



NEWS RELEASE

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Dairyland Supports Schoolwide Snack Program at Hintgen Elementary

Donation & Matching CEO Contribution Help Ease Food Insecurity

La Crosse, WI— Dairyland Power Cooperative's partner school, Hintgen Elementary, will benefit from a \$5,500 combined donation from Dairyland and President & CEO Brent Ridge. Dairyland donated \$3,500 in support of Hintgen's schoolwide snack fund; Ridge and his wife, Lisa, are generously contributing an extra \$2,000, bringing the total donation to \$5,500.

"Hintgen is grateful for the continued support and generosity from Dairyland Power Cooperative," said Principal Amy Oliver. "This donation makes an immediate impact, ensuring students receive free snacks at school throughout the year, helping fuel their bodies and their ability to focus on learning."

Nearly 75 percent (230 children) of Hintgen's student population qualify for Free and Reduced meals, due to their household income level, well above the state average of 42% per school. Based on the needs of the student population, Hintgen also qualifies as a "certified free school" for breakfast and lunch. Additionally, students need a daily snack, which costs the school over \$13,000 annually. To offset costs, Principal Oliver seeks donations and grants to ensure students can receive a nutritious snack during the day. "Dairyland was our first donor supporting schoolwide snacks," said Principal Oliver.

"Through our partnership with Hintgen, Dairyland is able to put cooperative principles into practice by supporting education and quality of life for local families," said Ridge. "Food insecurity is a significant concern in schools, impacting health, happiness and academic performance. We are glad to support efforts that combat this critical problem within our community and among our youth."

Dairyland collaborates with the La Crosse Public Education Foundation on its Adopt-a-School program as Hintgen Elementary's partner. The Adopt-a-School program matches businesses and community organizations to specific schools in La Crosse.

With headquarters in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides wholesale electricity to 24 member distribution cooperatives and 27 municipal utilities. A Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Dairyland's service area encompasses 62 counties in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. Visit www.dairylandpower.com.

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