

## IOWA YOUTH AT THE CAPITOL

### Students Have “Experience of a Lifetime” on ECI-Sponsored Youth Tour

Logan Halverson and Dustin Toale of Independence recently participated in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program in Washington, D.C., sponsored by East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative.

In an action-filled week with 31 other Iowa students, Logan and Dustin learned first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service, and today’s pressing issues in the energy industry. They met Sens. Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin as well as Reps. Bruce Braley, Leonard Boswell, Dave Loebsack, Tom Latham, and Steve King. They also saw historic sites and met over 1,500 students from across the country who participated in their state’s Youth Tour program.

The Iowa Electric Cooperatives’ Youth Tour is a joint effort of local electric co-ops such as ECI REC, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Logan and Dustin said they had the experience of a lifetime meeting with peers from other states and IAEC staff during

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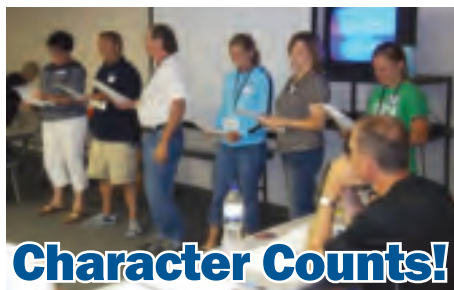
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## Character Counts!

On July 28 and 29, Iowa educators participated in a Character Counts! Making an Impact training session at the AEA 267 building in Cedar Falls. East-Central Iowa REC and its power supplier CIPCO sponsored the character-building program for the eighth year in a row.

"The 2011 Character Counts! training sessions made an impact on participants," said Greg Pavelka, ECI REC marketing director and economic development director. "As in 2010, the training session received overwhelmingly positive reviews from the attendees, who continue to express their appreciation of ECI's sponsorship of such a beneficial program."

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the Washington trip. "The Youth Tour was so amazing," Dustin said. Logan shared, "It was really cool to meet my senator and representative, and learn about politics up close. Plus, I made friends from nearly every state and experienced history first-hand. It really made me think about what it means to be an American and showed that people my age do care about this country."

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, all the state groups convened for National Youth Day, sponsored by NRECA, to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medallist and two-time Wheelchair Basketball World Champion. Schlappi shared his inspiring message: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."

Since 1957, Iowa's electric cooperatives have sponsored over 1,300 high school juniors and seniors on visits to their U.S. congressional representatives in Washington, D.C. The IAEC is a Des Moines-based service organization for 42 Iowa electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to approximately 650,000 Iowans throughout the state.

For more information on how you can participate in Iowa Electric Cooperatives' Youth Tour program, contact us at 877-850-4343, or logon to [www.ecirec.coop](http://www.ecirec.coop). For information on the tour itself, please visit <http://www.youthtour.coop>.

## RECare Donations Increase to Over \$8,150

Contributing to RECare, a program that distributes funds via community action agencies to low-income energy consumers within the Benton and Buchanan County communities, is one easy way to help others. The funds donated by ECI REC members help pay heating bills or winterization costs for their less fortunate fellow members.

"We would like to thank members who are giving to others in our communities," said ECI REC Manager of Finance and Consumer Services Teresa Floyd. "In 2009-2010, we hoped to get back to our 2007-2008 total of more than \$6,900, and we exceeded this goal. In 2010-2011, the numbers increased again, with \$8,150 in donations and 107 members participating."

"ECI REC realizes economic times are tough, but even a small amount can help those less fortunate." To sign up for RECare or make a one-time donation, complete and return the form on the next page.

