

# Honoring Those Who Keep the Lights On



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

**HELP WANTED: APPLICANTS MUST BE COMFORTABLE** working 40 feet in the air for long hours in all types of weather and dangerous conditions while providing excellent customer service.

That doesn't sound like a job many of us would sign up for, but fortunately for Comanche Electric Cooperative and its members, we have a team of folks who embrace that challenge—our linemen.

On Monday, April 9, Lineman Appreciation Day, CECA will join cooperatives from across the nation in recognizing the employees who keep the lights on.

Electric linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve. Linemen across our service territory work every day building and repairing lines to ensure the overall reliability of the system. They are the unsung heroes who stand at the ready to respond to outages caused by storms, accidents and anything else that may knock out power. They are the ones who, through their tireless efforts, help ensure the reliability of your member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative.

Our linemen, as well as linemen from all across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition.



We recognize all electric linemen and crew members for the services they perform around the clock, often in dangerous conditions, so that our members can enjoy the conveniences and safety electricity provides.

Perhaps you have seen them rising in their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions—working around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

In addition to aiding members in our service territory, lineworkers always are willing and eager to volunteer when other communities are in need after a major outage, such as the recent ice storm that left over 6,000 CECA members without power. Crews from four neighboring cooperatives joined CECA in an effort to get all lines pulled back up and members power back on in as short a time as possible. This collaboration was a perfect example of Cooperative Principle No. 6, Cooperation Among Cooperatives

CECA also employs a whole cast of employees, from the mechanic to the staking technician, the dispatcher to the front-line personnel and everyone in between. All of them work tirelessly to ensure your power is flawless and your customer service is spot on at any given time.

On April 9, please join us by taking a moment to personally thank a lineman and all of our hardworking CECA employees for the work they do.

## Got Power? Thank a Lineman.

### Lineman Appreciation Day April 9



# CECA Assists Children's Advocacy Center

**EVERY CHILD. EVERY SERVICE. EVERY EFFORT.**



Jennifer Yeats with Heart of Texas CAC, Joanne McCraw with CASA in the Heart of Texas, and Christy Robinson and Jamie Foster, also with Heart of Texas CAC, accept a \$500 donation from the CECA Operation Round-Up program.

*"We can't change what has happened to the children who walk through our door, but we can change what happens next."*

*—Heart of Texas Children's Advocacy Center*

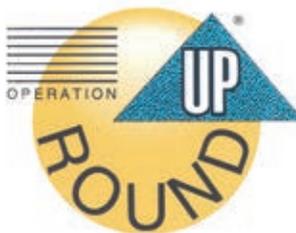
**THE HEART OF TEXAS CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER TAKES A VICTIM-CENTERED, multidisciplinary team approach to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, providing specialized forensic interviews, therapeutic recovery services, medical evaluations and case management.**

The Texas network brings together more than 1,000 dedicated CAC staff members, every Child Protective Services region in the state, Texas Child Care Licensing, Adult Protective Services, 1,000 law enforcement jurisdictions, more than 200 district and county attorneys, and countless medical and mental health professionals. While 97 percent of Texas counties are served by one of their 70 programs, the challenge remains to not only reach all 254 counties but also to ensure that every child who walks through the doors has access to the full spectrum of vital CAC services.

Each child the center serves receives a care package of a backpack and blanket or towel, a wide array of personal hygiene items, and an assortment of toys and books.

To assist in the funding of the program, their annual fundraiser, **Boots & Bags Bingo, will be held Saturday, April 7, at Aldersgate Enrichment Center in Early. Tickets are \$35 and include 30 bingo cards and refreshments. The event also includes a silent auction, live auction and door prizes.**

For more information on the event, or to donate to the event or the children's goody bags, contact CASA in the Heart of Texas at (325) 643-2557, or Heart of Texas Children's Advocacy Center at (325) 646-7148.



P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

## HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.  
Comanche, TX 76442

## EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338  
Early, TX 76801

## EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.  
Eastland, TX 76448

## OFFICE HOURS

**Comanche Office:** Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Early Office:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., closed 1–2 p.m.

**Eastland Office:** Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

## General Manager

Alan Lesley

## Board of Directors

Randy Denning, District 1  
Pete McDougal, District 2  
Ruby Solomon, District 3  
Monty Carlisle, District 4  
Troy Stewart, District 5  
Loren Stroebel, District 6  
Phil Taylor, District 7

## Report an Outage

CECA crews are available 24/7 in the event of a power-quality issue by calling 1-800-915-2533.

## Contact Us

### CALL US

**1-800-915-2533** toll-free

### FIND US ON THE WEB

[www.cecacoop.com](http://www.cecacoop.com)



[facebook.com/CECA.coop](https://facebook.com/CECA.coop)



# Eastland Museum To Host *The Wall That Heals*

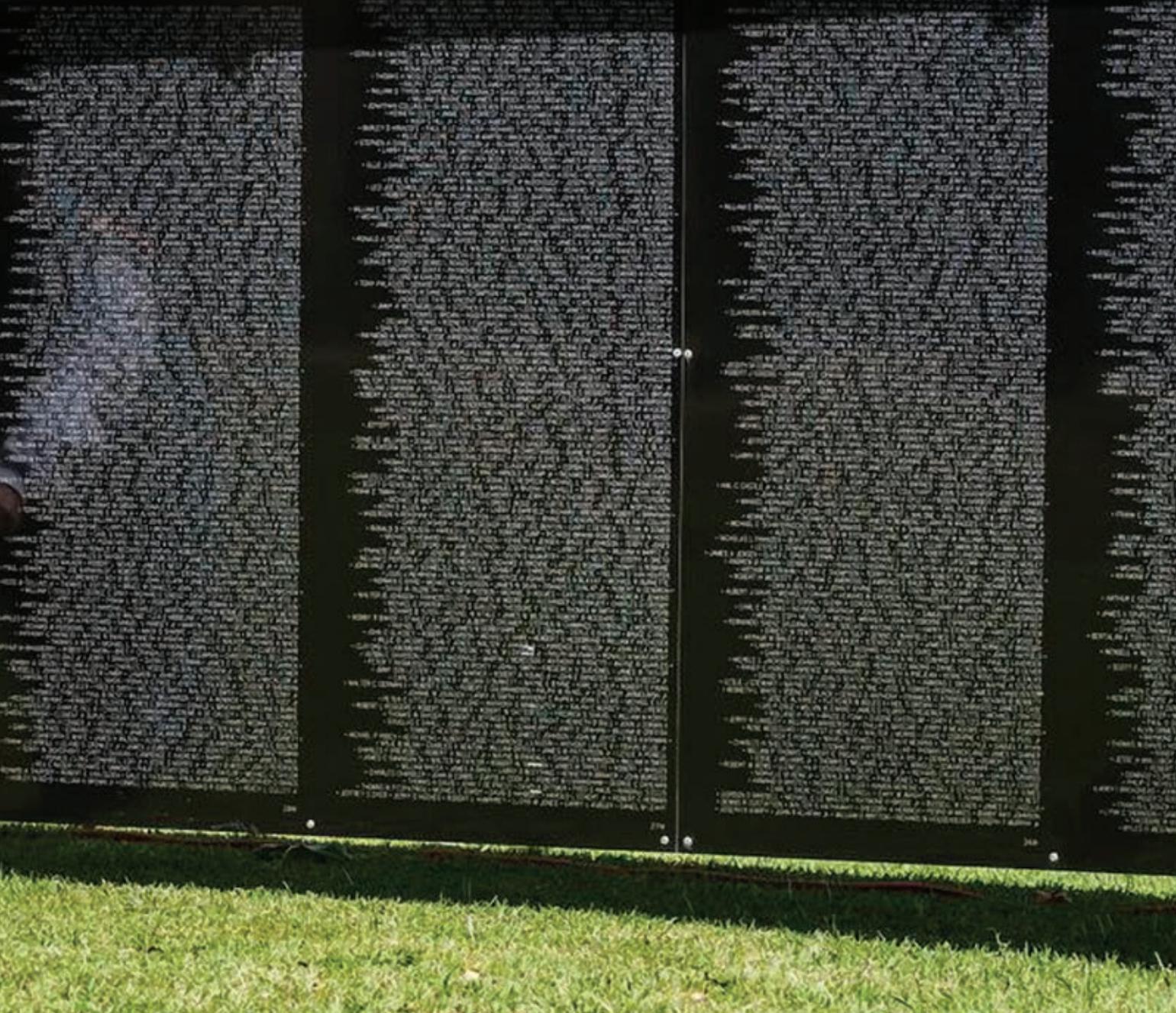
**The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica and Mobile Education Center spreads the healing legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall and educates about the impact of the Vietnam War.**

**THE WALL THAT HEALS, A REPLICA OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS Memorial, along with a mobile education center, is coming to Eastland, April 12–15. The exhibit will be located next to Farmers & Merchants Bank at 930 E. Main Street and will be open 24 hours a day, free to the public.**

The Wall That Heals honors the more than 3 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed forces in the Vietnam War and bears the names of the more than 58,000 men and

women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is one of the most visited memorials in our nation's capital, with more than 5.3 million visitors each year. However, many Americans have not been able to visit what has become known to many as “the wall.” The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the organization that built the wall in 1982, wants to give all veterans and their family members across America an opportunity to see the memorial.



“VVMF is pleased to bring The Wall That Heals mobile exhibit to Eastland to allow local veterans and their family members a chance to visit the wall and honor and remember those who have served and sacrificed,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF. “We hope it provides an opportunity for healing and an educational experience for the whole community on the impact of the Vietnam War on America.”

More than 250,000 people visited The Wall That Heals in 2016. Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in nearly 500 U.S. communities in addition to an April 1999 tour of the four provinces of Ireland and a visit to Canada in 2005. Hosting The Wall That Heals provides a community with a multiday educational experience for schools, organizations and individuals on the history of the Vietnam era and the wall. The exhibit includes the wall replica and a mobile education center that comprises digital displays of photos of service members whose names are on the wall; letters and memorabilia representative of items left at the wall in Washington; and a map of Vietnam and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War. The

exhibits tell the story of the Vietnam War, the wall and the era surrounding the conflict, and are designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

VVMF coordinates local stops of The Wall That Heals and the accompanying mobile education center. The current schedule and more information can be found at [thewallthatheals.org](http://thewallthatheals.org). The 2018 national The Wall That Heals tour is made possible through a partnership with the Truckload Carriers Association and the trucking industry and is generously sponsored by USAA. The Wall That Heals is hosted by the Eastland County Museum and sponsored in part by the city of Eastland and Farmers & Merchants Bank.

### **About the Half-Scale Replica**

The replica wall is approximately 250 feet long and, like the original Vietnam Veterans Memorial, is erected in a chevron shape. The replica is constructed of powder-coated aluminum, supported by an aluminum frame and is made up of 24 individual panels, each containing six columns of names.



The names on The Wall That Heals replicate the names on the wall in Washington. As on the original memorial, the names are listed alphabetically by day of casualty. Beginning at the center apex, the names start on the east wall (right-hand side), working their way out to the end of that wing, picking up again at the far end of the west wall (left-hand side) and working their way back to the center apex. Thus, the beginning and ending of the conflict are joined at the center, signifying an epoch in American history.

The Wall That Heals is transported from community to community by a trailer with cases built into its sides, allowing it to serve as a mobile education center that tells the story of the Vietnam War, the wall and a divisive era in American history.

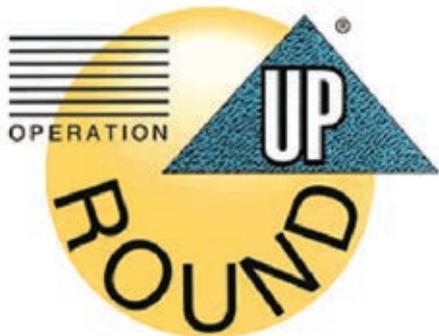
**VVMF and the Education Center at The Wall**

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington in 1982. VVMF is dedicated to honoring and preserving the legacy of service in America and educating all generations about the impact of the Vietnam War and era through programs, ceremonies and educational materials.

Three decades after building The Wall, the mission continues as VVMF raises funds to build the Education Center at The Wall. The center will be an interactive learning facility on the National Mall where our military heroes' stories and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The education center will feature the faces and stories of the more than 58,000 men and women on the wall and honor America's legacy of service, including those serving in our nation's armed forces today. Time Warner is the lead gift benefactor in the campaign to build the Education Center at The Wall. To learn more about VVMF and the future Education Center at The Wall, visit [vvmf.org](http://vvmf.org) or call (202) 393-0090.



# Want To Make a Difference in Your Community?



## Consider participating in the CECA Operation Round-Up program!

*Are you part of the CECA Operation Round-Up member partnership program?*

### MEMBERS CAN JOIN THE COOPERATIVE'S EFFORT TO IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNITIES

by rounding up their bill each month to support the program. For example, if a member's monthly bill were \$127.79, it would be rounded up to \$128. His or her donation that month would be just 21 cents. On average, members can expect to donate about \$6 per year.

These donations are placed into the CECA Operation Round-Up fund, which distributes funds to community service efforts to serve our members and neighbors across our service territory. All donations stay right here in our seven-county area.

This program is an opportunity for our CECA members to show the power of cooperation by banding together around a single cause: to improve the communities we live in.

While the program's impact in the area has been substantial, it could be even greater if more members join this mission.

To participate in the program as a member-partner, fill out the form below and mail it in or drop it by any of the cooperative offices. Members also can sign up online at [ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop) or by calling the cooperative at 1-800-915-2533.

To apply for a grant, fill out the appropriate form under the Member Benefits tab of our website at [ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop), or speak to one of our customer service representatives to obtain a paper copy of the form.

Thanks to members of CECA, the Operation Round-Up Trust Board was able to present checks totaling \$40,900 in 2017 to area members and organizations.

These donations would not be possible without the pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters from members who round up their electricity bills each month.

### How your donations were disbursed in 2017:

Volunteer fire departments	\$10,800
Schools	6,100
Member house fire recovery	1,500
Teacher grants	5,500
Member medical donations	3,250
Cancer society	250
Sponsorships	6,750
West Texas Rehab	3,500
Scholarships	2,500
Christmas charities	750

JONATHAN-BRINKHORST/UNSPASH



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OPERATION ROUND-UP**, fill out this form and submit it with your bill, or mail to to P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442. You also can join on our website, [www.ceca.coop](http://www.ceca.coop), or by calling 1-800-915-2533.

Name on Account \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# Are You Taking Advantage of the Co-op Connections Healthy Savings Program?



*This card has saved  
CECA members  
more than \$113,000 on  
prescription drugs!*

*If you've filled a prescription recently, you were probably shocked by the price tag. U.S. drug prices are on the rise, with some specialty drug prices skyrocketing at extraordinary rates—and health care consumers are feeling the squeeze. Even generic drugs are getting pricier.*

**TEN YEARS AGO, COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** introduced the Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections program to help our members save money when they dined out, made purchases or stayed in hotels.

In 2008, the program added prescription savings, which has saved CECA members over \$113,000 on prescription drugs alone. This amounts to an average savings of 42 percent!

Many insurance plans do not include provisions for dental, hearing and vision care, which means many people do not receive these much-needed services. With the Healthy Savings package, CECA members get no-cost access to five discounted

health benefit areas: vision, dental, hearing, lab imaging and chiropractic care.

The Healthy Savings package is available at no cost to CECA members as part of a commitment to helping members save money during these challenging economic times. To receive replacement or additional cards, or for additional information on the program, contact a customer service representative at 1-800-915-2533 or by email at [memberservices@ceca.coop](mailto:memberservices@ceca.coop), or visit [connections.coop](http://connections.coop) for program details.

Take control of your health and start saving today!

# Added Benefits! More Savings!

## Check Out the Healthy Savings Discounts!



**With the new Healthy Savings package, you receive no-cost access to discounted health benefits.**

As a member of Comanche Electric Cooperative, you received a Co-op Connections card and a list of participating local and national businesses. Now, the Co-op Connections program is about to save you even more! The program has saved CECA members more than \$113,000 on prescriptions and now offers you significant savings on dental, vision, hearing, lab and imaging services, and chiropractic care.

### How the Healthy Savings Program Works

Simply show your Co-op Connections card at a participating provider and you will receive a discount. It's that easy!

### Locating Program Providers

To locate providers that participate in the Healthy Savings program, call 1-800-800-7616 or visit [healthysavings.coop](http://healthysavings.coop). Be sure to have your Co-op Connections card handy.



### Prescriptions

By using your Co-op Connections card, you will receive a 10–85 percent discount on prescription drugs at over 60,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores, including CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Target and many more.



### Dental Care

Save 20–40 percent on most dental services, including orthodontics, periodontics and endodontics.



### Vision

Get 20–60 percent savings on eyewear.



### Hearing Aids

Receive a discount of 35 percent on hearing aid prices at 2,000-plus Newport Audiology Center locations.



### Lab Work and Imaging

Save 10–60 percent on usual charges for MRI, CT and other lab procedures.



### Chiropractic

Take advantage of 30–50 percent savings on diagnostic services and treatments.

**This is not insurance nor is it intended to replace insurance.**

**This discount card program contains a 30 day cancellation period.** This plan provides discounts at certain healthcare providers for medical services. This plan does not make payments directly to the providers of medical services. The plan member is obligated to pay for all healthcare services but will receive a discount from those healthcare providers who have contracted with the discount plan organization. For a full list of disclosures, visit [www.healthysavings.coop](http://www.healthysavings.coop). Discount Medical Plan Organization: New Benefits, Ltd., Attn: Compliance Department, PO Box 671309, Dallas, TX 75367-1309.