

Your Community Energy Partner

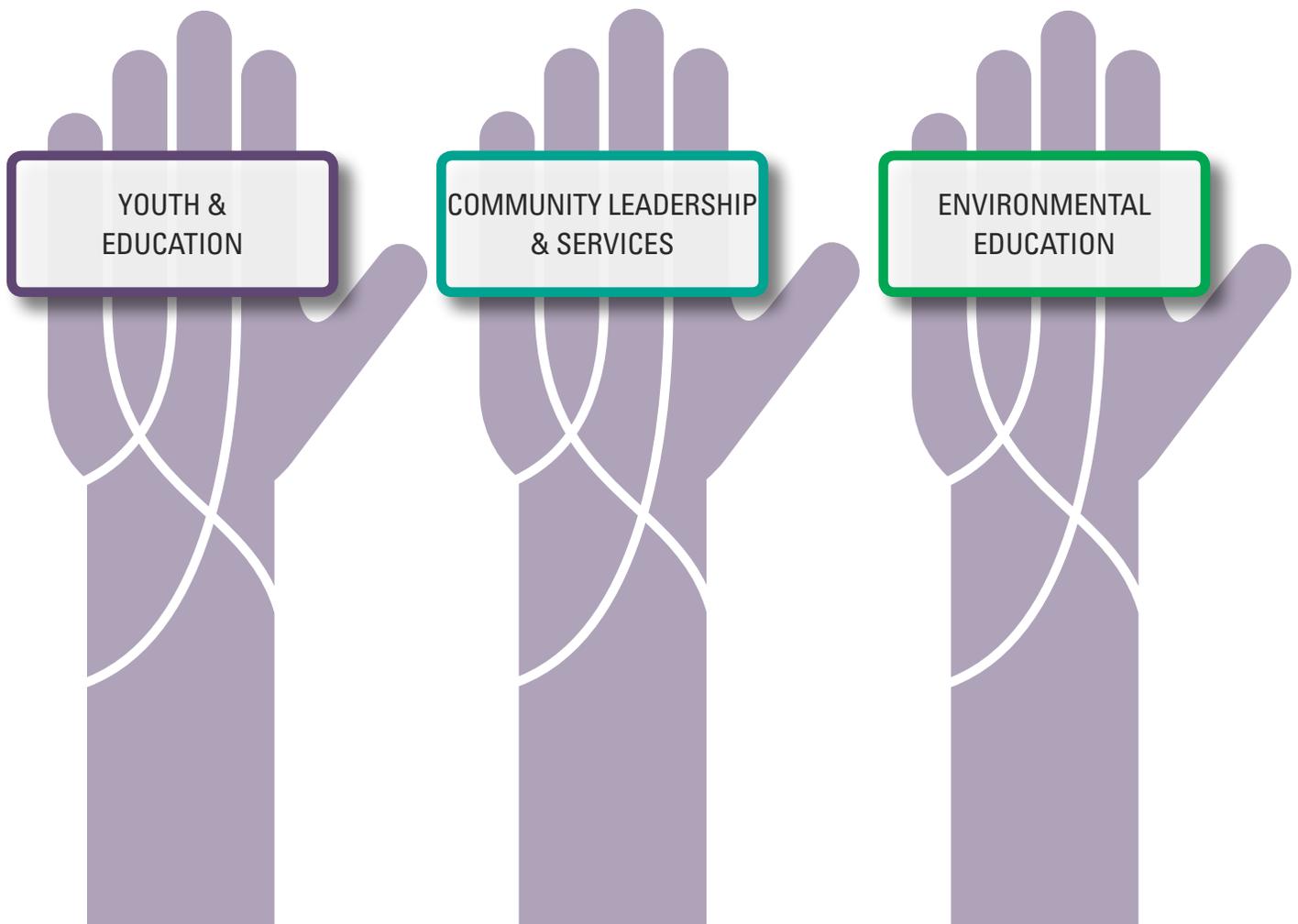
2015 Community Report

Transformers, wires, and poles connect us to our members, but our employees connect us to our communities. Considering most Connexus Energy employees live in the same communities we serve, we enjoy the knowledge that our members are also our neighbors. Being a good neighbor means that we are there to lend a hand and help however we can. Building great communities is just the way we work.

As an electric cooperative, we often get asked where the money comes from for community donations. Connexus Energy invests in economic development in our communities through our corporate giving program. Donation dollars also come from unclaimed Cash Back payments to former members. These unclaimed funds support many of our community donations and sponsorships – benefiting us all.

And, we're fortunate to have many community-minded employees who give their time and money to different organizations in our service area. With all these resources, we're helping our communities thrive.

Our charitable giving focuses on three core areas: Youth & Education, Community Leadership & Services, and Environmental Education. Our outreach includes charitable donations, sponsorships, matching gifts, employee volunteer efforts, and an annual United Way campaign. This community giving report provides a snapshot of our 2015 community activities.



\$2.1 million back to community in last 5 years

YOUTH & EDUCATION

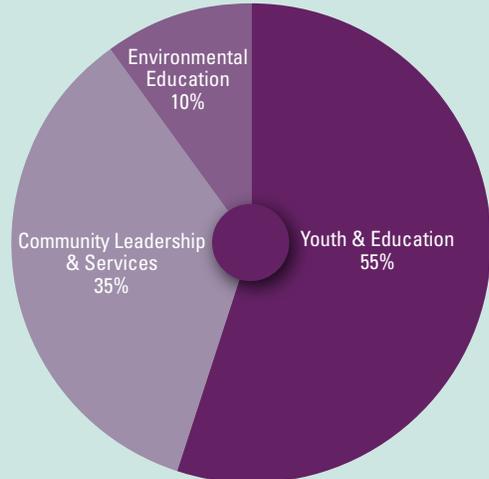
Opening a world of possibilities

Connexus Energy's scholarship program provides opportunities for young people to become leaders in our communities. In 2015, we gave out \$85,000 in scholarships to students in 22 area high schools, to our two local colleges, and to the three technical colleges in Minnesota who offer line worker programs.

Anoka High School
Anoka-Hennepin School District #11 STEP
Andover High School
Becker High School
Big Lake High School
Blaine High School
Cambridge-Isanti High School
Centennial High School
Champlin Park High School
Coon Rapids High School
Elk River High School
Forest Lake High School
Legacy Christian Academy
Pact Charter School
Princeton High School
Spectrum High School
Spring Lake Park High School
St. Cloud Tech
St. Francis Christian School
St. Francis High School
White Bear Lake High School
Zimmerman High School

Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Anoka Technical College
Dakota County Technical College
Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Minnesota State Community & Technical College

2015 DONATIONS BY FOCUS AREA



Total donations \$490,000

Training for the future

It's amazing what can happen when community leaders get together to solve a problem. A few years ago, Connexus staff met with local manufacturers to talk about business development in the north metro. Manufacturing companies were having a hard time finding skilled labor – one of their main roadblocks to expansion. Once the need was identified, Connexus Energy kicked off the campaign to get a new multi-axis Swiss machine for the Machine Trades program at Anoka Technical College. Today, students hone their skills on this complex machine and they are ready to fill the manufacturing jobs that are needed by local businesses.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & SERVICES

Giving hope to homeless youth

In 2012, a series of news articles on homeless teens living in Anoka County inspired community members to dedicate themselves to serving these youth. A few months later, a new drop-in center, HOPE 4 Youth, opened its doors for the first time, and Connexus Energy donated much needed refrigerators and freezers, along with a washer and dryer to the fledgling center. In 2015, Connexus pledged to support HOPE 4 Youth's plan for a transitional facility. It is slated to open later this year. Clearly, there is significant work that still needs to be done, and Connexus Energy continues to support the efforts to help the homeless youth in our community.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Bringing history to life

Connexus Energy has a long history with Anoka County Parks and Recreation. Our community partnership goes back more than 25 years. We continue to support their wildlife outreach efforts at local elementary schools and the Heritage Lab programs near the Wargo Nature Center. The Wildlife Outreach programs teach children about wildlife native to this state in a fun and informal manner. The Heritage Lab is an outdoor historical program that focuses on Minnesota history and students participate in hands-on activities related to the overall historical theme. Recently, Connexus committed to help improve the Heritage Lab learning kiosks which will serve generations of students in the years to come.

\$490,000 back to community in 2015

EMPLOYEES REINFORCE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Connexus Energy employees are generous with their time and money. They show thoughtful expressions of kindness and generosity throughout the year. That includes supporting the United Way and giving back through Connexus' Dollars for Doers and Matching Gifts programs.

A large number of employees volunteer in the community. On staff we have many coaches, firefighters, chamber and rotary members, and board directors at various non-profit organizations. There are also those employees who spend their time helping at local food shelves, feeding the homeless, and delivering meals to those who are not able to leave their homes. Together, we provide another form of positive energy in our communities.

Safety matters

Because of the nature of our business, safety is a top priority. Our focus on electric safety extends to the community. Our electric safety presentation reached more than 12,000 Minnesotans in 2015.



We're helping to keep our neighborhoods clean. Adopt-A-Highway is one of many community events Connexus employees take part in throughout the year.

2015 Donations and Sponsorships (\$1,000+)

Alexandra House
American Red Cross
Anoka Child Abuse Prevention Council
Anoka County Parks Heritage Labs & Wildlife Outreach
Anoka Halloween Parade
Anoka Ramsey Community College
Anoka Riverfest
Anoka Technical College
Andover YMCA
Bunker Beach
Cars for Neighbors
Emma B. Howe Coon Rapids YMCA

Feed My Starving Children
Fishing for Life
Great River Greening
Ham Lake Snowbowl
Healthy Student Initiative
HOPE 4 Youth
Impact Services/Meals on Wheels Initiative Foundation
Mental Wellness Campaign for Anoka County
Mercy/Unity Hospital Foundation
National Rural Electric Association International Foundation
National Sports Center

Night to Unite
Ramsey Happy Days
Ramsey Draw Park Concert Series
Rotary Dictionary Project
Salvation Army HeatShare
Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
Taste of Isanti
The Sandwich Project
Tree Trust
United Way



Learn more about our community efforts, where donation dollars come from, or how to apply for a donation at connexusenergy.com and check out *Our Community*.