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BLUEBONNET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MAKES DONATES \$20,605.00 TO TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

(SERBIN) – Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative awarded a \$20,605.00 grant to the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. Grant money will be used to make miscellaneous repairs to the large museum building, including the installation of energy saving lights and insulation and painting all interior walls.

“Preserving history by making donations to community organizations such as the Wendish Heritage Society is an extremely important part of Bluebonnet’s commitment to community,” said Mark Johnson, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative community representative, “By donating this money, Bluebonnet hopes to further the Serbin community’s work to maintain the only Wendish museum in America.”

About 35 years ago, a small group of women formed the Wendish Culture Club. In 1977, the members incorporated and created the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. Then in 1980, a museum was established about five miles southwest of Giddings. Expansions on the project included two buildings, with the most recent addition being the Peter Building, which houses an interpretive exhibit, the Lillie Moerbe Caldwell Memorial Library, an administrative office, a gift shop and archives. Approximately 3,000 visitors tour the Wendish museum each year, coming from all over the United States and various foreign countries. These visitors help the economy of the community when they stay in area hotels, eat in local restaurants and shop in Lee County retail establishments.

“Numerous volunteers and part-time laborers assist the one part-time employee to keep the museum in operation,” said Eunice Dunk, Vice-President/Grants Chairman, “We really want to thank Bluebonnet, this grant will go a long way in helping us make repairs that otherwise may not have been possible.”

The Community Development Partnership Program provides economic development and community assistance grants to cities, counties, volunteer fire departments, regional development councils and other nonprofit organizations in the Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative and LCRA electrical and water service areas as part of their effort to give back to the communities they serve.

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative owns and maintains about 11,000 miles of power lines, located across more than 3,800 square miles within 14 Southeastern Texas counties. Bluebonnet’s service area stretches from Travis to Washington County and from Milam down to Gonzales County. For more information about Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative go to www.bluebonnetelectric.coop.

Pictured: Beverly Lee, Bluebonnet; Rev. Al Gallmeier, Chaplain; Barbara Turner, Bluebonnet; Chuck Dube; Mark Johnson, Bluebonnet; Red Arldt; Lori LeBlue, LCRA; Vivian Dube; Eunice Dunk, Grants Chairman; J.B. Gersch, Jr., Secretary; Hattie Schautschick, Museum Board Member; Evelyn Kasper, Museum Board Member; Helen Stogner, Interim Executive Director