Coastal Electric Cooperative’s commitment to you goes beyond providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We’re always looking for ways to provide value to our members and the communities we serve, especially during tough economic times. Coastal Electric’s Co-op Connections member wallet cards and key fobs provide you with a real money-saving tool. The program connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs.

Looking for a deal on an oil change? What about a discount for your next family meal? A wide variety of merchants throughout our community accept Co-op Connections cards, including The Pizza Peddler in Midway, Richmond Hill Pharmacy and Darien Florist. Be sure to present the card at the register to receive your discount!

We hope local businesses in our Co-op Connections program benefit from members’ participation. While not insurance, the discount can save 10 percent to 60 percent on prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card are recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been widely used by co-ops that are members of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, resulting in combined savings of nearly $20 million on prescriptions.

Want to find out more? Log on to www.locateproviders.com to search for pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code 22203 as the group number under the “Groups” login section. Next, enter your ZIP code.

As a Touchstone Energy Cooperatives member, Coastal Electric strives to serve you according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Our Co-op Connections Card program is one of the ways we live up to those values.

We’re eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. Call us at (912) 884-3311 to get yours free. Don’t want to wait? Go to nbdrugcard.com/touchstone, then from the drop-down list select “Coastal EMC (GA)” and print a pharmacy discount card from your computer at home right now.

$29,281 – That’s the amount of money saved to date by Coastal Electric Members who use their Co-op Connections Card to receive discounts up to 60 percent on prescription drugs at local pharmacies. If you’ve lost your card or never had one, call (912) 884-3311 to get yours free. Don’t want to wait? Go to nbdrugcard.com/touchstone, then from the drop-down list select “Coastal EMC (GA)” and print a pharmacy discount card from your computer at home right now.
Use your Co-op Connections® Card to receive 10-60% discounts on prescription drugs at over 60,000 local, regional and national pharmacy stores.

Coastal Electric Members have access to Co-op Connections, a member benefit program that offers co-op members products and service discounts at participating retail businesses. Use your card at participating national and regional pharmacy chain stores—including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and many more local pharmacies in Midway, Richmond Hill, Hinesville and Darien and throughout the Coastal Electric service area to receive discounts on prescription drugs*.

- The Co-op Connections Program is FREE to all members of Coastal Electric Cooperative.
- One card can be used for the entire family.

You may get your pharmacy discount care free by calling Coastal Electric Cooperative or online at www.CoastalElectric.coop

Or, if you can’t wait you can print your own Co-op Connections Card on your home computer at http://www.nbdrgcard.com/touchstone/

*The pharmacy discount benefit is NOT insurance, and is not intended as a substitute for insurance.
I’ve always told my son Nicholas that it’s the little things that make a difference in life—being kind to your friends at school, returning a lost wallet, picking up after yourself while enjoying the great outdoors. While each action might not amount to much on its own, if everyone does a little, we see a big impact in our community.

That’s why I’m a proud supporter of Coastal Electric Cooperative’s Operation Round Up program. Six bucks isn’t a lot of money—it’s about what you would pay for a meal at a fast-food restaurant. But $6 equals the average amount folks who support our Operation Round Up program give every year, all through spare change.

Members—people like you who receive electricity from the co-op—agree to have their monthly electric bills automatically rounded up to the next whole dollar. Let’s say your bill is $82.90. It would be rounded up to $83, with a dime going to Operation Round Up. The extra pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters then flow into the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation, a tax deductible 501(c)3 fund managed by a local board of volunteer members that assists worthy local organizations as well as fellow members who’ve fallen on hard times.

Sure, donating $6 over the course of a year may seem like a little thing. But if you put all of that money together—well, things start to get exciting. A large majority of Coastal Electric Cooperative members are already chipping in to support Operation Round Up, and that number grows every month. Good thing, too, because the need has never been greater.

Last year we distributed more than $64,000 to community groups such as South Bryan Volunteer Firefighters, Richmond Hill Asperger Support Group Inc., McIntosh County Arts Association and Midway Museum, as well as college scholarships for 12 local students. Since we launched Operation Round Up in 1993, we’ve given community groups and folks in need more than $930,000!

‘Since we launched Operation Round Up in 1993, we’ve given community groups and folks in need more than $930,000!’

J. Mark Bolton
Vice President, Communications, Marketing and Economic Development

...your assistance is changing lives in our community. Who would have ever thought that mere nickels and dimes would add up to such a valuable contribution to our communities?

As I said, it’s the little things that count in life. About 250 local electric co-ops nationwide run Operation Round Up programs. All told, consumers at these co-ops have raised more than $100 million since the idea was started by South Carolina’s Palmetto Electric Cooperative in 1989.

If you’re one of the members who make Operation Round Up possible, thank you. If you haven’t heard about the program and would like to learn more, visit our website at www.coastalelectric.coop or call us at (800) 421-2343.

Together, we can use a little pocket change to change our community.
U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston (second from right) greets (from left) chaperones Brad and Brandie Waugh and Liberty County High School senior Candace Poole during the Washington Youth Tour in June. The tour is a weeklong youth leadership experience, sponsored locally by Coastal Electric Cooperative, where Brandie is a customer service coordinator. Candace and the other two Coastal delegates on the tour—Stephanie Hull, of McIntosh County Academy, and Taylor Gadsden, of Richmond Hill High School—each won $1,000 college scholarships funded by the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation. Look for stories and more pictures next month in a special Washington Youth Tour edition of GEORGIA Magazine.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider using ceiling and other fans during the cooling season. They provide additional cooling and better circulation so you can raise the thermostat and cut down on air conditioning costs. Energy Star-certified ceiling fans do even better, especially those that include compact fluorescent light bulbs.

— Source: Alliance to Save Energy