

# PLUGGED IN

MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC, INC.

## MPE's 2025 Chart-Toppers

As we enter 2026, let's take a quick look at what topped our charts in 2025. From the employees putting in the most work to our member's favorite rebates, here's a look at our #1s from last year.

### #1 REBATE USED BY MEMBERS

## ELECTRIC OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

(snowblowers, mowers, leaf blowers, etc.)

### #1 MOST OVERTIME WORKED

## BLAKE JUERGENS

Apprentice Lineman

### #1 SODA AMONG EMPLOYEES



### #1 ATTENDED COMMUNITY EVENT



## MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

### #1 MPE EMPLOYEE KUDOS RECIPIENT



## MEGAN MOORE-KEMP

who received seven total Kudos in 2025

### #1 MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE WHO ANSWERED THE MOST CALLS

## JENNIFER VAZQUEZ

1,841 calls in 2025



### #1 IN YEARS OF SERVICE



## NATHAN KLINDT

29 Years of Service in 2025

### #1 MOST COMMON MEMBER QUESTION

"I MOVED OUT LAST MONTH, SO WHY AM I GETTING ANOTHER BILL?"



## Sustainable Grand

# Weatherization Workshop

*Sustainable Grand welcomed around 20 guests at a Weatherization Workshop sponsored by MPE on Thursday, December 4, in Fraser.*

### Here's what members learned in Sustainable Grand's December 4 workshop:

Completing weatherization projects can cut down on energy costs. A good first step to weatherizing your home is to locate where your home is wasting energy, through an Energy Assessment or through a self-guided investigation using a thermal camera.

Sustainable Grand has worked with the Grand County Library District to have thermal cameras available for check out. Visit [www.GCLD.org](http://www.GCLD.org) and search "thermal camera" in their catalog.

### The top three DIY weatherization projects recommended by Sustainable Grand are:

- 1. Sealing electrical outlet and switches–** (It's recommended to turn off the power to the outlets from your electrical box before starting.) You can seal drafts from electrical outlets with properly-sized sealers, painter's caulk or small dabs of spray foam to seal holes in the back of the electrical box.
- 2. Sealing the attic access hatch–** Air seal around attic door opening and add insulation over the attic door.
- 3. Sealing exterior doors–** Good solutions include adding or replacing weather stripping and getting a door sweep. Installing a storm door is the most effective way to prevent heat loss on exterior doors.

### Weatherization projects that may require a contractor include:

- 1. Attic insulation–** Pay special attention to the depth of your insulation. Blown-in should be 16-17 inches deep (R-60). You can request photos from the installer that include depth strips to confirm the depth of insulation, and ask them to install insulation walls around the attic hatch.
- 2. Adding a vapor barrier to your crawl space–** This solution helps with moisture protection, Radon mitigation, and keeps insulation dry.
- 3. Adding insulation to your crawl space–** insulating your crawl space will help stabilize temperatures in your house. You'll want to insulate below the subfloor for ventilated spaces and insulate the walls for non-ventilated spaces. Spray foam is a good option for vented and unvented spaces.

Sustainable Grand can help income-qualified residents access state and local programs to get work done at no cost. More information is available at [www.SustainableGrand.org](http://www.SustainableGrand.org) under "Home Energy" and "Income Qualified Programs."

Funding for the Sustainable Grand's Weatherization Workshops is provided by MPE through the Clean Power Program, a member-funded program that supports local, renewable energy resources as well as electrification and efficiency projects.

One of MPE's most popular rebates in 2025 was the Energy Assessment through Sustainable Grand. MPE also offers rebates on insulation installation and other energy-efficiency and electrification incentives. **To find out more, visit [www.MPEI.com/Rebates](http://www.MPEI.com/Rebates).**





## 2026 SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

Attention area high school seniors or those pursuing college or trade-school degree programs: **the deadline for the 2026 Scholarship Program is February 12, 2026.**

Find out complete details and application forms at [www.MPEI.com/Scholarships](http://www.MPEI.com/Scholarships).

**The MPE Scholarship Program consists of three categories:**

### ACADEMIC

### TRADE SCHOOL

### ELECTRIC INDUSTRY

Each provides single-year scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Award recipients are determined by a scholarship committee. The criteria include compelling and impactful required essays, alongside academic performance, community involvement, and work experience. If funds remain in the Trade School and Electric Industry categories following the spring application deadline, those applications will remain open and submissions will be considered by MPE staff.

Two ag-based scholarships will be awarded annually from the categories listed above for local high school students from farming, ranching, agriculture, and 4-H families pursuing post-secondary education in agriculture, energy, trades or technical fields.

The scholarship program at MPE is funded through the Unclaimed Capital Credits Fund, not from member rates or the operating budget.



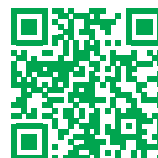
*Congratulations to Gary Behlen of Winter Park, December's winner in our Outdoor Photo Contest for his incredible shot of the sunset taken from Sunspot at Winter Park Resort.*

## Enter Our Outdoor Photo Contest, Win Prizes!

Send us your best seasonal outdoor shots for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter, on social media, and possibly in a future MPE photo calendar.

Winners will be selected monthly. In addition to social media tags and promotion, will be entered to win a \$500 gift certificate to B&H Photo.

Visit [tinyurl.com/mpephotocontest](https://tinyurl.com/mpephotocontest) or scan the QR code to submit your photos! Photos must be received by the 20th of each month.



## Are You Our Next Board Director?

MPE is guided by members like you. Serving as a board director is a unique opportunity to help shape local energy decisions, support reliable and affordable service, and strengthen the cooperative that powers your neighborhood.

Board members provide leadership on everything from budget priorities to member programs and community investments.

This year, elections are being held for Director District 2 and District 5. District 2 includes most of Winter Park and parts of Fraser on the west side of Highway 40. District 5 includes Grand Lake and the surrounding areas.

Directors serve a 4-year term and are elected from specific geographic areas within MPE's service territory. Candidate Packets are available at MPE's offices in Granby and Walden and can also be mailed to candidates upon request.

**Candidate packets are due March 3, 2026.**

**For more information about how to run for the board, visit <https://mpei.com/2026-director-elections>.**

# MPE Supports Mountain Family Center Food Bank

At the November MPE Board Meeting, requests for donations were reviewed, and among those approved by the Board was \$15,000 to the Mountain Family Center (MFC).

This donation will help supplement MFC's anticipated \$35,000 food budget shortfall due to increased need and cost of goods. The MPE board also recently approved a \$15,000 grant match as a part of CoBank's Sharing Success program for a total contribution of \$30,000 to MFC's Children's Totes Program and to support the Food Pantry.

**"As our community grows and needs evolve, Mountain Park Electric remains a steadfast partner. Their dedication to Mountain Family Center reminds us that lasting change is built through shared responsibility—looking to 2026, we are grateful that MPE is so invested in our mission of helping our neighbors in times of need,"**

**— MFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STACY STARR**

In MFC's donation request, Starr cited rising food costs, inflation, and reductions in federal nutrition support programs as causes for intensified hardship for low-income families, seniors, and individuals living on fixed incomes. She said that in September, MFC saw a 19% increase in Food Pantry visits, coupled with a 3.3% increase in the costs of food to stock the pantry. These factors have led to a significant budget deficit, prior to the current need for additional food for the added visits they are seeing.

In 2024, MFC counted more than 13,440 Food Pantry visits and distributed over 43,940 weekly food totes to children in Grand and Jackson Counties. This is a 12% increase in Food Pantry visits over the previous year. In 2024, they saw an increase in totes participation, and expenses went up almost 45%. Through the totes program, children have daily access to take home food that is easily heated in the microwave or ready to eat. On average, MFC provides weekly food totes to more than 740 children in both counties.

"When students are given the opportunity to have additional nutritional support, they are taking it, which we hope will translate into a higher success rate in school and physical and mental wellbeing," said Starr.

In addition to support for the Children's Totes and Food Pantry locations, MFC also provides Bountiful Baskets to 22 Grand County Seniors and helps to facilitate the Smile Box Program in Jackson County serving over 35 seniors monthly. The Smile Box Program has been funded by MPE's Charitable Trust Board/Operation Round Up.

Representatives from Mountain Parks Electric (MPE) give a \$30,000 check to Mountain Family Center (MFC) to support MFC's Children's Food Totes program and the Food Pantry. Half of the grant was provided by CoBank's Sharing Success matching grant program, while MPE's portion came from the Unclaimed Capital Credits Fund.

Pictured, from left, MPE CEO Virginia Harman, MPE Board of Directors President Liz McIntyre, MPE Board of Directors Vice President Justin Fosha, MFC Family Support Services Coordinator Linda Crane, MFC Family Support Services Coordinator Silvinia Spatocco, and MFC Executive Director Stacy Starr.



Along with the funds to MFC, other recent donations approved by the MPE Board from the UCC Fund include:

**\$25,000**

for the Fraser Valley Center for the Arts, contingent on Fraser Valley Arts reaching a fundraising goal of \$6 million

**\$10,000**

for Grand Enterprise Initiative for free/confidential business management coaching to anyone wanting to start a business in Grand County

**\$9,000**

for the 8th grade Washington DC Trip organized by the East Grand School District and the West Grand School District

**\$8,000**

for the Grand County Wildfire Council's community chipping days and capacity support

**\$5,000**

for the Dumont Depot Renovation and Family Train Ride

Visit [www.MPEI.com/Donation-Request](http://www.MPEI.com/Donation-Request) to submit a request