The theme of the day was “Pirates on the Sea of Grief” as children, ages 5 to 17, participated in the 14th Annual O.W. English Day Camp, sponsored this year by Operation Round Up. Hospice of Lubbock organizes the Day Camp.

Operation Round Up is not just a scholarship program. It provides financial assistance to hundreds of local individuals and many community support organizations. The program is funded by voluntary contributions from members of South Plains Electric Cooperative.

While there was lots of fun, there were activities to help the kids talk about their grief and sadness for the loved ones who had died. Campers went on a scavenger hunt where they found fun rewards as well as jewels and seashells to decorate treasure boxes. They used the treasure boxes to keep special mementos of their lost loved ones. They wrote messages in a bottle for their family to know what would help them feel better when they are sad. The kids also decorated goodie bags to be given to current Hospice of Lubbock patients.

The day ended with a memorial service where each child released a balloon with an attached note that they had written earlier in the day to their loved one who had died.

“It was such a special day,” said Bereavement Services Coordinator Susan Nemec. “And while they had lots of fun, they also found that there were other kids who had some of the same feelings that they did and that they were not alone in their grief.”

Hospice of Lubbock is a non-profit agency to provide care for terminally ill people and to offer physical, emotional and spiritual support for patients and their families.

Operation Round Up Works!

It’s not a new idea, but it’s an effective one. When you participate in Operation Round Up, your electric bill is automatically rounded up to the next dollar each month and the contribution is deposited in the Operation Round Up fund. Your average annual contribution will be about $6.00. If you want to participate, just call our member service department at 806.775.7766.