

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

Main Office

P.O. Box 119
Conway, SC 29528-0119
369-2211



(to report power outages only)

369-2212

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Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a non-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Celebrating 75 years of service

Commitment to community remains focus

SINCE JANUARY 7, 1941, the success of our Cooperative has been directly related to the well-being of the



communities we serve in Horry County. This year, we're celebrating 75 years of service, and we're doing it by highlighting one of our core values and guiding principles.

Commitment to community is a core value of Horry Electric and our sister cooperatives that are a part of Touchstone Energy. It's also an important piece of the Seven Guiding Principles followed by all businesses that operate using the cooperative business model.

Horry Electric has a long history of working to serve in the best interest of our membership and our community. What better way to celebrate our 75 years of service by highlighting that commitment by doing 75 Acts of Kindness in 2016?

75 Acts of Kindness

Horry Electric Cooperative traditionally helps people in need by supporting local charitable organizations through employees who volunteer in our communities; through Operation Round Up and, when possible, through general monetary donations.

To celebrate our history and our tradition of giving to the community we're going to be doing 75 Acts of Kindness with a value of up to \$500 per act.

Recipients do not have to be members of Horry Electric, but they must be located in Horry County. General local charities that benefit

HEC members are eligible, but they must submit an application for a specific one-time project. Schools and school groups; churches and individuals are also eligible to apply as long as the purpose of their proposed community service project benefits an individual or group of people in Horry County.

Funding process

The funding for this initiative is included in the 2016 budget for Horry Electric's 75th Anniversary. Funds requested must be for specific, one-time acts. Applications are available online; at our main office on Cultra Road in Conway and at our Socastee office.

Applications will be accepted throughout the year and will end when 75 Acts of Kindness are complete.

We have an application review committee made up of employees who each represent the primary communities in which we serve. Throughout the year, as they review these applications and approve an individual Act of Kindness, we'll keep you updated. The information will be published in the monthly magazine and/or through our social media outlets.

I urge you to tune in and join us in celebrating our anniversary and the 75 Acts of Kindness. It's going to be quite a year!

James P. "Pat" Howle
Executive Vice President and CEO

High school juniors, nominate yourself to go to Washington, D.C.

HEC 2016 Washington Youth Tour

Application/Nomination Form
HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS ONLY

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

HEC Account Number: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Congressional District: _____

Parents'/Guardians' Names: _____

Guidance Counselor: _____

Phone Number: _____

How did you find out about 2016 Youth Tour? _____

Recommended/Approved By: _____

On a separate sheet of paper, please list academic and athletic school activities as well as civic and church activities. All applications must include a summary of the student's activities. All qualified applicants will be required to take a written test and participate in a personal interview. No essays will be accepted. Applications are open to all high school juniors, regardless of class rank or grade point average. Send completed application forms to Toni Gore, Youth Tour Coordinator; Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Post Office Box 119; Conway, SC 29528-0119

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEB. 26

FOUR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS will represent Horry Electric in the nation's capital June 11-16 on the Washington Youth Tour. They'll see government in action, visit historical sites, learn about co-ops, meet students from the U.S.—and, generally, have a blast! They'll join students from around S.C. on the trip.

A \$5,000 scholarship is awarded to one Youth Tour participant. Info packets have been distributed to county schools. The selection process includes a quiz and interview. Nominated students receive study materials well in advance. Grade-point averages are not a consideration. Two alternates are chosen. Applications, available from guidance counselors in January, are also at HorryElectric.com. Details: Call (843) 369-6359 or email toni.gore@horryelectric.com.



Rewarding classroom innovation

Horry Electric's Toni Gore (far left) presents St. James Elementary educators (from left) Marlene Ketterman, Vanessa Mireles, Traci Satterfield and Leandra Walcott with a Bright Ideas grant. Horry Electric awards the grants annually to promote innovative classroom-

\$1,500 scholarship available

COMMUNITY OUTREACH group Women Involved in Rural Electrification is once again offering a \$1,500 scholarship.

The WIRE scholarship is for co-op members and dependents of members. The award is for one academic year for a freshman entering Coastal Carolina University or Horry-Georgetown Tech in the fall. The recipient will receive \$750 for the first semester; they must have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPR at the end of the semester to receive the other \$750.

An essay is also required. Applications must be received by March 1. Mail to:

Mrs. Susan Brown
Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 119
Conway SC 29528-0119

Details: 369-6323

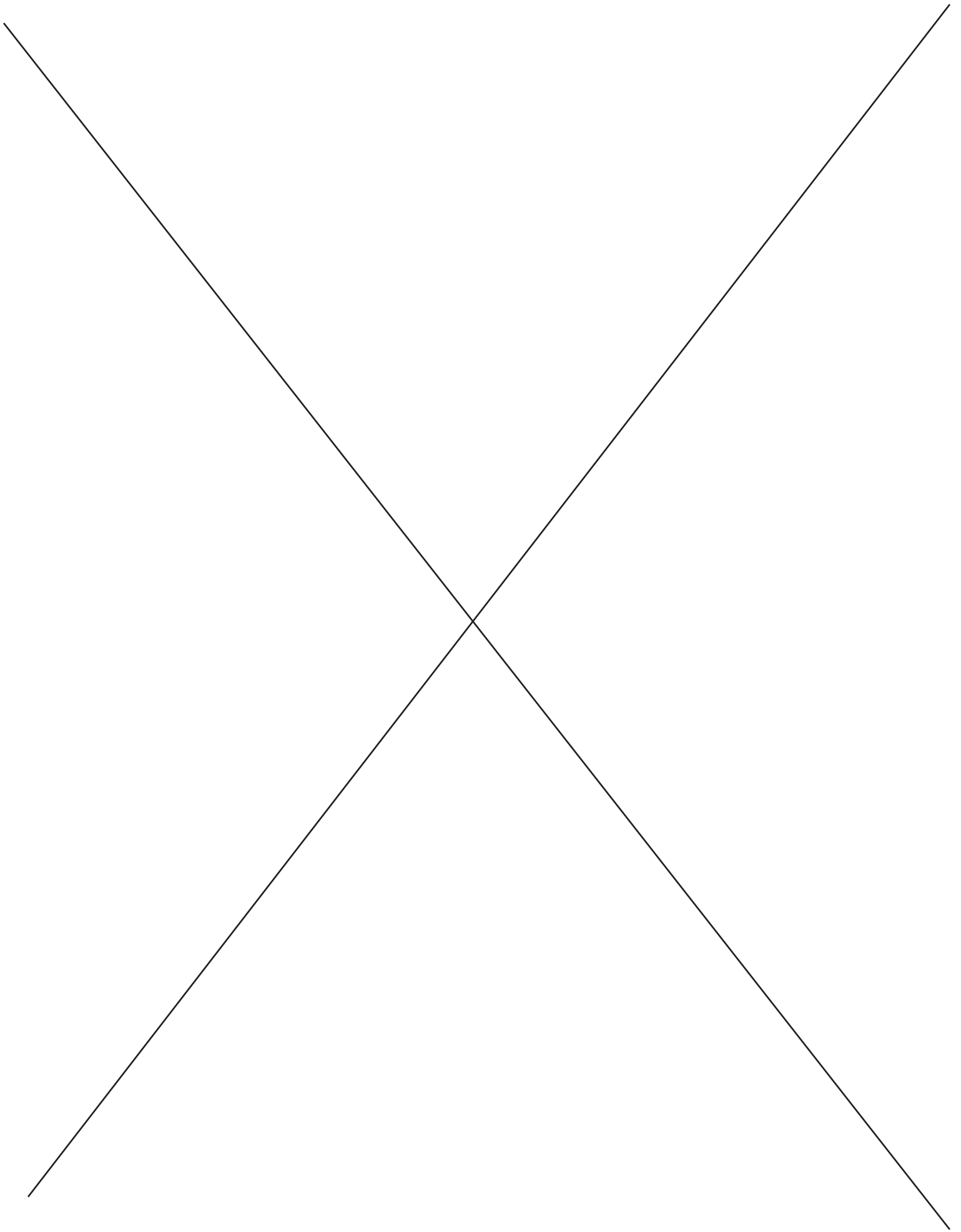
based education. Mireles received \$950 to support *Faces In The Crowd*, a student literary magazine. Other Bright Ideas grant recipients included: Jill Chandler, Ocean Drive Elementary, \$965 for a camera for her students' school news show; Jill Barnes, Loris Middle, \$850 for "Making Models/Stems and Technology-Students"; Michelle Wood, Forestbrook Middle School, \$1,000 for "Gator Robotics-Laptop." See more winner photos at Horry Electric Cooperative's Facebook page.



Horryextra

Right-of-way work: A real big deal

Crews are now trimming trees and vegetation along co-op lines in the Allsbrook, Socastee, Longs and Goretown communities. Learn about our ongoing, proactive right-of-way maintenance effort on page 16A in this month's Horry Extra section.



A real big deal: Keeping lines clear

TRIMMING TREES and keeping vegetation away from co-op lines might not seem to be a major issue, but it's crucial, Horry Electric's CEO says.

Right-of-way maintenance helps keep service reliable, Pat Howle told co-op members at a recent special presentation on the topic. "We spend about \$2 million a year maintaining lines," he said. "We have about 5,500 miles of line. It takes seven years to completely cut that circuit, so right of way's a big deal."

Manager of Engineering Reed Cooper noted that tree incidents cause a significant number of outages on HEC's system—274 in 2014, including 147 times when trees failed due to ice and snow accumulations and 35 other times without ice or snow. Another 92 incidents involved trees outside of the co-op's rights of way causing outages. "If we see a dead or weak leaning

Manager of Engineering Reed Cooper (right) says that, surprisingly, right-of-way maintenance is his department's most demanding, expensive task. "The most complicated thing I deal with is cutting trees," he says.

tree that's outside the right of way, we will take care of that one," Cooper says, "but we can't catch them all."

Preventive maintenance remains the best strategy, he said. "After a storm, downed trees and branches are normally the primary cause of our outages. They are also a huge problem with restoring power," Cooper said. "If you can imagine, the trees are all over the lines, and you can't get to them—our linemen can't get equipment to them. That causes a problem. It slows the restoration process down. It really impedes the safety of the crews as well. So we try to be proactive with our right of way."

Cooper said HEC regularly:

- ▶ Inspects every facility at least once every three years in addition to



routine maintenance

- ▶ Inspects all pole ground lines every 10 years, treating if needed
- ▶ Trims overhead right of way on a five-year cycle
- ▶ Maintains underground right of way on a 3-4-year cycle

To inform members about right-of-way work, Cooper said, schedules will be featured on social media and in *South Carolina Living*. Here's the current right-of-way work schedule:

Allsbrook—Down Hwy. 45, over to Hwy. 410 and surrounding areas, also from Hwy. 701 north to Cane Branch Road and nearby.

Socastee—Around Hwy. 707 to Leonard Road and surrounding areas, also behind Socastee High, down 707 toward Rosewood.

Longs—East Bear Grass and Freemont roads and surrounding areas.

Goretown—Hwy. 66, areas surrounding Daisy Crossroad.

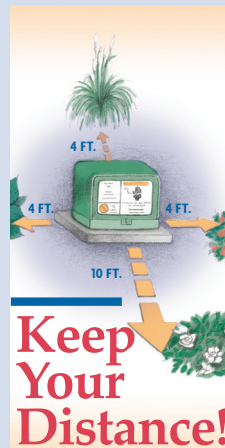


Why that green box needs room

HEC member Hilbert A. Best (left) volunteered to suit up in partial lineman's gear—we spared him the hardhat—to demonstrate why it's crucial that co-op linemen have clear access to the green boxes that contain underground service transformers. There's enough voltage inside a green box to kill a person, so remember:

- ▶ Never enclose the transformer with fencing, shrubs or anything else with less than a 10-foot-wide gate or opening.
- ▶ Never place anything that gets closer than 10 feet from the front or 4 feet from the sides of the transformer. (The handle is on the front.)
- ▶ To work at the transformer, we may need to remove obstructions. For safety, do not replace obstructions.
- ▶ Before you dig anywhere in your yard, call Horry Electric at (843) 369-2211 or the Palmetto Utility Protection Service at 811, to find out where the cables are buried.

For advice on how to safely beautify the area around your transformer, call Buddy Parker, Horry Electric's right-of-way coordinator, at (843) 369-2211.



Do-it-yourself spirit helped Horry Electric grow quickly



SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, on January 7, 1941, Horry Electric Cooperative energized its first lines. The co-op provided power to 627 charter members in rural Horry County—places that investor-owned utilities (IOUs) declined to serve.

The do-it-yourself spirit of early co-op members soon paid off.

With the support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural



Electrification

Administration (REA, now the Rural Utilities Service, or RUS), which provided loans and technical advice, the co-op grew a hundred-fold in the post-World War II boom. By the end of the decade, Horry Electric served almost 6,000 member-owners around the county.

Befitting its role in bringing progress to Horry County, the co-op moved into a sparkling, new office on the outskirts of Conway in late 1949. A scrapbook from those days, found in Horry Electric's archives, offers a glimpse of the local pride the fledgling co-op engendered.

Included are several pages from the guestbook for the dedication. Comments range from "Wonderful" to "superb" to "unique." One visitor called the office "a credit to Conway." Photos from the event



In December 1949, Horry Electric dedicated its new office on the outskirts of Conway. Nattily dressed for the photographer hired to document the occasion, original co-op Manager Lloyd Williams (left) and Board President D.M. Grainger posed in Williams' office. In the guest book, one visitor remarked that the office was "a credit to Conway."

GUESTS

DATE	NAME	RESIDENCE	REMARKS
12-15-49	Vivian Smith	Conway	
1:30 P.M.	Bill Hawley	CONWAY	WONDERFUL
	Villon Williams	Conway	Beautiful!
	Andrew Todd	Loris	Wonderful
	James Moore	Conway	Nice a credit to Conway
12-15-49	Ernest E. Smith	Conway	
"	Lewis H. Clark	Conway	superb
12-15-49	John T. Feltz	Conway	Real nice





Carl Benton, an Horry Electric line foreman, in a photo taken in 1953, back when the co-op had a three-digit phone number (537). Carl Benton died at age 90 in 1988, still a stalwart co-op man, his widow, Eugenia, said in 2014: "Carl thought there wasn't nothing like it. He lived for that Horry Electric!"

show a radio personality from local station WLAT interviewing beaming guests.

But getting there wasn't easy.

No easy road

Electric cooperatives, under steady attack in Washington, D.C., in the postwar era, bonded together in the early 1950s. Palmetto State co-ops formed an association, The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc.

Among other services, the association published a newspaper for co-op members, *South Carolina Electric Co-op News*. Predecessor of *Living in South Carolina* and later *South Carolina Living* magazines, the newspaper contained many stories in the early '50s describing charges that member-owned co-ops amounted to "socialism." Photos showed IOUs attempts to "pirate" areas that co-op linemen had toiled mightily to reach, which in Horry County often meant going through swamps and across miles of farmland.

Still, S.C. co-ops persevered—and Horry Electric thrived. As *South Carolina Electric Co-op News* reported in March 1951, "The low-state Cooperative system now has 1,350 miles of line and serves 6,500 member-owners. This makes it one of the largest Electric Cooperatives in the state."

By February 1954, a report said the co-op was ready for "an extensive 'heaving up'" of its lines, thanks to an REA loan of \$620,000 to finance "28½ miles of

33-kw transmission line and related sub-station facilities. . . . These new facilities became necessary because of the increasing use of electricity on farms in Horry County and is a sign of more progressive and productive agriculture in that section."

Living right

Then, as now, the co-op publication also reflected the little things that make living in South Carolina, and especially Horry County, truly special. J.M. Eleazor's Gleanings column reported in April 1951 how "Horry Wins Again." He referred to the county's "4-H clubsters," who for the third straight year came out on top of a statewide sweet-potato-growing contest. Eleazor wrote that Buster Causey, Billy Huggins, Russell Stanley, Bobby Johnson, Howard Grainger and Jimmy Ensor earned a trip "up East" with their prize potatoes to watch as "the housewife selects them in the supermarkets of the great A&P Tea Company, sponsors of this project."

No small potatoes

A statewide March 1954 profile, meanwhile, featured D.M. Grainger, an original member of Horry Electric's board. Grainger was president when that handsome new office was dedicated in 1949. And he

served on the board until 1969.

"Co-op Directors Are Dirt Farmers, Too!" said Grainger, "is typical of the approximately 200 farm men who direct the activities of the Co-ops in South Carolina." The co-op pioneer was pictured in one of his Pleasant View fields with a two-mule team and "plowman Rollie Livingston."

That "dirt farmer" later became the namesake of the Dolphus M. Grainger Generating Station at Conway. The facility was constructed in 1966 with an REA loan by Central Electric Power Cooperative, a power supply aggregator still co-owned by Horry Electric and 19 other independent S.C. distribution co-ops. Grainger served as Central's president for a time.

The Grainger plant was leased, and later sold, to the state-owned utility Santee Cooper, which decommissioned it in 2012. Yet for almost half a century, the name on the wall stood as a reminder that country boys know how to grow more than cotton, tobacco, corn and sweet potatoes.

They grow electric co-ops, too. ☺

"First Electric Fair Beauties, 1952" in a co-op scrapbook. Beauty pageants were a staple at the Electric Fairs staged by co-ops around the state for many years. Precursors of today's annual meeting of members, Electric Fairs included live entertainment and electric product demonstrations, all held inside a big tent—in the middle of August! See more scrapbook photos on Horry Electric's Facebook page.



ce in 1949.



75 Acts of Kindness Application

Horry Electric Cooperative is celebrating 75 years of serving our community!

IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF this milestone, the co-op will perform 75 individual acts with a monetary value of up to \$500 each.



Eligibility: Recipients do not have to be members of Horry Electric Cooperative, but they must be located in Horry County. General local charities that benefit HEC members are eligible to apply. Schools or school groups, churches and individuals are also eligible to apply for the purpose of community projects that benefit an individual or group of people in Horry County.

Name of recipient: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Describe in as much detail as possible the need for the Act of Kindness (*attach additional sheets as necessary*):

Estimate cost: If cost of need is more than \$500, are there sources to supply the balance of the need/project/act?

\$ _____

Supporting documentation: provide as much supporting documentation as possible (*official cost estimate, proof of disability, newspaper articles, photographs, etc.*)

Reference: please list a reference for the recipient (*i.e. teacher, doctor, employer, pastor, help organization volunteer*)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Job title or position in community: _____

☐ Are you willing to share your story and/or photo in Horry Electric Cooperative's print or online publications?
(*answer does not affect eligibility*)

75 Acts of Kindness recipients will be selected by a committee of Horry Electric Cooperative employees from different communities within our service area. Recipients will be notified by mail or phone.

Submit applications online, by mail or email:
Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 119, Conway, SC 29528
(843) 369-2211; community@horryelectric.com; horryelectric.com