

Operation Round Up helps all applicants in May

Operation Round Up awarded \$13,600 in grants to 16 applicants in May, helping everyone who applied for funds.

There was a wide range of needs from the applicants, including grants to help with medical expenses and funding for community projects. A total of \$4,000 went to three individuals for medical expenses.

Desiree Vogel, a rural Velva woman, received \$1,500 for expenses related to her battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer.

Vogel graduated from Minot State University in May with a triple major in management, marketing and international business. She has two more chemotherapy treatments left in Rochester, Minn. The Operation Round Up money will help her with travel expenses.

"I am very hopeful and will persevere through this life-changing experience with my head held high and the great support of my family and friends," she wrote in her application.

The Rev. Janet Mathistad, of Bethany Lutheran Church in Minot, helped Desiree apply for the Operation Round Up grant. Mathistad said Vogel has a lot of support from her family and the community.

"She's a fighter," Mathistad said.

Community projects also received a boost from Operation Round Up.

The city of Drake received \$1,500 for a new concession stand for the Drake Sports Complex facility and \$500 for a



Above: Aubrey Lemer shoots video of Ally Bauer, left, and Sarah Birdsall with a camera the Berthold School purchased with Operation Round Up grant money. Right: Jim English, Verendrye Electric Round Up board member, presents a check to Sara Balfour, president of the Harvey Park District, for \$1,000.

new mower. The old concession stand was a used camper and was in need of major repairs. Volunteers will help build the new permanent concession stand.

The Harvey Park District received \$1,000 to build a media and storage building. The current structure is in disrepair. In the fall, it will be used for announcers, media and videographers during football season.

Operation Round Up is a program funded by VEC members who voluntarily "round up" their monthly electric bills to



the next dollar. Those living within the boundaries of the VEC service territory are eligible recipients of the funds generated from this program.

For more information about Operation Round Up, including an online application, either go to VEC's Web site at www.verendrye.com and click on the Operation Round Up link on the homepage, or call (800) 472-2141. The VE Trust board meets three times a year to decide which applicants will receive funding. The deadline to submit applications for the next round of funding is Sept. 1.

Since 1996, VEC members have given 691 awards, totaling \$607,817.

Projects Funded by Operation Round Up

May 2010

Organization	Purpose	Amount
Bishop Ryan High School, Minot.....	Purchase non-flammable cabinets	\$1,000
Berthold Lewis & Clark School.....	Purchase video flip cameras	\$650
Mid Dakota Farm Safety, Minot	Purchase helmets for kids.....	\$1,000
Carpio Lutheran Church	Purchase defibrillator	\$250
Towner Presbyterian Church	Medical expenses for Laurel Beck	\$1,500
Bethany Lutheran Church, Minot	Medical expenses for Desiree Vogel	\$1,500
Anamoose Kassel Reformed Church.....	Medical expenses for Gertie Rau	\$1,000
Minot Railroad Museum	Purchase a furnace.....	\$500
City of Drake	Concession stand	\$1,500
City of Drake	Mower.....	\$500
Minot Companions for Children	New computer.....	\$500
Harvey Park District.....	New storage building.....	\$1,000
Minot Commission on Aging.....	Eating utensils and AED.....	\$1,000
Minot Area Youth Sportsman Club	Trap shooting supplies.....	\$500
Souris Basin Transportation, Minot.....	Handicap accessible van.....	\$1,000
Minot MS Society State Chapter.....	Resource materials.....	\$200
Total.....		\$13,600

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