




OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH



ANNUAL MEMBER PICNIC

Wednesday, October 2, 2024
4 – 7 p.m.


Jackson Electric Cooperative
N6868 County Road F
Black River Falls, Wis.

Serving brats and hotdogs with the traditional picnic sides

No carry outs

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Jackson Electric employees will be wearing pink to show their support. Visit the cancer awareness booth at the picnic for a special opportunity to support a local cancer treatment center.



Jackson Electric Cooperative is guided by the seven cooperative principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. **Concern for Community**



OCTOBER BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Infusing Hope

Jackson Electric Cooperative sponsors a Member Support Squad to Infuse Hope for the Black River Memorial Hospital Infusion Center!

Help supply Jackson Electric Hope Bags for cancer patients to include a silk pillowcase, lotion, lip balm, socks, journal, mug, and tea.



Join this effort to raise awareness of the Infusion Center and raise monetary gifts to fill the Hope Bags. Funds will be collected at Jackson Electric's member picnic and throughout the month of October at the office.

Three ways to support this project:

- **Window Clings:** Available for a suggested donation of \$2 each.
- **Guessing Jar:** Guess the number of ribbons in the jar to win a prize. Available for a suggested donation of \$5.
- **Monetary Donations:** Any donations received will go directly to pay for the supplies needed to fill the Hope Bags. Please make check donations payable to Jackson Electric Cooperative and include "Hope Bags" in the memo line.



THANK YOU FOR INFUSING HOPE!



INFUSING *Hope*

October is National Co-op Month. It is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Cooperative principle number seven, Concern for Community, brings these two national campaigns together to address a local need.

Imagine yourself arriving at the Black River Memorial Hospital. You find a parking spot in the lot near Entrance D and slowly walk towards the entrance. A wave of emotions flood through you as the automatic door slides open. You're still trying to process the diagnosis! Today will be the first of many infusion treatments, and you're not sure what to expect. As you take a step forward, you see the door to the infusion center just ahead to the right. You tentatively walk through the door and are greeted by a kind nurse in the reception area. She quickly checks you in and takes you back to begin the process. After taking your initial labs, your nurse approaches with a sort of welcome bag. You open it to discover an assortment of items. She shares the donor's desire to spread hope and explains why you'll need all the items inside. These needs hadn't even crossed your mind yet. You immediately feel a rush of relief, and a calmness sets in around you knowing that you're not alone.

Unfortunately, it seems that everyone has been affected in some way by a cancer diagnosis whether as the one fighting it or a member of the support squad. One of Janet Brandli's first projects as Jackson Electric's communications coordinator was to identify a community engagement opportunity surrounding cancer awareness. Over the past few years, the Jackson Electric team has shown support by wearing pink shirts throughout October but has desired to do something more for local cancer support. "After an online search, I found different ideas for hope kits that other organizations were doing in various states," says Janet. "I thought this was a great idea, but the next step was finding the local connection."

There are cancer support organizations outside of Jackson Electric's service area, but Janet did not readily find anything local. However, she was determined and didn't give up hope. After an extensive online search, she finally found the answer on Black River Memorial Hospital's (BRMH) website. "I discovered the BRMH Infusion Center provides IV treatment for cancer patients," Janet shares.

Janet immediately contacted the Director of Inpatient and Infusion Services, Ashley Fjelstad, MSN, RN, to learn more about the infusion center and the ways in which Jackson Electric could help patients. "We used to have welcome bags that patients received on their first

visit to the center, but supplies have since run out," Ashley says.

Janet could hardly believe what she was hearing when Ashley expressed their need. "Even before presenting the idea of the hope bag, Ashley was already stating that this was their need," Janet excitedly reports.

The BRMH Infusion Center opened in 2020 and sees approximately 200 patients per year, with an average of 20 being cancer patients. BRMH treats tumor-related cancers. An oncologist from Gundersen Lutheran travels to Krohn Clinic to diagnose patients. "Once all paperwork and insurance are approved, we assist with the necessary IV treatment for chemotherapy, meds, iron, hydration, and blood transfusions," Ashley explains.

When a patient is scheduled for infusion treatment, the compassionate patient care team consisting of full-time registered nurses Kristi Dobson and Kiley Patterson, along with per diem nurses, first obtain the patient's weight and current labs to determine the correct dosage of treatment required. "The length of treatment depends on the lab results, medication being administered, and whether it's a port or IV infusion," shares Kristi. "There is a downtime in waiting



Above: Janet Brandli (second from left) receives nurse approval on a silk pillowcase sample for the hope bags. Left: The full-time infusion center team consists of (left to right) director Ashley Fjelstad, and nurses Kiley Patterson and Kristi Dobson.



for the initial lab results, the physical treatment, and post-treatment monitoring for adverse reactions.”

Patients going through treatment require certain products, such as unscented lotion and lip balm, of which some brands are better than others. “It’s an uncomfortable time in our patients’ lives and we want to make treatment easier for them,” shares Kiley. “Providing them with a bag of items they haven’t even thought about yet is one way we can take away the stress. We also use the bags as an educational tool to explain why they’ll need certain products.”

To pass the time, infusion nurses at BRMH try to make the experience as comfortable as possible for their patients. Some treatments make patients temperature-sensitive, while others make them drowsy. “The warm socks included in the bags have been a hit,” shares Kristi. “Patients have also found a journal helpful to write about their experiences or jot down questions for their doctor.”

Infusion patients truly are appreciative of the infusion center staff and the resources provided. Patients who receive a welcome bag at their first appointment often continue to use the bag as their dedicated infusion bag to carry their blanket, reading material, and other supplies to treatments. “It’s my dream nursing job,” shares Kristi.

The infusion center serves approximately 200 patients each year. Below: This donated bell and plaque hang on the wall in the reception area for patients to ring as they celebrate their victory and end of treatment.



“Patients become family and follow up to tell us how they’re doing once they’ve completed treatment.”

“We are lucky because our patients are appreciative of the work we do,” adds Kiley. “We’re excited that an area business in the community is joining in on our passion. The [hope] bags have always been well received and let patients know they’re not alone.”—*Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Advisor*

The Black River Memorial Hospital Infusion Center is located at 711 West Adams Street, Black River Falls, Entrance D. The Infusion Center serves as a crucial resource for patients seeking treatment. Patients who had reliable transportation used to drive to Eau Claire, La Crosse, or Rochester multiple times per week. For many, traveling was not an option, leading to possibly bypassing necessary treatment.

For more information, call 715-284-3404 or visit <https://hospital.brmh.net/infusion-center>.

Submit your photos October 1-31, 2024, to be considered in the October contest.

Member Photo Contest



THERE’S NO BETTER TIME TO GET OUT YOUR CAMERA

October ushers in harvest as farmers and gardeners gather the fruit of their labor. Others enjoy fall festivals. Submit your favorite harvest moments to jackelec.com and click the Photo Contest button to enter your photo for a chance to win a \$25 energy credit.

Congratulations to Katelyn Herziger from the Warrens area who won the August photo contest with her photo “Just Hanging in There.” She will receive a \$25 energy credit.



1950s FALL MEMORIES



Habelman Bros. Cranberry Marsh harvest. October 1956.



Perry Overlien's loose housing barn. October 1951.



Above left: Plowing contest winner Henry Nortman and his John Deere tractor. October 1951.



Above right: Plowing contest crowd. October 1951.



Above: This farm was the site for the county's plowing contest in October 1953.



Left: Plowing contest winners. October 1953. Let us know if you know any of these men.

DON'T PAY MORE FOR A NEW LINE BUILD

No one wants to pay more for any type of service, but there is a possibility that it will cost more to install your new line build November 1 and later.

Why? Jackson Electric needs to contract specialized equipment to break through the frost to plow in your electrical service, which is costly.

It is our recommendation that if you're planning to build a structure during the winter season and need electrical service, contact Jackson Electric now so any line build can be arranged.

PAY AS YOU GO, ALWAYS IN CONTROL

- Set your own due date
- Make a payment any time
- Control your budget
- Avoid reconnect fees
- Avoid late fees




PREPAY IS ON THE WAY
SIGN-UP DETAILS ARRIVING SOON

PART OF THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Jackson Electric
Cooperative's Mission:
To provide safe, reliable power
for all generations.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511
Card Payments 844.759.3984
www.jackelec.com    

Mailing Address: N6868 County Road F
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Office Hours: Mondays – Thursdays, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fridays, 7:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
Chris Curran, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Jerry Huber, Dairyland Power Representative
Dan Smrekar, Kristi Hanson, Brian Huber,
Troy Torkelson, Les Dokkestul

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 