

Pierce Pepin Cares Awards \$6,250 in Second-Quarter Community Grants

Ellsworth, WI — Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) is pleased to announce the recipients of its Pierce Pepin Cares grants for the second quarter of 2026, awarding a total of \$6,250 to seven local organizations making a meaningful difference across the region.

Funded through Operation Round Up®, Pierce Pepin Cares reflects the generosity of PPCS members who voluntarily round up their monthly energy bills. Those small contributions come together to create a big impact—supporting organizations that strengthen and serve local communities.

- **River Valley Charities** received \$1,500 to support its *Backpack for Kids* program, providing weekend groceries and store vouchers to children and families facing food insecurity in the St. Croix Valley.
- **Prescott Fire Department** was awarded \$500 toward an Emergency Response Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV), enhancing their ability to reach patients and emergency scenes in off-road and hard-to-access areas.
- **Lund Fire Department** received \$650 to purchase a handheld thermal imaging camera, helping first responders quickly assess fire hazards and improve on-scene decision-making while reducing risk.
- **Maiden Rock Area Community Association** was granted \$500 to continue supporting its wide array of community initiatives—from free, family-friendly events and local assistance programs to beautification projects and its monthly *Maiden Rock Press* newsletter.
- **Ellsworth Senior Citizens Center** received \$500 to help restock its food pantry with essential items such as frozen meats and juices, providing critical support to area seniors.
- Hope Farm School was awarded \$1,800 to assist with processing donated venison from local hunters, supplying nutritious protein to local food shelves and helping address food insecurity.
- **Among Friends Dementia Social Respite Program** in River Falls received \$800 to help provide nutritious lunches for participants, supporting a safe, engaging environment for individuals living with dementia in Pierce and St. Croix counties.

“We are proud to support these organizations and the meaningful work they do to serve our community,” said Nate Boettcher, president and CEO of Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services. “Their dedication makes a lasting impact, and we are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to their missions. We also sincerely thank our members whose participation in rounding up their monthly energy bills helps make this funding possible.”

Pierce Pepin Cares provides financial support to nonprofit organizations that enhance quality of life throughout the areas served by PPCS. Grants are awarded quarterly by the Pierce Pepin Cares Board of Directors, which includes all nine PPCS directors along with one member and one employee representative.

Nonprofit organizations interested in applying for future funding opportunities can learn more at www.piercepepin.coop or by calling **800-924-2133**. The next application deadline is **June 15**.



Barb Bee, PPCS Senior Accountant (left), and PPCS CFO Beck Bradburn (right), present Andy Johnson of River Valley Charities with a \$1,500 check to support their Backpack for Kids program.



Barb Bee, PPCS Senior Accountant (left), and PPCS CFO Beck Bradburn (right), present Hunter Lee and Andy Johnson (left to right) of Prescott Fire Department with a \$500 check to support their Emergency Response Utility Terrain Vehicle project.



Charity Lubich, PPCS VP Member Relations & Human Resources (left) and SwiftCurrent Connect Customer Relations Representative Donna Taranto (right), present Kevin Anderson with a \$650 check to support the purchase of a handheld thermal imaging camera.



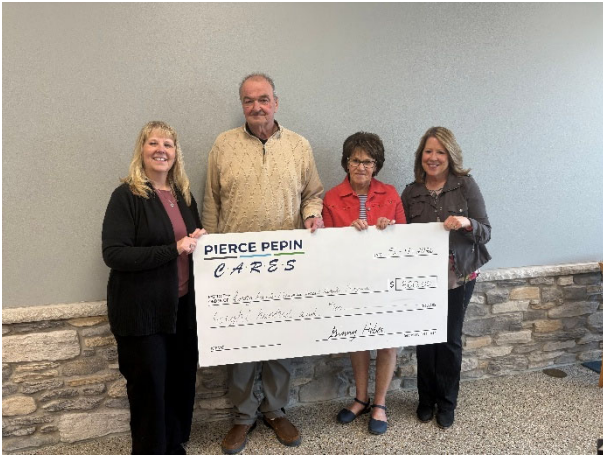
PPCS CFO Beck Bradburn (left) and SwiftCurrent Connect Broadband Manager Brandy Blanch (right), present Lisa Roberts and Sherrie Freund with a \$500 check to support the purchase of a handheld thermal imaging camera.



Charity Lubich, PPCS VP Member Relations & Human Resources (left) and SwiftCurrent Connect Customer Relations Representative Donna Taranto (right), present Phyllis Beasstrom with a \$500 check to help restock its food pantry with essential items such as frozen meats and juices, providing critical support to area seniors.



Charity Lubich, PPCS VP Member Relations & Human Resources (left) and SwiftCurrent Connect Customer Relations Representative Donna Taranto (right), present Lamarcus Ferguson, Ismael Koehaen, and Jonathan Halberg (left to right) with an \$1,800 check to support the processing of donated venison to local food shelves.



Charity Lubich, PPCS VP Member Relations & Human Resources (left) and SwiftCurrent Connect Customer Relations Representative Donna Taranto (right), present Marshall Skule and Norma Revels with an \$800 check to assist with the cost of providing nutritious lunches for their participants.