

Operation Round Up® Grants Stock Pierce and Pepin County Food Shelves

[Ellsworth, WI] – Members of Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services are helping stock Pierce and Pepin County food shelves through the co-op’s Operation Round Up program. Eight food pantries were each awarded \$1,500 at the board’s October meeting—Pierce County Food Pantry, Elmwood Food Pantry, Plum City Food Pantry, Prescott Area Food Shelf, River Falls Food Pantry, Spring Valley Community Food Pantry, Pepin County Food Pantry and Pepin-Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran-Food Pantry. The donations were presented to pantry representatives during the regional Hunger Prevention Council meeting on November 15.

“Local food shelves do a tremendous job of helping those in need put food on the table, often with few resources themselves,” said Nate Boettcher, Pierce Pepin’s President and CEO. “The holidays can be an especially difficult time and our board acted to make these timely donations on behalf of Pierce Pepin members.”

The impact of cash donations to the food pantries is substantial. “For every \$1 donated, Pierce County Food Pantries are able to provide four meals,” said Jennifer Thatcher, Executive Director, Hunger Prevention Council. “On a dollar-for-dollar conversion, for every \$1 donated we are able to purchase up to \$7 in food purchases for our pantries.”

Operation Round Up is funded by participating Pierce Pepin members who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar each month, or donate a specific dollar amount. The program 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 the cooperative.

Operation Round Up grants are awarded quarterly by the Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services Board of Directors. Nonprofit organizations interested in applying may visit www.piercepepin.coop or call 800-924-2133 for information. The next application deadline is December 15.



Pierce and Pepin county food pantry representatives pictured with the “big” check for \$12,000 from Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services’ Operation Round Up® program. Each individual facility received a check for \$1,500 from PPCS.