CREATING A 501(c)(3)
A STEP BY STEP GUIDE

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Missouri’s electric cooperatives, which provide electric services to more than 80 percent of Missouri, have established a priority of assisting rural development statewide. This initiative continues to provide research, funding and information to work with communities in improving their economies. This publication is part of a series designed to successfully guide volunteers and professionals through the process of establishing a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Missouri’s electric cooperatives are pleased to continue providing this type of technical assistance. It is yet another resource made available to you through your electric cooperative.

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During the past several years, Steve Jeanetta has assisted more than 200 groups that have gone on to incorporate as 501(c)(3) organizations. Countless other organizations have decided that other organizational structures better meet their needs after considering the options. This workbook has been patterned after a series of workshops that Jeanetta has been using to help groups decide how to work their way through the maze of paperwork to determine if they need to become a 501(c)(3). Wendy Myers, graphic design specialist at Associated Electric Cooperative Inc., has worked with Jeanetta to provide a format that allows the reader to view his tips on how to complete the application forms while having the forms in easy view. Our desire is to assist you and your organization in making the appropriate decision for your group on whether you should apply for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.
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