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For Immediate Release

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## **Barron Electric and Co-Bank Partner to Make a Difference at Pioneer Village Museum**

The Pioneer Village Museum in Cameron has been dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of Northwestern Wisconsin for over sixty years. Each year, thousands of visitors from around the globe explore the museum, while hundreds of volunteers generously contribute their time. Exciting plans are in place to construct a welcome center that will transform the museum into a year-round resource. Barron Electric Cooperative, in collaboration with Co-Bank's Sharing Success Program, has contributed \$10,000 to the Pioneer Village Museum. Tammy Schutz, Executive Director of the museum, stated, "Donations like this help to ensure that our local history and culture will continue to be honored and enjoyed by present and future generations."

Barron Electric Cooperative's deep roots in the rural area date back to 1936 with the establishment of the Rural Electrification Administration. Visionaries like Nels Nelson, Arthur Bilodeau, and Willis Jerome were instrumental in transforming the dream of rural electrification into a tangible reality. In November of 1937, Barron Electric energized their first section of line consisting of 86 miles which delivered electric service to 125 connected members. Today, Barron Electric spans over 3,000 miles of line and serves nearly 20,000 members. Aaron Torud, General Manager of Barron Electric Cooperative, expressed, "We are proud to support the preservation of Northwest Wisconsin's rich history through our donation to Pioneer Village Museum."

CoBank, the lender for Barron Electric, is dedicated to giving back to the communities they serve. In 2025, they plan to match \$6 million through their Sharing Success Program. The funds for Barron Electric's donations come from the Federated Youth Foundation, which manages unclaimed cashback credits from former members. The foundation has specific guidelines on how these funds can be utilized. Legally, Barron Electric cannot use cashback credits to lower rates.

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