

## *Ronald McDonald House*

# Fleming-Mason Energy lends a hand to parents of sick children

Born by emergency delivery at 38 weeks, Maizley was severely oxygen deprived. The fragile newborn would need months of hospitalization, doctors told her parents, Carla and Marlon Coffey.

“We were so scared,” Carla remembers about the weeks following Maizley’s birth on November 5, 2017.



*The Coffey family, clockwise, includes Carla and Marlon, and daughters, Marley and Maizley. Photo: Tammy Sizemore*

In addition to worrying about their baby’s health, the Coffeys were confronted with another problem. How would they afford to stay in Lexington to be near their daughter who was being treated in the neonatal intensive care unit at Kentucky Children’s Hospital?

The answer came from a co-worker at the electric co-op where Marlon is a dispatcher. She told the Coffeys about Ronald McDonald House (RMHC).

“It was a godsend,” Carla says about the temporary housing available to parents of hospitalized children.

Along with free lodging, RMHC

provides meals, transportation and other essentials. The 21-bedroom house near the University of Kentucky campus has served over 25,000 families, mostly those living between I-65 and the eastern border of Kentucky, since it opened in 1985.

Along with other members of Kentucky’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, Fleming-Mason Energy supports Ronald McDonald houses in both Lexington and Louisville. Co-op employees periodically visit the houses to clean and prepare meals. Last year, we conducted a drive to collect personal hygiene items, paper products, laundry detergent and snacks—small items that make a big difference to RMHC guests.

Some of those guests are members of Fleming-Mason Energy. The time and

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## **At your service, 24/7**

**Should you experience an electric outage, cooperative employees are standing by to respond 24/7—even during a holiday. To report an outage, call 1-800-464-3144.**



**Joni Hazelrigg**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

## Contact us:

In Fleming County:  
(606) 845.2661

Other Counties:  
(800) 464.3144

Hours:  
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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donations we contribute are small gestures to help these local families. It's one more way your cooperative cares for those who live and work along our power lines.

After 68 days in the hospital, Maizley came home to live with her family, which includes sister Marley. Her parents spent 64 days,

including holidays Thanksgiving and Christmas, at RMHC.

"I cannot imagine the expense we would have had if we had to stay at a hotel all those nights," Carla says. "We are truly thankful to RMHC—and everyone who supports RMHC—for not only us, but for every family who needs it."

## *Your Safety Matters*

# Be alert to electric hazards during fall harvest

Farming accidents can happen without a moment's notice, but having knowledge and awareness about potential electric hazards can prevent injuries, suffering and even death.

Before moving large farm machinery, always walk around the entire vehicle to look for guy wires, transformers and meter sockets, which can be extremely hazardous if there is contact.

If you are harvesting corn or soybeans,

look up and keep the grain harvester spout at least 10 feet below and clear of overhead lines. When switching grain bins, lower the auger to prevent contact with power lines.

If you are moving and lifting irrigation pipes, have a spotter watch to make sure you stay away from overhead lines.

Fleming-Mason Energy cares about your safety. Be alert. Be safe.



# J.E. Smith Jr. Memorial Pavilion

Fleming-Mason Energy employees and directors gathered August 16 for a special event. The board dedicated the pavilion, located at Fleming-Mason headquarters, as the J.E. Smith Jr. Memorial Pavilion to honor the

longtime director. Smith served on the FME board for nearly 60 years holding the positions of treasurer, chairman and vice chairman. Smith was a longtime dairy, beef and tobacco farmer and was active in his community.



*Friends and family were on hand to unveil a plaque that will be placed at the newly named J.E. Smith Jr. Memorial Pavilion. Photo: Lori Ulrich*

## Be cold weather ready

As your local co-op, we're here to provide advice on ways to help you save energy. But, you can also do-it-yourself with our free, online energy audit. Just visit our website and click on BillingInsights to enter a few facts about your home. Then you'll get recommendations to make your home comfortable every season.

*The power of human connections*



[www.fme.coop](http://www.fme.coop)

# Commitment to community

One of the seven cooperative principles we operate by is concern for community. While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the continued betterment of their community. Fleming-Mason Energy is no different. We are always looking for new and innovative ways to better serve our members.

You may have noticed a tagline we started using a few years ago, “Member Committed.” That commitment was recently exhibited by two of our employees, Ellen Darnall and Sierra Blevins. Both work in our front office where they are part of our Member Services department, processing payments and answering member calls.

What you may not know is that both ladies recently completed a sign language course at Maysville Community and Technical College. Each felt it was important to be



*Ellen Darnall and Sierra Blevins, member services representatives. Photo: Lori Ulrich*

able to better serve our deaf or hard of hearing members. Both ladies spent four evenings at the Maysville campus learning the basics of American Sign Language (or ASL)

with instructor Renea Trabue. We are proud of these ladies and their commitment to our members. Congratulations, ladies!

## ELECTRICAL OVERLOADS

Prevention is simple—don't overuse extension cords when powering your home. It's easy to grab one when you've run out of outlets; we are all guilty of plugging in too many lamps, chargers and other electronics into those convenient extension cords.

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### Here are some easy ways to spot an overloaded circuit:

- Flickering, blinking or dimming lights.
- Outlet switch covers that are warm to the touch.
- Burning odors from outlets or switches.
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers.
- Crackling, sizzling or buzzing receptacles.
- Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles or switches.
- Power tools, appliances or electronics that seem to lack adequate power.

**Instead of grabbing an extension cord for a temporary solution, call a licensed electrician who can install more outlets.**



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