

# NEWS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release



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Date: Jan. 3, 2006

Subject: Cooperative Employees Volunteer Their Time

The employees of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative of Le Mars, Iowa, and its member electric cooperatives in western Iowa contributed more than 5,000 hours of volunteer efforts during 2005.

NIPCO and its member electric cooperatives all are Touchstone Energy cooperatives. Because commitment to community is one of the four core values of Touchstone Energy cooperatives, NIPCO has recognized the employee volunteers for their service. Each of the employees who volunteered at least 25 hours during the year received a Touchstone Energy logo clothing item of their choice.

One cooperative, North West Rural Electric Cooperative, which serves Sioux, Plymouth, O'Brien and Ida counties, increased its volunteer hours by 26 percent over the previous year.

Cooperative employees volunteered in a variety of community activities, including blood donation; city council and other city government boards; hospital and church boards and committees; volunteer firefighting; leadership of church, civic and youth group activities; refereeing sports contests, and working on community celebrations.

The number of hours donated from each cooperative include: Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative 1,229; Western Iowa Power Cooperative, 1,341; Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, 685; North West Rural Electric Cooperative, 1,063; Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative, 307; Woodbury Rural Electric Cooperative, 382; and Hinton Municipal Electric, 64.

NIPCO, a Touchstone Energy cooperative headquartered in Le Mars, is a wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative owned by six rural electric cooperatives and a full-service municipal electric cooperative serving six western Iowa towns. Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 620 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 44 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 22 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and a long-standing commitment to communities.

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