

'Sharing Success' grants benefit two groups

By Mary Wilson | mwilson@cuivre.com

Two local charitable organizations were each awarded a \$7,000 "Sharing Success" grant by Cuivre River Electric Cooperative (CREC) and CoBank. The recipients of the 2019 grants are Greater St. Louis Honor Flight and The Key Youth Center.

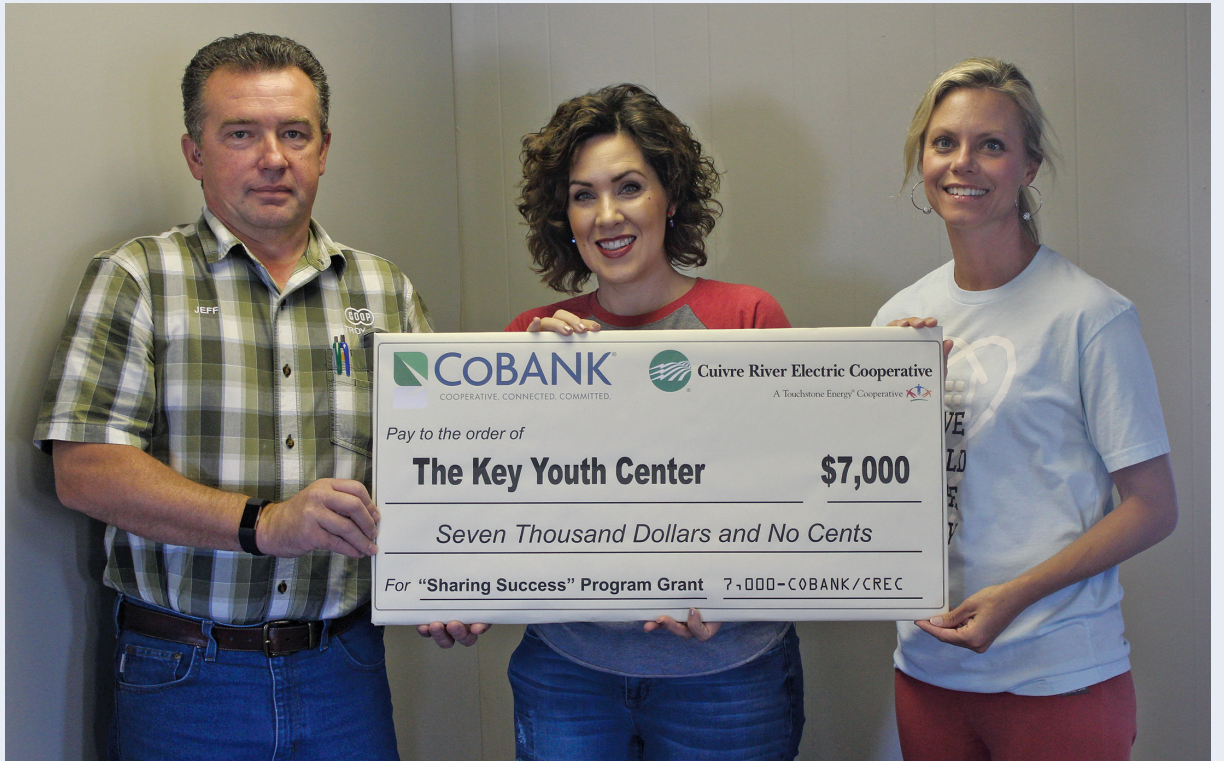
"We are proud to be able to serve our community by providing these local charities with the funds they need to make a positive impact on our neighbors" says Diane Saale, President, CREC Board of Directors.

Greater St. Louis Honor Flight serves St. Louis metro area veterans by granting them an all-inclusive trip to Washington DC to experience the memorials that were built to honor their service to our country. Since launching in 2008, the Greater St. Louis Honor Flight has traveled with over 1500 local veterans. Their day of honor includes visits to the Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Memorial and the World War II Memorial. The veterans also visit several other landmarks such as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. The Honor Flight veterans are always honored and acknowledged by civilians everywhere they embark.

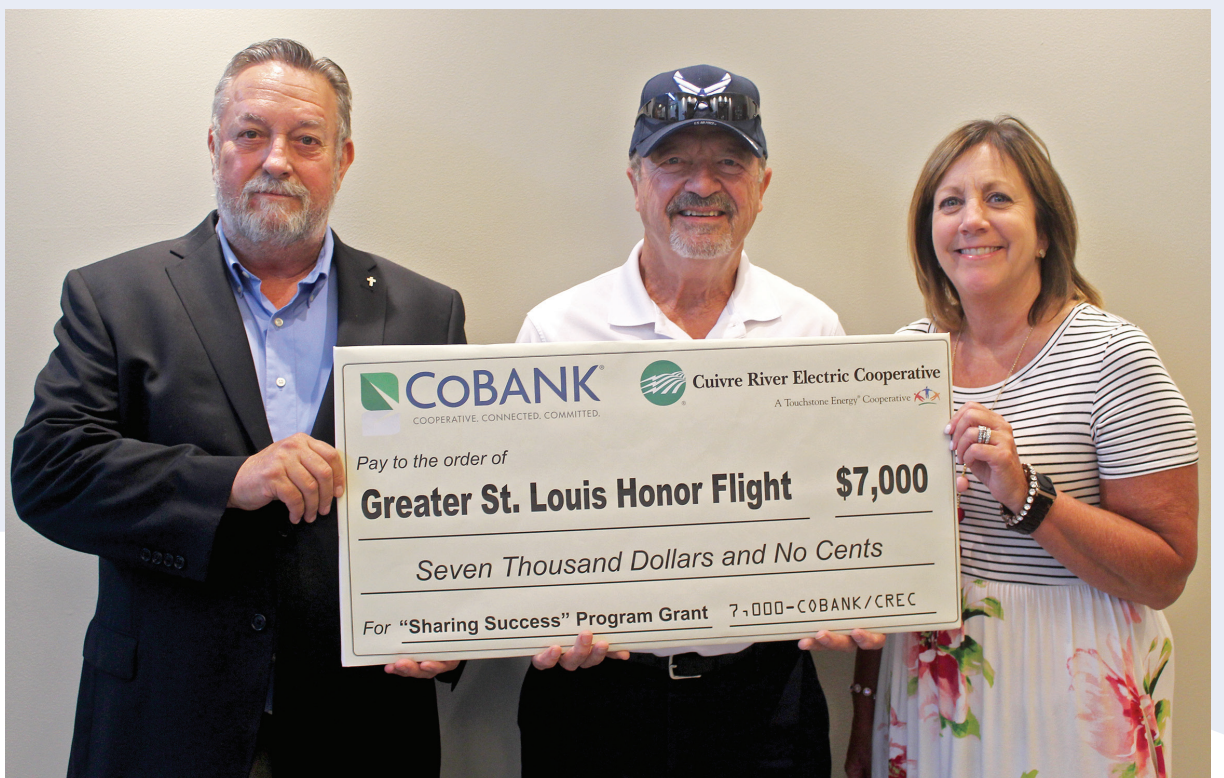
Many of the esteemed veterans say the experience is one of the best of their lives. In order to provide this all-expense paid experience for our veterans, Greater St. Louis Honor Flight relies entirely on corporate and individual contributions. The Sharing Success grant will fund visits to our nation's capital for 10 veterans, according to Operations Director Jim Pettit, Greater St. Louis Honor Flight.

The Key Youth Center is a community-driven, funded and managed organization that is dedicated to serving homeless youth in Lincoln County. The Lincoln County Resource Board's 2017 Needs Assessment indicates that homeless youth percentages have risen 552 percent since 2010. The Key was created to help provide these youth with sustainable housing and support to achieve their personal goals. Support services include, but are not limited to, mental health care, life-skills coaching and case management.

Once renovations to the building that houses The Key have been finished, the organization will have the capacity to provide 14 homeless youth with safe shelter. The Key relies on donations in order to support and protect homeless youth of Lincoln County. Contact Shiloh Werkmeister, The Key's president, at 636-295-1974 to learn more.



The Key Youth Center, from left, CREC Board Director Jeff Geisendorfer; and from The Key, President Shiloh Werkmeister and Vice President Cheri Winchester.



Greater St. Louis Honor Flight, from left, CREC Board Director Troy Galloway, Greater St. Louis Honor Flight Operations Director Jim Pettit, and CREC Board Director Denise O'Mara.

"Sharing Success" is a matching grant program created by CoBank in 2012. The cooperative bank partners with its customers, like CREC, to support the causes and organizations they care about. CoBank customers can apply for up to \$7,500 in matching grants each year. This year, CREC awarded \$3,500 to each recipient, and CoBank matched the funds, thus providing a total of \$7,000 to each organization.

Since the inception of the program and

counting this year's grants, CREC has awarded a total of \$40,000 to organizations including Operation Food Search, Volunteers in Medicine St. Charles, TREE House of Greater St. Louis, St. Charles Community College Foundation, Earth Angel Aviators, Sparrow's Nest and Our Lady's Inn. CREC's board of directors jointly makes the decision to which organizations the "Sharing Success" grants will be awarded.

CURRENT TIMES is the official member publication of Cuivre River Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 160, Troy, MO 63379.



General Manager/CEO: Doug Tracy
Editor: Tim Schmidt
Contributors: Mary Wilson, Rod Smerkar, Jessica Curran

LOBBY AND DRIVE-UP HOURS
Lobby: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | **Drive-Up:** 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
1112 E. Cherry St., Troy | 636-528-8261 • 800-392-3709
8757 Hwy. N, Lake Saint Louis | 636-695-4700 • 800-392-3709