

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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**Date: Dec. 19, 2008**

**Subject: Cooperative Employees Volunteer Their Time**

Cooperatives support their communities and encourage their employees to do the same. So Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative of Le Mars, Iowa, and its member electric cooperatives in western Iowa recognize their employees for helping their respective communities.

During 2008, employees of the cooperatives together contributed 6,112 hours of volunteer work.

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.

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

The number of hours donated by each cooperative's employees include: NIPCO, 1,551; WIPCO, 1,223; Nishnabotna Valley REC, 650; North West Rural Electric Cooperative, 1,157; Harrison County REC, 629; Woodbury Rural Electric Cooperative, 118; Onawa Municipal Electric, 370; Hinton Municipal Electric, 306; Anthon Municipal Electric, 58; and Manning Municipal Light, 50.

NIPCO 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 660 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 30 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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