

Operation Round Up helps Spur Clinic purchase AED



Operation Round Up is not just a scholarship program. It provides financial assistance to hundreds of individuals and many community support organizations.

The Spur Clinic was awarded a grant to purchase an automatic external defibrillator (AED). With the challenges facing all rural health clinics, the new equipment was a blessing.

Clinic Administrator Glenda White submitted the application to Operation Round Up. Her application outlined the struggles faced by the clinic since it was threatened with a closing in 1999. White and other locals decided to keep the clinic open as a Freestanding Rural Health Clinic.

"I found out quick that it was not easy to start a clinic," said White. "We first organized the Spur Medical Corporation as a not-for-profit corporation to be the managing force of the clinic. It took nearly a year to become a non-profit organization." During that time, the Clinic applied for Medicare, Medicaid and provider numbers for several insurance companies. They also had to apply to become a Rural Health Clinic.

The patient load struggled for the first few years, but the Clinic is now full almost every day of scheduling. In addition to routine and minor emergency care, they offer women's services, family planning, Texas Health Steps and immunizations for child care. They now see patients from Dickens, Kent, King, Garza, Crosby and Motley counties.

Less than 10 years after going it on its own, the Spur Clinic is operating with a full staff of four full-time employees and two part-time employees.

"I want to thank the Operation Round Up grant program for the



Spur Clinic employees are proud of their new AED thanks to a grant from Operation Round Up. Pictured, from left to right, are: Glenda White, Rachel Pesina, Angie Condron, Jennifer Warren, F.N.P. and Irma Sanchez. Not pictured is Sherree Marshall.

grant," wrote White. "We have needed an AED for quite some time, but the Clinic could not afford one. Receiving this item from you will mean a lot to the care of our patients."

Operation Round Up Works!

It's not a new idea, but it's an effective one. When you voluntarily participate in Operation Round Up, your electric bill is automatically rounded up to the next dollar each month and the contribution is deposited in the Operation Round Up fund. Your average annual contribution will be about \$6.00.

The funds and grant applications are reviewed quarterly by a volunteer board of directors made up of members, just like you.

The most popular program Operation Round Up sponsors is its Scholarship Program. Every year, Operation Round Up makes funds available for

entering freshmen pursuing a higher education or licensed trade.

Another important duty of Operation Round Up is getting immediate assistance to victims of a house fire. When a member loses their home to fire, they are often left without basic necessities of clothing and personal items like a toothbrush. An Operation Round Up grant helps with these immediate, life-sustaining needs.

We don't often write about families helped by the program out of respect for their privacy, but many families are touched by Operation Round Up. Families are helped through a partnership with Neighborhood House in Lubbock.

Operation Round Up is a "hand up" for Cooperative members, not a "hand out." If you want to participate, just call our member service department at 806.775.7766 and ask to have your account(s) added. †