

# insight

January 2015

## GRU Donates \$56,000 to United Way

GRU is once again among the top annual contributors to the United Way of North Central Florida, having raised more than \$56,000 through employee donations during GRU's 2014 campaign.



Most of those funds will go into the United Way's Community Investment Fund. This fund provides an average 3:1 match per dollar to local nonprofits through grant matching and other programs.

GRU's donations included proceeds from gift basket raffles and special events, as well as contributions from employees who donate through payroll deductions.

In addition to monetary contributions, employee volunteers organized several benefit events, including breakfasts and lunches, an obstacle course challenge, and a chili cook-off.

United Way's mission is to advance the common good by building solutions through charitable giving, advocacy and volunteering. GRU employees are proud to continue making a difference in their community through United Way.

For more information on the United Way, visit [unitedwayncfl.org](http://unitedwayncfl.org).

For money-saving tips, visit [gru.com](http://gru.com)



## Medically Essential Electric Service

Customers dependent on electric-powered, life-sustaining medical equipment are entitled to 24 hours' notice prior to disconnection for nonpayment.



Medically Essential Electric Service (MEES) certification requires a form completed and signed by a Florida-licensed physician on the physician's letterhead, including but not limited to prescription forms.

Now is the time to renew MEES certification. Mail your MEES form and GRU account number to Customer Service at P.O. Box 147117, Gainesville, Florida 32614-7117. Visit [gru.com/MEES](http://gru.com/MEES) for more information.

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## Payment Assistance Available for Customers in Need

GRU has several programs for customers who may need help paying their utility bill.

- Project Share assists qualifying customers, including the elderly, handicapped, and those experiencing financial hardship due to illness.
- Payment extensions give customers additional time to pay.
- Installment plans allow customers to make partial payments over time.
- Our low-income efficiency program provides free energy-saving home improvements to help qualifying customers lower their electric bills.

For more information, visit [gru.com/payassist](http://gru.com/payassist).

## GRU Tips – New Year, New Savings

Resolve to lower your utility bills in 2015. Here are some simple tips to help you save money year-round.

- Check your central air conditioning/heating system filter once a month and clean or replace as needed.
- Let your dishes air dry. If you don't have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the control knob after the final rinse and prop open the door.
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- If you wash dishes by hand, avoid running water continuously. Instead, fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Wash laundry in cold water. As much as to 85 percent of the energy needed to do laundry is used heating water.
- Use a hose nozzle attachment with a shut-off valve and turn off the water when washing your car.
- Check door seals on refrigerators and freezers. If the door doesn't hold a dollar bill firmly in place, the seal needs to be replaced. A refrigerator door that does not close tightly will increase heat gain and cause the refrigerator to run more.

**How will you conserve energy and water this year?**

Share your efficiency tips on social media using hashtag #GRUTips for a chance to have them featured on our Facebook page.

For more tips, follow us on Facebook at GRU4U.  
Happy New Year!

January 2015

## Public Service Announcements

### **Historic Days, Medieval Knights**

Medieval magic sweeps through Gainesville during the 29th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire Jan. 24-25 and Jan. 30-Feb. 1 at the Alachua County Fairgrounds. Cheer on jousting knights, and wander through the medieval marketplace. Eight stages of entertainment house a wonderland of magicians, minstrels and more. 352-334-ARTS or [gvlculturalaffairs.org](http://gvlculturalaffairs.org).

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### **Environmental Youth Summit**

Cultural Arts Coalition hosts the 5th Green Generation Environmental Youth Summit, Feb. 7 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at GRU's Eastside Operations Center. The summit connects local student groups to learn about environmental projects. For more information, call or email Nkwanda Jah at 352-372-0216 or [njah52@gmail.com](mailto:njah52@gmail.com).

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### **Partnership for Strong Families Seeking Partner Families**

Local foster parents are needed to help care for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Help us make their life story a better one. Training classes will begin January in Gainesville. To learn more, visit [partnerfamily.org](http://partnerfamily.org) or call 352-244-1500.

*You can view more PSAs at [gru.com](http://gru.com)*

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### **Submit a PSA**

GRU offers PSAs to help local nonprofit organizations that support the arts and sciences or provide a community service. Call 352-393-1485 or email [dongesph@gru.com](mailto:dongesph@gru.com) well in advance to schedule a reservation.