

ANSWERING THE CALL:

FORMER YOUTH AMBASSADOR ADVANCES IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE CAREER



“The biggest challenge is never knowing what your next call is going to be. It could be the most simplistic call to one of the worst calls of your career,” shares former youth ambassador Hunter Loveland. “You must be prepared for anything that gets thrown your way while remaining competent and confident for the best possible outcome.”

Following graduation from Lincoln High School (Alma Center) in 2014, Hunter immediately began Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) courses at Chippewa Valley Technical College. “As a kid, I always knew I wanted to pursue education in the healthcare field,” explains Hunter. “I was also inspired by my father’s involvement in public safety.”

After obtaining his EMT license, Hunter worked in the Black River Falls area as an EMT and an emergency department (ED) technician. “While working I continued taking general education courses at CVTC while deciding if I wanted to pursue nursing or paramedicine,” Hunter says. “I eventually decided to pursue paramedicine at Western Technical College, and I have now been a paramedic for six years.”

Hunter ventured away from his Jackson County roots in early 2020 when he moved to the Minneapolis area to work as a paramedic in the metro areas of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Later that year, COVID brought Hunter back home to be closer to family and friends during that time of uncertainty. “I enjoyed working in the cities, but I missed being part of the rural volunteer groups I was part of here at home,” shares Hunter. “I didn’t

get that same experience while living in a bigger area.”

The ability to provide the best possible care to his patients has been the driving force behind Hunter’s inspiration to advance in his career and stay current on advancements in pre-hospital care. With his prior experience as a first responder, EMT, ED technician, and outdoor emergency care technician, Hunter knew that he could do more for his patients. Hunter explains, “I became a paramedic to be able to go the extra mile for my patients and provide a higher level of care. Two years ago, I sought additional education to practice as a critical care paramedic.”

Hunter is now employed full-time as a critical care paramedic with Gundersen Health System. The organization’s motto, Love + Medicine, aligns well with his values as a medical professional. “What I enjoy most is being able to help people on their worst days. If you can put a smile on someone’s face or help take a patient’s worries or pain away, it sure makes you feel like you did something good for them and their loved ones,” Hunter says.

After moving back from the Twin Cities, Hunter also jumped back into volunteering as a first responder with three Jackson/Clark County first responder agencies: Alma Center, Merrillan, and Hatfield. He previously held a direct role for one of the agencies and currently serves as an assistant service director. He also volunteers as an outdoor emergency



care technician through Bruce Mound Ski Patrol. “By living and volunteering in this area, I get to provide care to the communities that I grew up in and to the people who have helped me succeed in my career,” explains Hunter.

Participation in Jackson Electric’s youth ambassador program provided Hunter with leadership growth and confidence that encouraged him to take on more responsibilities in his adult life. He views living in a smaller area as an opportunity, not a setback. “There are plenty of volunteer opportunities for young adults in small communities. Volunteering allows you to grow as an individual and discover your potential,” says Hunter. “My advice is to get involved with a local group and see firsthand how you can make a difference in someone’s life.” —Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Advisor

New Office Hours

Beginning Monday, May 6, Jackson Electric’s office hours will be:
Mondays-Thursdays, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fridays, 7:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Outage reporting: 855.222.3275

Bill payments: 844.759.3984

No After-Hours Service on Water Heaters

GET TO KNOW JACKSON ELECTRIC'S YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Ella Halverson

School attending: Blair-Taylor

Grade in school: Senior

Why did you join the youth ambassador program? "I enjoyed it last year, and it was fun getting to learn more about the community, Jackson Electric, and giving back."

Future career interest/career path: Speech pathologist

Extracurricular activities: Cross country, dance team, figure skating, track, student council, Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, 4-H, Miss Jackson County Program, Blair-Taylor Letterman's Club, class officer.

Hobbies/part-time work: Culver's in Black River Falls, spending time with friends, being outdoors.

What three items would you bring with you on a deserted island? Food, tent, lighter



Kaleb Wyss

School attending: Lincoln

Grade in school: Senior

Why did you join the youth ambassador program?: "I love helping others and being a part of my community. I was in it last year and had lots of fun."

Future career path: Electrician

Extracurricular activities: Basketball, baseball, football
Hobbies/part-time work: Hunting, fishing, video games, work at Subway.

What would you bring with you on a deserted island? Lighter, spear, friend



Lily Olson

School attending: Black River Falls

Grade in school: Junior

Why did you join the youth ambassador program? "I joined because I saw the opportunities it offered within the community and that sparked my interest. I also look forward to learning more about the community."

Future career interest/career path: Sports journalism

Extracurricular activities: Tennis, Family Career and Community Leaders of America, science club, pep club, yearbook, class officer, Student Reporting Lab, Raise Your Voice.

Hobbies/part-time work: Skyline Golf Course and Restaurant – server, K9 Country Lodge.



Courtney Nicolai

School attending: Melrose-Mindoro

Grade in school: Junior

Why did you join the youth ambassador program?: "My high school counselor told me about it, and I had friends in older grades who were previously part of the program."

Future career path: Engineering or working with wildlife/animals

Extracurricular activities: Volleyball, basketball, track and field, National Honor Society, student council, National FFA Organization.

Hobbies/part-time work: Babysitting, snowboarding, horseback riding, fishing, traveling, sports.

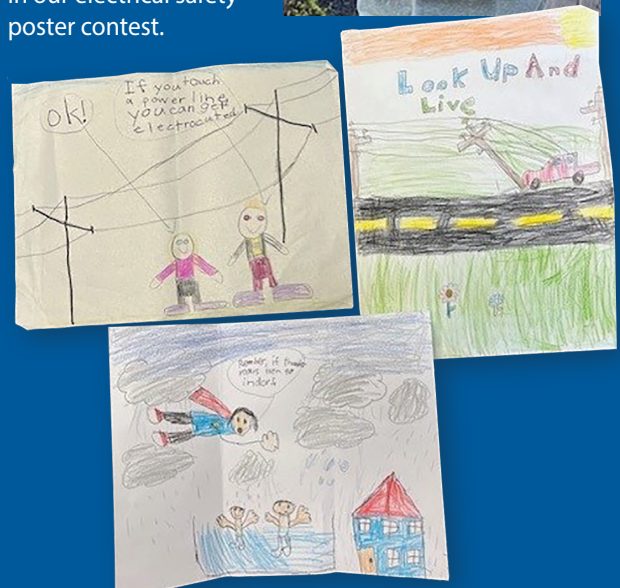
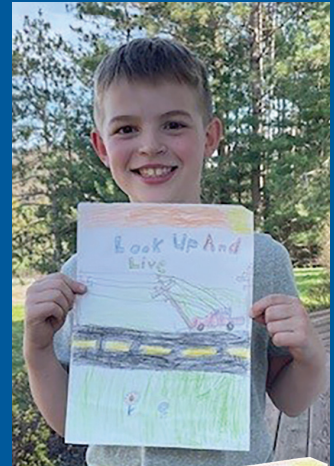
What would you bring with you on a deserted island? Water filter, lighter, clothes



CONGRATULATIONS SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Finley Wood of Red Creek Elementary School in Black River Falls for winning the local safety poster contest. Finley won a \$25 gift card, and his poster will be entered into the state contest where he will have a chance to win a Chromebook.

Thanks to all the students who participated in our electrical safety poster contest.





ZOOMING IN ON BRADYN

About a year ago, Bradyn Schneider joined the Jackson Electric team as an apprentice line worker. Originally from the Whitehall area, his interest in this career field began with a conversation with family members who were employed by utility companies. “I talked with them and heard good things,” he says.

Bradyn was originally interested in electric-utility work. However, he was waitlisted for Chippewa Valley Technical

College’s electrical power distribution program, so he enrolled in training to work with a gas utility. “I went through the gas program first to see if it was something I was interested in,” he shares. “After completing the program, I still wanted to pursue the electrical route.”

In his day-to-day responsibilities at Jackson Electric, Bradyn has already learned many new skills from setting poles, to safely doing work in a bucket, and strategies that make the job more efficient. “One thing I never expected to learn is how to install a solar system,” he says. “I find it interesting, and there’s a lot to it.”

In addition to new learning opportunities each day, Bradyn also enjoys the camaraderie of his co-workers, especially the line crew. “All of my co-workers are great to work with, and everyone on the crew works well together,” Bradyn says.

Bradyn looks forward to his apprenticeship training and being able



to complete more skills as he advances through the program. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, four-wheeling, and snowmobiling. Asked where he sees himself in ten years, he shares, “Ideally I’d like to be settled down, married, have kids, own a house, and advancing in my career,” he concludes.



MEMORIES ARE IN THE PAST

Right: May 1967. Jackson Electric’s headquarters, located in downtown Black River Falls.

Below: Ms. Gladys Stillman teaches a few of the Jackson County women how to freeze foods at the UW-Extension Office. Ms. Stillman was a foods specialist in home economics from the 1920s to 1953.



Above: June 1987. Current general manager Kevin Babcock, left, and retired journeymen lineman Steve Tenner, right, set a pole for the Jackson County Dairy Breakfast, which was held at the Grunlien’s farm.

Below: Strawberry pickers. Place and date unknown.



READY, SET, *SMILE!*

Submit your favorite June photo for a chance to win a \$25 energy credit. Go to jackelec.com and click the Photo Contest button to enter.

Congratulations to the following photo contest winners for February, March, and April:



Left: The Perfect Sunset submitted by Kandi Shramek, Alma Center.



Above: Mother Nature Showing Off Her Beauty submitted by Angela Fischer, Alma Center.

Left: Spring Sunrise submitted by Betty Janke, rural Hixton.

Submit your photos June 1-30, 2024, to be considered in the June contest.

Member Photo Contest

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