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23 September 2019

Mr. Tim Grablander, General Manager  
& Members of the Board of Directors  
Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 169  
Mission, SD, 57555-0169

Dear Tim and Members of the Board of Directors:

Grace and peace to you on this first day of Autumn!

I am writing today to give thanks to Tim, and to all of the employees of Cherry-Todd Electric, who have been partners with the Rosebud Episcopal Mission for several years.

Many of you know of our #FirewoodfortheElders program, in which we give out free firewood to elders and families with children throughout the winter. This program, begun six years ago, started out with 4 cords of wood. Last year, we gave away 70 cords of wood, 100 pieces at a time, beginning in October and ending in March (when we could no longer access any dry wood after the bomb cyclone).

Cherry-Todd has been a co-sponsor of the Firewood program almost from its inception. When we built the wood barn at the Bishop Hare Center southwest of Mission, I asked for, and received, all of the free utility poles I needed. Those poles literally hold up the wood barn, which is a pallet barn with a tin roof, and is capable of holding (if we stack the wood correctly), 65-70 cords of split firewood.

Last year, lineman Chris Rahn called me to tell me about the storage area where Cherry-Todd put all of the trees it had cut down for new power lines. He asked if we wanted the wood for our firewood program. I enthusiastically agreed, sent Danny Gangone, our head worker, to check out the place, and received an excited call from him about the amount of wood we could take. A short time later, Chris called me again, and asked if we wanted Cherry-Todd to bring the tree trunks to our wood barn, so that we wouldn't have to move them; again, I enthusiastically agreed.

Cherry-Todd now provides approximately one-third of the wood that we turn into firewood for our elders.

We could not do this program without you, and I wanted you to know that as you gather for this Board meeting.

I also want to thank Tim for helping us when we needed to reach out to Rosebud Electric Cooperative in Gregory. Our church there had closed down, and we on the western side of the Rosebud wanted to take the church bell from its tower there up to Norris, to replace the bell that was stolen from St. Paul's, Norris, in December 2018.

I asked Tim last Wednesday for this help. He immediately e-mailed Kevin Mikkelsen, the general manager of Rosebud Electric, and within an hour, Tim called me to say that Kevin had agreed to do the job as a community service. I am grateful that Tim was willing to listen to my request, to act on it, and to facilitate the introduction I needed with Kevin so that we can bring joy through our church bell in Norris and Blackpipe once again.

I thought that, as a new Board, you would want to hear great news about how Cherry-Todd helps the community. I can assure you that I do a lot of work (much of which must remain confidential) with many of your employees, every single one of whom has been gracious and caring as we together strive to help the *oyate* on the Rosebud.

I bid you God's peace and my peace, God's blessings and my blessings, and remain

Your servant in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Lauren R. Stanley  
Superintending Presbyterian, Rosebud Episcopal Mission (West)