



Childress Women’s League Receives \$10,000 from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank

LUBBOCK, TX (July 6, 2021) – Childress Women’s League will receive a \$10,000 donation from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank to go toward their Backpack Program. This donation comes right before school starts and the program gets busier. The check presentation will be at South Plains Electric Cooperative on July 13 at 3 p.m.

The Childress Women’s League Backpack Program was created to further their mission to help women and children. They started the Backpack Program when they saw that the poverty level triggered free breakfasts available for all children at all school campuses. They were determined to address hunger issues and to assure that no child would experience hunger under their watch. Thus, the Backpack Program was born. Weekend food for families would travel home in a backpack on a weekly basis to provide food for the entire family throughout the weekend. A hungry child is not prepared to learn. As the poverty level continues to increase, the numbers of families the League serves is also escalating.

South Plains Electric Cooperative’s goal is to provide safe and reliable electricity at the lowest-possible cost. SPEC abides by the Seven Cooperative Principles, and one Principle is commitment to community. The Cooperative gives back to many charities and organizations in the local communities they serve. It’s part of the cooperative difference.

CoBank is a cooperative bank serving vital industries throughout rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. As a cooperative, CoBank is also committed to supporting the communities it serves and regularly partners with its customers to invest in worthwhile charitable causes.

“South Plains Electric Cooperative was happy to partner with CoBank once again, and together, help make a difference locally,” said General Manager Dale Ancell. “Our goal is to improve the quality of life in our communities, and that goes beyond just providing electricity. We do all that we can to give back to our communities and our members.”

Shelly Preston, President of Childress Women’s League, said, “Childress Women’s League exists to serve our community and build a better tomorrow for all our backpack families by serving in our area. Receiving this grant from CoBank & SPEC will be very helpful in assisting us to reach our current goals and continuing to supply families with well balanced meals each week. On behalf of all our CWL members, please accept our sincere gratitude for this funding.”

South Plains Electric Cooperative's donation was matched by CoBank through its Sharing Success program. Sharing Success was established in 2012 to celebrate the International Year of the Cooperative. Since the program's inception, CoBank and its customers have together provided more than \$56 million in support to charitable organizations across the nation.

"Hunger in America is a critical and complex problem," said Dean Church, vice president, CoBank. "While no one organization or agency can solve this alone, we are proud to partner with South Plains Electric Cooperative and the Childress Women's League to do our part to help ensure no child goes home hungry."

About South Plains Electric Cooperative

South Plains Electric Cooperative, a local Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative, serves more than 60,000 connected meters in all or part of 18 counties. When you see Touchstone Energy, you know you are being served with accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. For more information about South Plains Electric Cooperative, visit the Co-op's website at SPEC.coop.

About CoBank

CoBank is a \$160 billion cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. The bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations serving more than 75,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country.

CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture, rural infrastructure and rural communities. Headquartered outside Denver, Colorado, CoBank serves customers from regional banking centers across the U.S. and also maintains an international representative office in Singapore.

About Childress Women's League-Backpack Program

Childress Women's League is an organization of women committed to supporting volunteerism, expanding the potential of women, and advancing our community through useful action and leadership. The League is a non-profit and in its 14th year. The organization's mission is to serve families, elderly, women, and children in our community in their time of need. Families apply for the backpack program to receive assistance to help feed the children's families weekly. Boxes of food are picked up and contain enough to feed all members of the child's household. Boxes also include ready to eat food that the child can prepare or open.

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