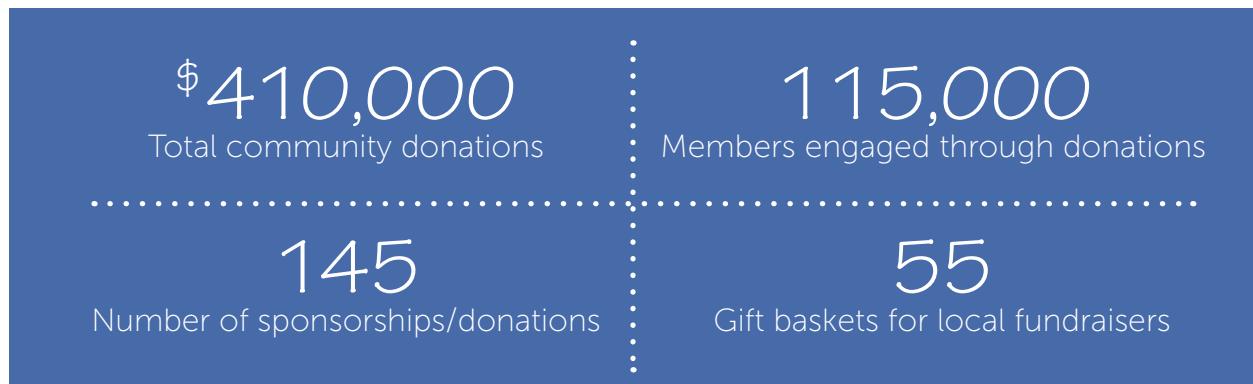


# 2018 COMMUNITY REPORT

## connecting with our community

Connexus Energy connects with our community partners to make life better for our members. As an electric cooperative, we have a special role in the cities and towns we serve. After all, the North Metro is our home. Our members are our neighbors, our friends, and our families. We embrace opportunities to give back to our communities. This report highlights our 2018 community initiatives.

### 2018 donations at a glance



## connecting with our youth

Our commitment to education began decades ago and it continues to this day. It is the foundation of our community donations program. In 2018, Connexus Energy donated \$86,000 in scholarships. Those scholarships went to students in 22 local high schools, two local colleges, and three technical colleges with line worker programs.



Giving young people the opportunity to succeed extends beyond scholarships. We talk with local educators and businesses to find out what type of training is needed and what can be done to make sure students have the right tools to learn the job. In that regard, Connexus Energy works closely with Anoka Technical College helping to raise funds for much needed equipment. Most recently, Connexus was instrumental in helping the college secure new robotic welding machines.

### DONATIONS BY FOCUS AREA



\$86,000 in scholarships



## connecting with community growth

Our community ties are strong. We work closely with local cities and towns to promote economic development in the North Metro. Several years ago, Connexus Energy partnered with Anoka County and the Metro North Chamber of Commerce to promote economic progress in Anoka County. This innovative collaboration, dubbed as the Anoka County Regional Economic Development Partnership, was honored with a 2018 Economic Development Association of Minnesota Award. This award recognizes exceptional efforts and accomplishments of organizations working together to achieve positive results in economic development in Minnesota.



Community fairs and festivals bring us together. We proudly support events like the Anoka Riverfest, Nowthen Heritage Festival, Ham Lake Snow Bowl, and Ramsey Happy Days. Each is unique in its own way. Every event helps build community spirit and connects us to one another.



## connecting with the environment

Connexus Energy's leading role in protecting bees and other pollinators is now well documented. For the past several years, we made headlines with our pollinator-friendly solar gardens which also include bee apiaries. As we build additional solar arrays, every one of them will include pollinator-friendly vegetation.

Our support of the University of Minnesota Bee and Pollinator Research Lab, The Energy Resources Center, and Fresh Energy demonstrates our commitment to find solutions for the environmental challenges facing pollinators. Protecting the pollinators helps protect our food supply and human health.



During National Pollinator Week, we invited our members to come and tour our solar garden and bee apiary. Hundreds showed up to taste honey right from the hives and learn more about the plight of the honey bees and monarch butterflies.

Connexus Energy's delicious SolarWise honey is in high demand. The honey from our solar garden is distributed to our solar subscribers and donated to various community fundraisers.



## your community, your choice

It's your community so we're giving you a choice. Our *Your Community, Your Choice* program allows our members to choose which local organizations receive our support. The program recognizes and benefits non-profit groups that are meaningful to our members. Via our website and Facebook, members choose and then vote for an organization to receive a \$1,000 donation from Connexus Energy.



For 10 years, Stable Pathways has helped empower, strengthen, and inspire those living with disabilities through horse-assisted activities. Operating out of Oak Haven Farm in Oak Grove, Stable Pathways serves clients ranging in age from 2 to 80.

Hope4Youth continues to help homeless youth in our communities feel safe, valued, and supported. Whether the kids need basic necessities like food or clothes, a hot shower, or help with finding housing, employment, or finishing their education, Hope4Youth helps put them on a path that allows them to leave their homeless status in the past.

### YOUR PICKS

#### 2018 recipients of *Your Community, Your Choice*

- Alexandra House
- Anoka County Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Eagles Healing Nest - Anoka
- Forest Lake Area Athletic Association
- Girls on the Run – Twin Cities
- Hope4Youth
- Running for Justice
- Stomp out Suicide
- Stable Pathways
- Thumbs Up High 5K
- Zimmerman Passing the Bread Food Distribution



connecting etc.

## EMPLOYEES CONNECT

Many Connexus employees volunteer in the community. They show compassion and generosity throughout the year by supporting the United Way and by taking advantage of our Dollars for Doers and Matching Gifts programs. Employees' community volunteerism extends to dozens of local charities including Feed My Starving Children.



## SAFETY

In 2018, over 8,600 Minnesotans learned about safety by taking part in one of our 340 safety events and demonstrations.

## 2018 DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS (\$500+)

Alexandra House  
Andover YMCA  
Anoka Child Abuse Prevention Council  
Anoka County Parks Heritage Labs & Wildlife Outreach  
Anoka-Hennepin Educational Foundation  
Anoka - Ramsey Community College  
Anoka Riverfest  
Anoka Rotary Dictionary Project  
Anoka Technical College  
Bikes 4 Kids  
Bunker Beach  
Cambridge Isanti Rotary - Taste of Isanti  
Coon Rapids Rotary Writing Contest  
Centennial Educational Foundation  
Eagle's Healing Nest - Anoka  
Emma B. Howe YMCA

Energy Resources Center – Pollinator Project  
Feed My Starving Children  
Fishing for Life  
Forest Lake Area Athletic Association  
Forest Lake Rotary Winter Plunge  
Fresh Energy  
Friends of Sherburne Wildlife Refuge  
Girls on the Run – Twin Cities  
Great River Greening  
Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce  
Snowbowl  
Hope4Youth  
Impact Services/Meals on Wheels  
Initiative Foundation  
Legacy Foundation of Big Lake  
Mental Wellness Campaign for Anoka County  
Mercy Hospital Foundation  
National Rural Electric Assn. International Foundation

National Sports Center  
Night to Unite  
Nowthen Heritage Festival  
Quilts of Valor - Andover  
Ramsey Happy Days  
Ramsey Draw Park Concert Series  
Running for Justice  
Salvation Army HeatShare  
Stable Pathways  
Stomp Out Suicide  
The Education Foundation of the Forest Lake Area  
Thumbs Up High 5K  
Toys for Joy  
Tree Trust  
United Way  
U of M Institute for the Environment  
Youth First  
Zimmerman Passing the Bread Food Distribution

To learn more about our community efforts, visit us at [connexusenergy.com](http://connexusenergy.com).