**NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH SUCCESS STORY**

**Electric and Telecom sectors**

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For more information:

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**Co-ops join forces to build a better world**

Improving the quality of life for their members has been the mission of two local cooperatives in the Oklahoma Panhandle for years. Because they serve many of the same people and abide by the same principles, TCEC and PTCI took the sixth universal cooperative principle “Cooperation Among Cooperatives” to heart. [TCEC](http://www.tcec.coop) stands for Tri-County Electric Cooperative and it serves electricity to about 12,500 members in the Oklahoma Panhandle and surrounding areas. [PTCI](http://www.ptci.net) stands for Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and it provides cellular, landline, and television services in a similar area, in addition to high-speed broadband to about 11,300 customers in the Oklahoma Panhandle and surrounding areas.

The unity between the two cooperatives started small, with a multi-company homecoming tailgate party for Guymon High School in 2007, then an annual joint financial contribution to the local Texas County Family YMCA fundraising campaign. Their relationship has grown to help build a better world, at least in the small corner of the world the two cooperatives serve.

For example, in the International Year of Cooperatives, 2012, the two cooperatives held community events in Guymon, Beaver and Boise City to help raise awareness of the cooperative advantage. They gave away goodies and watermelon to members and had a bouncy house for the children.

In 2015, the two cooperatives came together to host an event for National Cooperative Month called Pumpkins at the Park. About 1,500 people came for free pumpkins, fall photos, hot dogs, cookies, train rides and fun. They plan to continue the event this year with employees manning a booth with literature on the value of cooperative membership and possible even a screening of the PBS Visionaries documentary on cooperatives. They will continue to work together to build a better world for many years to come.