



[blueridge.coop](http://blueridge.coop)

**FOR ALL YOUR  
 CUSTOMER SERVICE NEEDS**  
 Call Toll-Free (800) 240-3400

**AUTOMATED OUTAGE REPORTING**  
 1-888-BLURIDGE

**PICKENS**  
 P.O. Box 277  
 734 West Main St.  
 Pickens, SC 29671

**OCONEE**  
 P.O. Box 329  
 2328 Sandifer Blvd.  
 Highway 123  
 Westminster, SC 29693

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
 Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative will operate as a competitive provider of energy services and a partner with local communities, with a focus on safety, service and integrity.

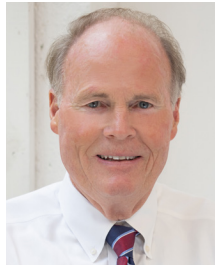
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
 Len D. Talley, *Chairman*  
 J. Mendel Stone, *Vice-Chairman*  
 Franklin M. Loofer, Jr., *Secretary*  
 Will Anderson, *Treasurer*  
 Gresham Barrett  
 J. Spencer Dalton, Jr.  
 Jimmy Lee Dodgens  
 William G. Elrod  
 Kenneth G. Southerlin

**PRESIDENT AND CHIEF  
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
 Jim Lovinggood

This organization is an  
 equal-opportunity provider.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Powered by purpose

**THIS MONTH**, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of

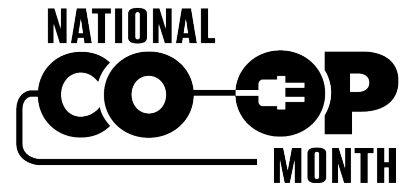
being part of a cooperative. For us, it's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

As CEO of Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, I see our purpose in action every day. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you—our members. Our purpose is to provide safe, reliable power to you and enhance lives in our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. It is at the heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity and high speed internet, and providing real value to the people we serve.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible—because we know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, Blue Ridge Electric crews are ready to respond quickly, because we live here, too.



But our commitment doesn't end at the power lines.

Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs, partnering with volunteer organizations or helping bring broadband to rural areas, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Our commitment to community is a principal part of our mission.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, South Carolina electric co-ops are working to ensure we continue to meet those needs with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're dedicated to delivering both.

That's the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.

This National Co-op Month, I encourage you to take pride in your cooperative membership. You're not just a consumer—you're an owner, a stakeholder and a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected and energized.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be your local electric cooperative.

**JIM LOVINGGOOD**  
 President and CEO

## Beating their goal

Blue Ridge employees mark 85 years with \$87,000 in donations

**BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** employees exceeded their collective goal of raising \$85,000 for area nonprofits as the co-op celebrates its 85th anniversary this year.

The Employee Days of Giving campaign founded in 2024 was launched on one of the seven cooperative principles—concern for community. This year, the campaign raised a total of \$87,357 through one-time gifts or by employees contributing 12 working hours of pay.

“The foundation of our co-op was built on the service to our community of past employees 85 years ago, and that mindset continues today,” President and CEO Jim Lovinggood says. “Each of the nonprofits are vital in making our community a safer, healthier and better place to live. I’m grateful for our employees who carry the legacy of giving back to others.”

The charities included:

- ▶ **MARYS House** (Pickens) provides emergency safe shelter and resources

for families who are victims of domestic violence.

- ▶ **Service Dogs for Veterans** (Greenville) provides a unique training program for veterans to train their own service dog to help them cope with PTSD from military service.
- ▶ **Tribble Center** (Oconee) is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities and special needs through comprehensive services that promote independence, inclusion and self-determination.
- ▶ **United Way of Anderson, Oconee and Pickens** are three separate United Way organizations that improve our community by providing leadership in identifying needs, securing and

leveraging resources and driving action.

- ▶ **Upcountry Fiber Foundation** is the philanthropic arm of Upcountry Fiber that provides funding to local nonprofit organizations that enrich the lives of residents in the Upcountry Fiber and Blue Ridge Electric Co-op service territories through education, youth, culture, arts, health and human services.
- ▶ **Vets Helping Vets** (Anderson) focuses on home repairs, builds wheelchair ramps and provides transportation to critical medical appointments for veterans who are financially and/or physically unable to do so for themselves.

At September employee safety meetings last month, the co-op learned more about the impact of four of the nonprofits—Tribble Center, Vets Helping Vets, MARYS House and Service Dogs for Veterans.

“We are speechless over the generosity of everyone,” MARYS House Executive Director and Board Chair Kristina Smith says. “This support allows our organization to continue providing a safe haven and life-changing services for those who come through our doors.”



MARYS House Director Kristina Smith (center, holding check) with co-op employees at Blue Ridge’s Pickens office.

PHOTOS BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR



Representatives from Vets Helping Vets celebrate with co-op employees at Blue Ridge’s Westminster office.

## Public auction Nov. 1

**BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** will hold a public auction on Saturday, Nov. 1 starting at 10 a.m. at 734 West Main Street in Pickens.

A preview is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Items to be sold include:

- ▶ Vehicles
- ▶ Miscellaneous supplies
- ▶ Metal fencing and poles
- ▶ Truck toolboxes
- ▶ Computer products and accessories

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, contact David J. Meares, SCAL 620, at (864) 444-1322 or visit [SoldDJM.com](http://SoldDJM.com)