

## St. Croix Valley SART Receives Pierce Pepin Cares Grant

**[Ellsworth, WI]** – Pierce Pepin Cares, the charitable foundation of Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS), recently awarded a grant to the local non-profit St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART). Pierce Pepin Cares is funded by PPCS members who round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar through Operation Round Up®, as well as direct donations.

St. Croix Valley SART received \$1,000 to assist with general administration. SART provides medical exams, forensic evidence collection, education, and advocacy for survivors of all ages of interpersonal violence, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation. They serve five counties and partner with 11 hospitals.

“One of our core cooperative principles is concern for community,” said Nate Boettcher, PPCS president and CEO. “This grant allows us to make a positive impact for Pierce and Pepin County residents. We are grateful for the generosity of our members who participate in Operation Round Up.”

Pierce Pepin Cares provides charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations that offer programs and support projects to enhance the quality of life for those within the communities served by PPCS. Pierce Pepin Cares grants are awarded quarterly by the Pierce Pepin Cares board of directors. All nine PPCS directors serve on the Pierce Pepin Cares board of directors along with one PPCS member and one PPCS employee. Nonprofit organizations interested in applying may visit [www.piercepepin.coop](http://www.piercepepin.coop) or call 800-924-2133 for information. The next application deadline is December 15.



St. Croix Valley SART was awarded \$1,000 for general administration. PPCS employee/Pierce Pepin Cares board member Barb Bee (center) is pictured with SART employees (left to right) Wendy Dernovsek, Melissa Vesperman, Annelise Hughes, and Melanie Carey.