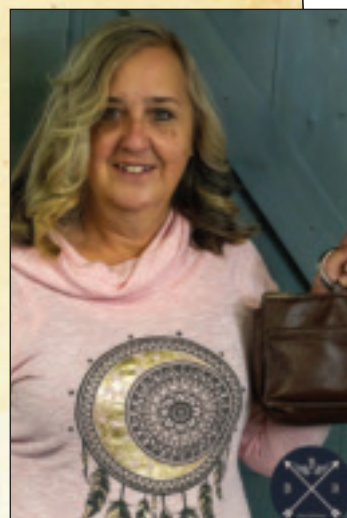
*Once I got home I spent several minutes searching for my purse. It was then I knew I was in trouble. My first thought — PRAY that someone found it. I called the Rockton Police Department to see if someone had turn it in. At that time, no one had brought it in, so they were going to send someone out to file a report. Within five minutes of hanging up, however, I*

*received a call from the police station. They said that someone from Rock Energy had found my purse in the road in front of Hononegah High School as the students were being dismissed. From what I understand, the Rock Energy employee pulled over, gathered all the items from the purse (while directing traffic), and turned it in to the police without leaving a name except that he was from Rock Energy Co-op!*

*More often than not, common kindness goes unnoticed, so I wanted to let this gentleman know how much I appreciated what he had done. I called Rock Energy with the slim hope that somehow could connect me with the person who found my purse so I could give them some type of reward. On Friday morning, I received a call back from a gentleman named Cal Calkins who told me he was the one who found my purse. I was elated, and wanted to give him a reward, but he refused. He noted that he was "just happy to help!"*

*It's a good feeling to know that there are people who genuinely help just to help, because it's the right thing to do. Those people are rare in this day and age, and Cal is one of those people! Rock Energy is lucky to have him as an employee."*

**Thank You Cal & Rock Energy.  
Michelle**



REC Member  
**Michelle Piper**



REC Engineering Technician  
**Cal Calkins**

## ROCK COOPERATIVE CARE OFFERS ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Some Rock Energy Cooperative members need a little help paying their energy bills. They might earn too much to qualify for state and federal energy assistance, or they might need some extra money to supplement the other programs. Either way, Rock Cooperative Care is available to help. Since 2010, more than \$275,000 has been distributed to help members.

A one-time grant of up to \$500 is available to help residential members who are struggling to pay their energy bills but do not meet more stringent state and federal requirements.

Check the chart below to see if your household qualifies for assistance. For example, a four-person household would be eligible if the total annual income is \$78,600 or less.

The Salvation Army office administers the Rock Cooperative Care program. If you meet the eligibility requirements, call either of these offices during regular business hours to schedule an appointment: Janesville, 608-757-8300, extension 26, or Rockford, 815-972-1135. Be sure to point out that you would like to schedule an appointment to apply for the Rock Cooperative Care program.

### Rock Cooperative Care Income Guidelines for the 2020–2021 Heating Season\*

	150% of Poverty Level (eligible for up to a \$500 grant)		200% of Poverty Level (eligible for up to a \$350 grant)		300% of Poverty Level (eligible for up to a \$250 grant)	
Family Size	30-Day Income	Annual Income	30-Day Income	Annual Income	30-Day Income	Annual Income
1	\$1,595	\$19,140	\$2,127	\$25,520	\$3,190	\$38,280
2	\$2,155	\$25,860	\$2,873	\$34,480	\$4,310	\$51,720
3	\$2,715	\$32,580	\$3,620	\$43,440	\$5,430	\$65,160
4	\$3,275	\$39,300	\$4,367	\$52,400	\$6,550	\$78,600
5	\$3,835	\$46,020	\$5,113	\$61,360	\$7,670	\$92,040
6	\$4,395	\$52,740	\$5,860	\$70,320	\$8,790	\$105,480
7	\$4,955	\$59,460	\$6,607	\$79,280	\$9,910	\$118,920
8	\$5,515	\$66,180	\$7,353	\$88,240	\$11,030	\$132,360

\* Figures are based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2020-2021.

## HELP ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH STATE, FEDERAL PROGRAMS

### Where to Apply

To apply for assistance, you'll need to complete a Home Energy Plus application and provide information on each household member and their income as well as records of your heating costs.

For more information and application details, please call your local office:

- **Winnebago County** (South Beloit, Rockton, and Roscoe residents only): 815-389-0914 or 815-624-7788, Rockton Township, 1315 N. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton.
- **Boone County**: 815-544-3144, United Way of Boone County, 220 W. Locust St., Belvidere.
- **Stephenson County**: 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111, Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency, 27 S. State Ave., Freeport.
- **McHenry County**: 815-338-7752, McHenry County Housing Authority, 1108 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock.

### Illinois LIHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2020–2021 Heating Season

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ONE MONTH INCOME	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$2,127	\$25,250
2	\$2,873	\$34,480
3	\$3,620	\$43,440
4	\$4,367	\$52,400
5	\$5,113	\$61,360
6	\$5,860	\$70,320
7	\$6,607	\$79,280
8	\$7,353	\$88,240



## Scholarships Offered to High School Seniors

Rock Energy Cooperative again is offering scholarships of \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school. Students whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible.

Our independent scholarship committee will judge applicants based on general merit, cooperation, leadership abilities, financial need, and class ranking.

Since 1989, Rock Energy has awarded more than \$122,000 in financial aid to deserving students. Online applications are available at [www.rock.coop](http://www.rock.coop). Just go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. The deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 10.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonas Berberich at 866-752-4550, or [jonasb@rock.coop](mailto:jonasb@rock.coop).

In addition, scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. These scholarships are available to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the co-op.

Applications must be completed on-line at [www.rock.coop](http://www.rock.coop). Go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. The deadline is Dec. 31.



## REC HOLIDAY HOURS

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas and Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1, for the New Year's holiday. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend and at the payment kiosk outside our South Beloit office, 15229 Willowbrook Road. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are available. If you need to report a power outage, please call 866-752-4550.

**Shane Larson, CEO**

P.O. Box 1758, 2815 Kennedy Rd., Janesville, WI 53547  
P.O. Box 126, 15229 Willowbrook Rd., South Beloit, IL 61080  
608-752-4550 • 866-752-4550

**Jonas Berberich, Editor**



**ROCK ENERGY  
COOPERATIVE**  
Empowering Members Since 1936

# HOLIDAY

## GIFT GUIDE

Give the gift of safety!



### Portable Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)

Designed for locations where there is not a permanent GFCI installed, these devices detect an abnormal flow of electricity and shut off the power, preventing shock or electrocution.



### Outdoor Remote Control Outlet Switch

Leaving outdoor lighting on overnight can be costly and pose a potential hazard. An alternative to smart lights, this remote control switch allows you to turn outdoor lights or other gadgets on or off remotely.



### Tamper Resistant Outlets (TROs)

Great for families with small children, TROs are wall receptacles that have shutters that stay closed unless a plug with two prongs is inserted into the outlet. Because they help keep children safe, the National Electrical Code requires TROs in new homes and apartments.



### Heavy Duty Extension Cord

Power devices safely. Too often the tools or equipment necessary for larger projects are powered by extension cords that are inadequate for the environment or heavier electrical load.

Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)