

I. Policy and Purpose

The Southern Rivers Energy Trust, Inc. will be funded by Operation Round Up contributions from members of Southern Rivers Energy and from other sources of funds available to the Trust. The purpose of the Trust shall be the accumulation and disbursement of funds for charitable purposes in the service area of Southern Rivers Energy.

II. Major Funding Categories

Although there are many worthy charitable, educational projects and community needs in our local area, the limited availability of funds requires us to establish funding categories as follows:

A. Community Service

1. Programs, projects and organizations that are important components of a community's overall quality of life, with emphasis on public safety, health care and self-sufficiency.
2. Individual or family unit with emphasis on health care and self-sufficiency. Individuals or family unit funding is only available to Southern Rivers Energy members with an active electric account.
3. Programs and projects that enhance the cultural environment of communities in our local area.

B. Education and Youth

1. School programs and projects with an emphasis on leadership, math, science, technology, and the arts.
2. Programs that are designed to combat critical social problems affecting our children and youth, with an emphasis on children and teens at risk.
3. Programs and projects that promote wellness and encourage youth participating in athletics and physical fitness activities.

C. Environment

1. Programs and projects that promote community recycling and natural resource preservation.
2. Community-based environmental quality education programs.

III. Funding Restrictions

A. Contributions to organizations will generally be made only to non-profits that have been granted tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c) (3). Contributions to organizations will be limited to \$10,000 and will not be made for:

1. Payment of electric bills
2. Lobbying, political organizations or campaigns
3. Veteran, fraternal and labor organizations
4. Fund-raising dinners, raffles and other events
5. Capital fund campaigns
6. National fund drives
7. Advertising

8. General operating expenses for public or private entities
9. Pageants, field trips, and athletic or academic tournaments.
10. Reimbursement of projects that have already been completed
11. Churches and religious organizations (except for church affiliated programs when there is a direct community impact involved).

Applicant must provide a minimum of two quotes for requested equipment or services along with some form of financials. Applications without this information will not be considered.

- B. Contributions to individuals/family units will be limited to \$5000. When the board determines a request in keeping with the purpose and spirit of the Trust and their set of guidelines, this contribution could be raised to an amount not to exceed \$10,000 with a 2/3 majority vote of the board present. Generally, contributions to individuals/family units will not be made for:
1. Mortgage
 2. Rent and deposits
 3. Recurring automobile expenses, such as fuel or monthly payments
 4. Credit card bills
 5. Utility bills (electric, telephone, water, gas, sanitation)
 6. Food
 7. Political campaigns and causes
 8. Taxes
 9. Home insurance
 10. Cosmetic dental expenses
 11. On-going monthly household expenses

Proof of home ownership must be provided from individuals/families requesting assistance for anything that changes the physical integrity of the home (i.e. home repairs, maintenance, and construction).

Applicant must provide a minimum of two quotes for requested equipment or services along with some form of financials. Applications without this information will not be considered.

- C. Groups and individuals are not eligible to apply for assistance more than once within a two-year period, whether approved or denied.

IV. Evaluation Factors

- A. The following factors will be considered in the evaluation of all funding requests:
1. The documented critical needs of an individual or family unit.
 2. Potential benefit to area residents and the entire community.
 3. Level of community support for the program or project or the organization requesting the funds.

4. Fiscal and administrative capability of the organization to deliver a quality service or program.
 5. Results that are predictable and can be evaluated.
 6. Whether or not applications include specific dollar amounts and state or indicate specific needs.
 7. All qualified requests must be made using the most current SRE Trust application form. Incomplete applications will be automatically denied. All grant applicants will be required to provide financial information.
- B. It shall be the responsibility of the Trust Board to evaluate funding requests and to allocate contributions to accomplish the purposes and intent of these guidelines. These guidelines will be reviewed annually.

Adopted: 3/18/2009
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