

SMECO employees raise \$55,650 for hospice

SMECO employees held two fund-raising events and donated \$55,650 to the hospice organizations of Southern Maryland in December 2018.

“We selected the hospice organizations as this year’s recipients because they provide help to people when they need it most,” said Natalie Cotton, SMECO’s community and public affairs director.

Fundraising efforts

- The SMECO 75 Bike Ride is held in June. The SMECO Annual Charity Golf Outing is held in October.
- In six years, SMECO employee fund-raisers have contributed \$270,650 to local organizations.
- The events are supported by a group of employee volunteers, vendors, and the SMECO executive team.
- Contributions, which may be tax deductible, can be made to the SMECO Charitable Foundation at smeco.coop/foundation.
- 2018 Bike Ride sponsors: Major contributors include ABB, Adams Jenkins and Cheatham, Asbury Solomons, CGI, Cigna Health, Community Bank of the Chesapeake, CW Wright Construction, Duncan Weinberg Genzer Pembroke, Eversheds Sutherland, ICF International, IP Datasystems, J.M. Tennyson Construction, Keller and Heckman, McNees, Morgan Stanley, MSI Inc., New River Electrical Corporation, Prudential, TRC, UDC, Venable, and Washington Gas.
- 2018 Golf Outing sponsors: Platinum Sponsors include Altec, Anixter, Brandywine Power, CDW, Irby Utilities, The Okonite Company, Super Salvage, and TRC Solutions.

Gold Sponsors include Bradley Electro Sales, Lawrence Abell & Associates, MacLean Power Systems, Martini & Associates, Meridian, Southern Maryland Cable, and SMO Energy.

Calvert County Hospice Jean Fleming, Executive Director of Calvert County Hospice

Our mission: enriching the quality of the lives we touch with expert and compassionate care. We focus on helping families make the most of every moment, ensuring more peace and comfort than is often possible without hospice’s support.

“We’re helping local families through the process of caring for loved ones at the end of their lives. We help to ease the physical and emotional pain of the patient, but we also help ease the difficulties and stresses family members experience,” said Fleming.

We will use the funds to help meet our goal of raising the \$250,000 needed each year to operate and maintain the affordability of the six-bed Burnett Calvert Hospice House.

Charles County Hospice Brandon Jones, Chief Executive Officer of Hospice of Charles County

“You don’t have to have lost a loved one to appreciate the services that hospice provides,” said Jones. “We often hear from members of the community who express their high regard for hospice, the service providers, and the volunteers,” he added. “We can’t carry on with this important work without the support of our volunteers and contributions from the community.”

We will use our share of the donation to supplement funds designated for charity care.



From left: Natalie Cotton, SMECO’s community and public affairs director; Claire Piason, Director of Development, Calvert Hospice; Jean Fleming, Executive Director of Calvert Hospice; Edith Patterson, state delegate and board member of Hospice of Charles County; Brandon Jones, CEO of Hospice of Charles County; Austin J. Slater, Jr., SMECO president and CEO; Mary Ann Stamm, president of the board of Hospice of St. Mary’s; and Denise Chalmers, senior buyer at SMECO.

St. Mary’s County Hospice Kathryn Franzen, Director of Hospice of St. Mary’s County

“We work closely with doctors and hospitals to help our patients receive the best care we can provide,” said Franzen. “But we also help patients decide how they want to spend their days, where they want to be, and who they want to be with. We help to give them some control at the end of their life journey and that makes a world of difference to a patient.”

Looking ahead

In 2019, contributions from the two fund-raising events will go to organizations concerned with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Spring Dell Center, Charles County; The Arc of Southern Maryland, Calvert County; and Bay Community Support Services, St. Mary’s County.

“Seeing everyone come together to have fun and raise money for a good cause is a rewarding experience for our employees,” said Denise Chalmers, SMECO senior buyer. “And having our supply chain partners support the event allows us to make a substantial contribution to these organizations.”

Registration is open on active.com for the eighth annual SMECO 75 Bike Ride

The ride begins at SMECO’s headquarters campus in Hughesville on June 1, 2019.

The SMECO 75 Bike Ride is open to the public. Participants can choose among three routes that start at the cooperative’s headquarters in Hughesville and go as far as Colton’s Point in St. Mary’s County.

- A 75-mile route for experienced riders and two shorter routes: 29 and 47 miles.
- Three rest stops, stocked with appropriate fuel for cyclists, and lunch at the finish.
- Participating cyclists will also receive event-themed items.
- Money raised will be contributed to: Spring Dell Center, Charles County; The Arc of Southern Maryland, Calvert County; and Bay Community Support Services, St. Mary’s County.

Sign up today

Register: smeco.coop/SMECO75

Date: June 1, 2019

Place: 15065 Burnt Store Rd.
Hughesville, MD

“Our employees make the annual SMECO 75 bike ride a successful fund-raiser. Their enthusiasm and hospitality make it enjoyable for those who participate. This is a great event for experienced riders because of the scenic routes and for newcomers because of the support we provide,” said Natalie Cotton, SMECO’s community and public affairs director.

Want to be a sponsor?

Visit smeco.coop/SMECO75 for more information and our form.