

T2

11/30/2017

2017-18 Scholarship Program Essay Topic #2

Community-Beneficial Cooperatives

Cooperatives like Benton REA are in a position where they have the privilege to improve the quality of life in the communities in which they serve. As a cooperative, they are owned by the members and therefore are directly responsible to the members they serve. One of the many ways a cooperative like Benton REA enhances the quality of life in their communities is by interacting with and sponsoring various events that educate on and promote electrical safety. This is a very important role in the welfare of a community as one person's lack of safety could affect the entire community.

Cooperatives also are in a position where they can raise awareness and support causes that positively effect community members. For example, cancer patients are impacted when cooperatives like Benton REA sponsor an event that raises thousands of dollars to be used in the fight against cancer. I believe one of the most important ways a cooperative can practice the principal "Concern of Community" is by remembering, honoring, and supporting veterans who served our country and who stood for our freedom. By entering public displays that promote the remembrance of veterans in community events such as parades, a cooperative shows the community that it cares for the local people who ensured their freedom.

Lastly, cooperatives like Benton REA provide the youth of their community an opportunity to pursue a path of higher education in the field of their interest by giving young people a chance to win one of the many scholarships that a cooperative voluntarily provides. This enables the kids of the next generation to have a higher standard of living which they might not have been able to achieve had it not been for the scholarships provided by their local cooperative. Cooperative Development Institute shows how "cooperatives have played a hugely significant role in socio-economic development, particularly,

employment generation.” (1) Amongst the many ways that a cooperative enhances the quality of life in the communities they serve, I believe the most important are educating on safety, honoring our veterans and providing scholarships to community youth. This undeniably shows how a cooperative lives its principal of “Concern for Community.”

Works Cited

(1) Cooperative Development Institute. *Ask Co-op Cathy: How do co-ops benefit their communities?*.

30 Nov, 2016. Accessed 30 Nov, 2017. < <http://cdi.coop/coop-cathy-coops-benefit-communities/>>