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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Goodcents Foundation Trustees Award \$15,650 to Local Non-Profits and Individuals

Fairbanks, Alaska: Goodcents program trustees awarded the first round of grants to three local non-profit agencies and two individuals in need on Monday evening. Funds were awarded as follows:

- *North Star Council on Aging: \$10,000 awarded for the purchase of a new delivery truck for the "Meals on Wheels" program. This program delivers nearly 200 nutritious meals daily to seniors in need, while providing social interaction and wellness checks.*
- *Fairbanks Animal Shelter Fund: Match up to \$1,500 towards the purchase of pickets and dog chains to be used for evacuated animals in the event of a local disaster. Recent disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina and others, have brought to light the devastation not just to humans, but to animals as well.*
- *Tanana District 4-H Leaders Council: Up to \$1,000 for scholarships to provide leadership training for up to 10 teen counselors attending the Junior Jamboree camp.*
- *Individual: Matching contribution of \$1,000 towards educational expenses for a disabled youth.*
- *Individual: \$2,150 awarded to assist in meeting emergency expenses due to medical treatment for a life-threatening illness.*

To protect privacy, individual names will not be released. Matching awards are contingent upon the applicant receiving funds from other sources to match the award given by Goodcents.

“Goodcents really fills an unmet need in our community,” said Goodcents trustee chair Jeri Wigdahl. “For example, while meals for the “Meals on Wheels” program is federally funded, transportation is not. The existing vehicles are undependable, and we are happy to assist with the purchase of a new vehicle to continue delivering meals to our local seniors. This is neighbors helping neighbors and that’s the heart of the Goodcents program.”

Goodcents is a bill round up program through Golden Valley Electric Association. Members’ electric bills are rounded up to the next whole dollar with the remaining cents donated to the separate Goodcents fund. Since the launch of the program in March 2011, GVEA members have voluntarily contributed \$31,500.

A volunteer board oversees the Goodcents Foundation and reviews all requests from local non-profits and individuals in need. The trustees received seven applications for request of funds totaling \$24,600. After reviewing the applications, the trustees awarded five applicants a total of \$15,650.

The Goodcents trustees are: Jeri Wigdahl, chair; Jim Lund, Richard Mauer, Gerry Richards, Tom DeLong and Teresa Usibelli.

“We look forward to receiving more applications in the future as word spreads of the Foundation’s good work in our community,” said Wigdahl.

The trustees meet quarterly to review applications and award funds. Applications and details of the program can be found at <http://www.gvea.com/goodcents>.

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