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Meet Our Newest TEAM MEMBERS



Meredith Smith
Marketing & Communications



Michael Gobert
Forestry Journeyman

Welcome, new employees!

EnerStar welcomes two new team members

EnerStar Electric Cooperative is pleased to welcome two new members to the team.

Meredith Smith - Marketing & Communications Specialist

Meredith joins EnerStar as our new Marketing & Communications Specialist. A native of Hume, Ill., Meredith earned her degree in business administration with a focus in marketing from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. In her role, Meredith will help tell EnerStar's story, connecting with members and the community through marketing initiatives and communications. We're excited to see the fresh perspective and creativity she brings to the cooperative.

Michael Gobert - Forestry Journeyman

Michael brings 11 years of experience in distribution line clearance to his new role as a Forestry Journeyman at EnerStar. Since beginning in 2015, Michael has built a strong background in keeping power lines clear and safe for our members. A lifelong resident of Oakland, Ill., Michael's experience and dedication make him a valuable addition to our forestry team.

Please help us welcome Meredith and Michael to the EnerStar family. We're excited to have them on board and know they'll be great additions to our cooperative!



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

11597 Illinois Highway 1
Paris, IL 61944
800-635-4145
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

CoBank Sharing Success Grant



EnerStar awards CoBank Sharing Success grants to local nonprofits. Co-Bank is one of EnerStar's lending partners

EnerStar Electric Cooperative is proud to announce it has received a 2026 CoBank Sharing Success matching grant of \$30,000. This marks another consecutive year the co-op has secured funding through the program, a streak that dates back to 2012. The Sharing Success program allows cooperatives to give back by supporting organizations that make a difference in the communities they serve.

This year, EnerStar is directing grant funds to four local organizations: Bell Ridge - Food for Kids, Chrisman Cupboard, Shiloh Food Backpack Program and Oakland Ministerial Association Youth Service.

Thanks to the continued partnership with CoBank, EnerStar has now distributed a total of \$245,000 in Sharing Success grants to organizations throughout its service territory. Over the years, recipients have included schools, volunteer fire departments, food pantries and various community improve-

EnerStar has now distributed a total of \$245,000 in Sharing Success grants

ment projects. For more information about the grant and past recipients, please visit: enerstar.com/sharing-success-grant

CoBank is a cooperatively owned bank dedicated to serving rural America, offering financial services to agribusinesses and

rural electric, water and communications providers across the country. Through its matching grant program, CoBank extends its cooperative mission by supporting the charitable efforts of its member cooperatives. Eligible organizations must be recognized nonprofits under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code, including schools, churches and government entities.

"Giving back to our communities is at the heart of who we are as a cooperative," said EnerStar CEO Angela Griffin. "This program reflects two of our core cooperative principles, 'Cooperation among Cooperatives' and 'Concern for Community,' and we're honored to support organizations making a real difference locally.

Organizations interested in applying for a future Sharing Success grant should note that funds are reserved for 501(c)(3) nonprofits, schools and government entities within EnerStar's service area. To nominate a worthy cause, contact EnerStar at 800-635-4145.

More information about the grant and past recipients:



CoBank Sharing Success

2012

- Paris High School Construction Fund

2013

- Marshall Food Distribution Center
- Martinsville Food Pantry

2014

- University of Illinois Extension
- Edgar and Clark Counties (4H)

2015

- Human Resources Center of Edgar and Clark Counties

2016

- Twin Lakes All-Ability Playground

2017

- Oakland Food Pantry
- Clark County Park District

2018

- Clark County Sheriff's Department
- Edgar County Sheriff's Department

2019

- Edgar County Food Pantry
- Chrisman Food Pantry
- Northern Edgar County Ambulance Service

This year's Sharing Success recipients share a common thread: supporting local youth and families facing food insecurity. Bell Ridge - Food for Kids, Chrisman Cupboard, Shiloh Food Backpack Program and Oakland Ministerial Association Youth Service all work

to make sure children in our service area have consistent access to nutritious food – whether that's through school backpack programs, community food pantries or youth-focused outreach.

For many families, these programs fill a critical gap, especially

during weekends, summer break and other times when school meal programs aren't available. EnerStar is proud to stand behind organizations doing this kind of work, knowing these programs make a lasting difference in the lives of local children and families.



Chrisman Cupboard



Bell Ridge - Food for Kids



Oakland Ministerial Association Youth Service



Shiloh Food Backpack Program Youth Service

past grant recipients

2020

- Paris Crestwood
- Kansas
- Chrisman
- Shiloh
- Oakland
- Martinsville
- Marshall

2021

- Area Volunteer Fire Departments

2022

- Martinsville Ag Fair
- Clark County Fair
- Edgar County Fair

2023

- Friends of Lincoln Trail and Friends of Walnut Point State Park

2024

- Marshall Area Youth Network
- Martinsville's Santa's Helpers
- Hopes & Dreams
- Paris PERK

2025

- Faith in Action
- Paris Girls Softball Association
- Marshall Area Soccer Kids (MASK)
- Paris Park Board

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

ARE
YOU
PREPARED?

Storm Preparedness – National Preparedness Month

Are You Prepared?

Fall storm season is right around the corner, and National Preparedness Month is a good time to make sure your family is ready for whatever the weather brings. As your local electric cooperative, EnerStar wants to help you stay safe and informed when severe weather strikes. A few reminders to help you prepare:

- ☁ Build a kit. Every household should have flashlights, extra batteries, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, a few days' supply of water and nonperishable food, and a first-aid kit on hand. Skip the candles; they're a fire risk.
- ☁ Report outages fast. During a storm, EnerStar crews work

around the clock to restore power safely and quickly. Call 800-635-4145 or report through SmartHub App as soon as you notice an outage. The more members who report, the faster our crews can pinpoint problem areas.

- ☁ Stay clear of downed lines. Always assume a line is energized. Stay back, keep children and pets away, and never attempt to move a line yourself. Report downed lines to EnerStar immediately.
- ☁ Generator safety. Never run a generator indoors or in an enclosed space. Always use a transfer switch to prevent dangerous backfeed onto power

lines, which can be a serious hazard for our lineworkers restoring power.

- ☁ Make a family plan. Talk with your family about what to do if the power goes out for an extended period – where to go, how to stay in touch, and what to do with perishable food or medications that require refrigeration.

Preparedness starts before the storm hits. Taking a few minutes this September to review your plan and restock your kit can make all the difference when severe weather strikes. EnerStar is here for you, rain or shine.



Our office will be closed
Monday, September 7