

**New Margin Refunds**  
bring total returned to **\$96 Million**

**From old-time cooking schools**  
*to state-of-the-art energy analysis*

# JEMICOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

December 2013



## Home Energy Fitness:

*Resolve to get your house healthy*

CELEBRATING

75  
YEARS

1938 - 2013  
**JACKSON EMC**  
PEOPLE. POWER. PROGRESS.



President/CEO  
Randall Pugh

## Solar Power: The Sunny Day Solution

Much has been made lately of solar power and whether or not it can serve as a major source of energy in our state. It's an issue that has been discussed a great deal in the past few years. I'd like to talk to you about how your cooperative is approaching solar power generation.

As one of a dozen founding members of Green Power EMC in 2001, Jackson EMC was among the first utilities in the state to offer renewable energy. By doing so, we demonstrated that we believe renewable energy is good for our members and the environment. And, through Green Power EMC, we are actively pursuing opportunities to expand solar power production.

As your electric cooperative, our mission has always been to provide a reliable supply of electricity to our members *and* to keep the cost of that energy as low as possible. To do that, we need a balanced portfolio of generation resources. Balanced is the key word here because every generation resource has its strengths and weaknesses, and we shouldn't rely too heavily on any one resource.

Historically, the cost of solar technology has been an issue. Over the years, the cost to generate a kilowatt-hour of solar power has declined. As the cost of solar equipment continues to decline, the cost of the power it generates may become more comparable with traditional generation resources.

Solar power's limitation is that, while it's a viable energy resource when the sun is shining, it's dependent on nature and, like nature, is unpredictable. Even though we Georgians live in a relatively warm climate, we still have our share of stormy days where clouds block the sun, limiting solar power production. Just look at this year – through October, we've had rain

105 days out of 304. And at nighttime, no sun means no solar power. Due to its lack of around-the-clock availability, we view solar as a supplement to other, non-weather dependent energy resources.

One of the biggest questions about solar is whether or not it should be subsidized. Those who install solar panels on their homes still need to purchase backup power from their electric company to ensure they have electricity when their solar panels can't meet their needs. Jackson EMC is responsible for providing poles, wire and transformers to supply an uninterrupted source of electricity to all our members, with or without the sun.

Like other generation resources, solar and other renewables have a place in the mix that ensures we can continue to provide you with a reliable supply of electricity from the cleanest sources at the lowest cost possible.

For every kilowatt of electricity produced by solar power, we must produce almost a full kW of backup generation for when the sun isn't shining. And all our members share that cost. So our challenge is to understand how to integrate a resource that is only available part of the time into our generation mix in a way that our members don't pay for duplicate resources.

Sunshine may be free, but solar power – like any other power generation resource – has a cost. Like other generation resources, solar and other renewables have a place in the mix that ensures we can continue to provide you with a reliable supply of electricity from the cleanest sources at the lowest cost possible. ▲

### JEMCO news

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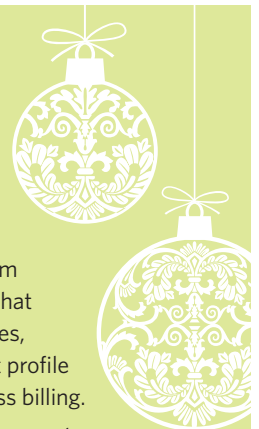
### Never More Than a Click Away

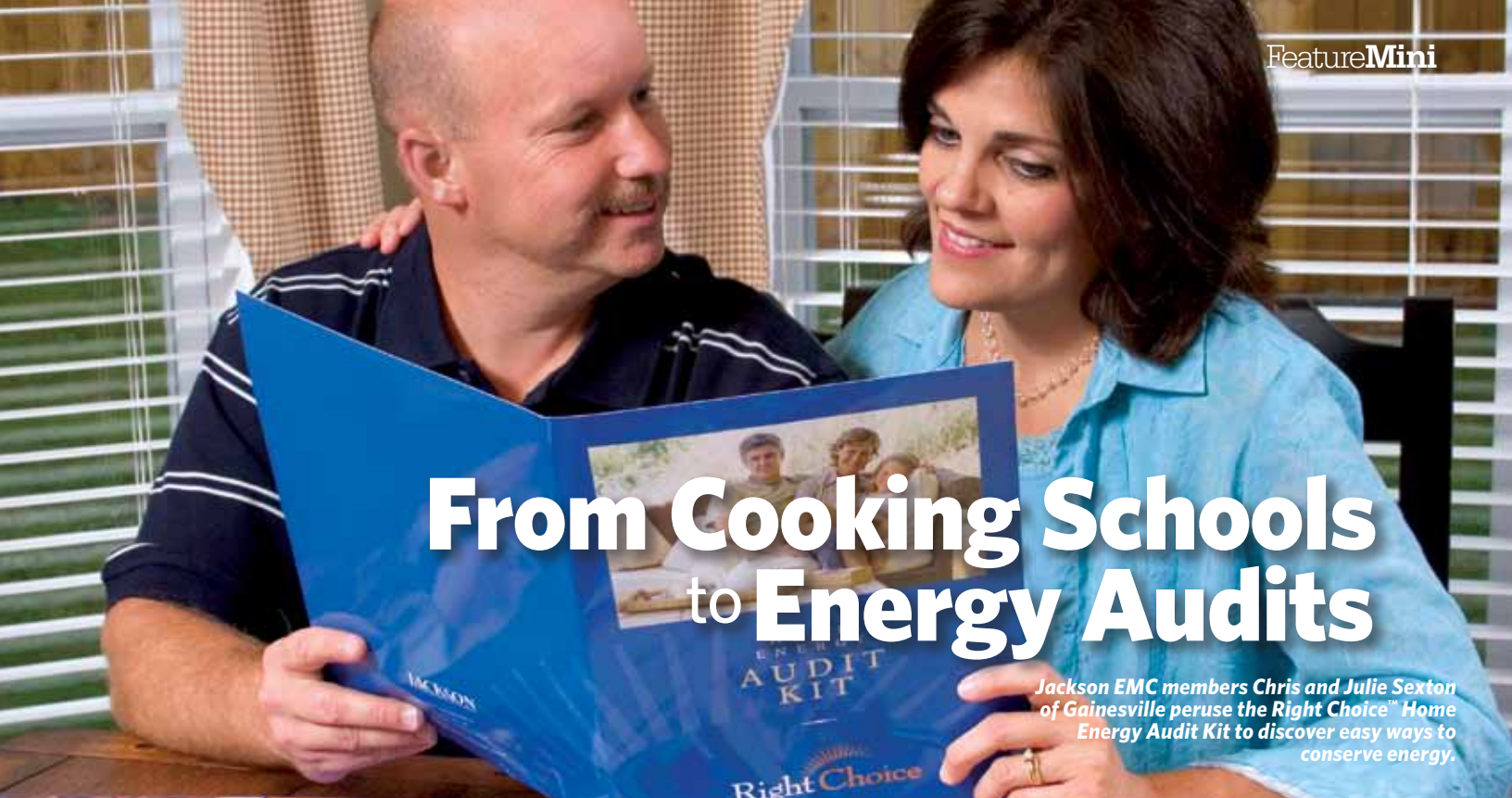
Jackson EMC's offices will be closed for the holidays on Tuesday, December 24; Wednesday, December 25; and Wednesday, January 1. Even when our offices are closed, though, online access to your account is always available, around-the-clock, 365 days a year.

Using [www.jacksonemc.com](http://www.jacksonemc.com) from your desktop or [mobile.jacksonemc.com](http://mobile.jacksonemc.com) from your mobile device, you have immediate access to multiple self-service options that include starting and discontinuing service, reporting power and streetlight outages, and obtaining services and rebates. In addition, you can create an online account profile to check your usage, manage your accounts and sign up for services like paperless billing.

Whether our offices are open or closed, we want to remain connected to you, our members. At this time of year especially, through the holidays and into the New Year, we wish you warm memories and bright tomorrows.

Happy Holidays!





# From Cooking Schools to Energy Audits

Jackson EMC members Chris and Julie Sexton of Gainesville peruse the Right Choice™ Home Energy Audit Kit to discover easy ways to conserve energy.

Throughout its 75-year history, Jackson EMC has assisted consumers in their electric needs. In our formative years, that meant teaching members how to use electric appliances and farm equipment. Today, the focus is on helping our members manage their energy use in order to save on power bills.

From its origins in 1938, Jackson EMC worked with members to ensure their homes and farms were properly wired for electricity. In 1952, the cooperative created its power use department to help members learn how to transition from using wood burning stoves to operating their new electric ranges and other electric appliances like refrigerators and washing machines. Electric use advisors held demonstrations in members' homes and sponsored cooking schools at area high school auditoriums.

Sponsored in partnership with manufacturers like Frigidaire® and Westinghouse®, the events were well-attended as women sought pointers in freezing foods and cooking meals with their new electric freezers and ranges – appliances that, for those to whom electricity was a new commodity, seemed mysterious and even threatening. Farm wives did not immediately trust items frozen in electric freezers and didn't know how to properly freeze foods once convinced the newfangled appliances were safe.

Jackson EMC advisors educated members on the safe and effective use of freezers and a multitude of other electric products.

Popularity of the educational programs led the co-op in 1955 to construct an onsite auditorium at its headquarters in Jefferson,

with an all-electric kitchen and laundry. Cooking schools moved in-house and homemakers packed the auditorium to witness demonstrations by home economists who cooked meals and taught members how to decorate for the holidays with electric lights.

While work of the home service advisors originally revolved around homemaking skills, as membership – and the number of appliances utilized by members – grew, Jackson EMC transitioned its member services department to a stronger focus on energy efficiency. In the 1980s, visits to members' homes continued but with emphasis on inspecting insulation and wiring rather than demonstrating use of the latest kitchen appliance.

Member services staff began to advise builders on energy efficiency measures, assist new industries with their electrical needs, and help homeowners get the most bang for their buck in total-electric homes.

Via energy efficiency programs like Right Choice™, Jackson EMC continues to offer an array of energy education tools, including walk-thru home energy audits and an online audit that allows members to assess their power bill to learn how their energy dollars are spent. Our do-it-yourself energy audit kit is available upon request, and our

Home Energy Fitness program offers both online and offline services.

For more, see pages 4-5 and visit [www.jacksonemc.com](http://www.jacksonemc.com). ▲

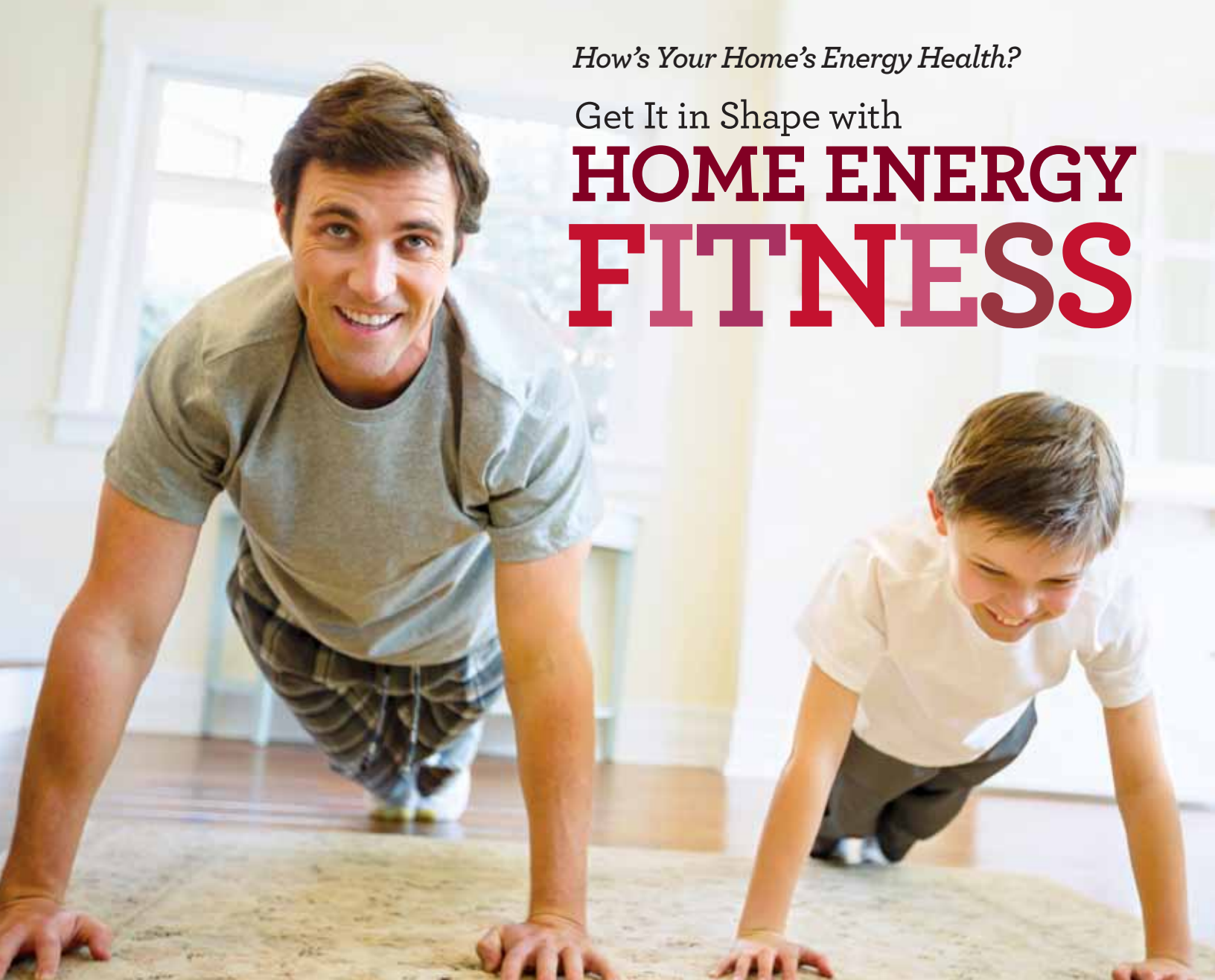


Jackson EMC home advisors were routine speakers at home demonstration council meetings where they shared lessons on cooking and freezing with electric appliances.



In 1960, Myron Luttrell, a home economist employed by W. D. Alexander Company of Atlanta, demonstrated freezing and cooking with electric appliances.

Photos on this page appear in a book chronicling the 75-year history of your cooperative: "The Story of Jackson EMC: People. Power. Progress." To get your free copy of this 240-page, hardback volume, visit your Jackson EMC district office.



*How's Your Home's Energy Health?*

Get It in Shape with

# HOME ENERGY FITNESS

As a New Year approaches, many will consider making resolutions to exercise and lose weight in order to enhance their health. While you're making those worthwhile resolutions, add improving your home's health to the list.

**J**ust as caring for your body requires physical activity and eating properly, caring for your home requires routine maintenance and upkeep.

At times, even though we're doing all we can to stay healthy, we get sick and must visit a doctor for a checkup. Just as a medical doctor would diagnose your ailment and prescribe medicine, our Right Choice™ Home Energy Fitness suite of online and other tools can pinpoint problems in your home and recommend solutions to improve energy efficiency.

If your house is losing energy, our Home Energy Fitness tools can help you find the problem and identify the most cost-effective improvements to make in your home.

No matter what your current home's energy fitness level is, we can show you ways to use less energy - and save on your power bill.

Check out the free tools Jackson EMC offers to boost your home's health, and resolve to put them to use in 2014.

### HOME FITNESS MONITOR

Jackson EMC provides a do-it-yourself home analysis through its online Home Fitness Monitor. After you've supplied information regarding your home energy use – including your home size, number of windows and types of appliances – this interactive calculator interprets your energy bill and charts where your energy dollars are going. Differences in energy consumption from previous periods of use are displayed in easy-to-understand graphics that point out where changes

in energy use or impact of new equipment affect your bill.

Recommendations for ways to save energy and reduce your power bill are provided simultaneously so you can take action.

We recently took this online tool a step further by introducing **Track My Progress**, a new program that delivers personalized email correspondence to your computer inbox. After logging into the Home Fitness Monitor, you can opt in to this energy usage tracking system

to set energy-saving goals and request continuing information related to those goals by signing up for routine email correspondence.

This ongoing dialogue provides diagnoses for your home energy health in the way of email reports that detail major bill drivers compared to last month and last year. It's like signing up for a weight loss challenge, setting healthy goals and working to reach those goals.

### ENERGY FITNESS GUIDES

A variety of other online calculators provide information regarding the typical amount of electricity used to power certain items.



The **Appliance Energy Use** guide estimates the amount of energy used when powering items such as stoves, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, hair dryers, ceiling fans, water heaters, DVD players and radios.



The **Space Heater Use** guide provides data on the typical amount of energy used by space heaters in your home, while the **TV Energy Use** program calculates energy used by various types of televisions, including plasma, LCD, DLP and tube TVs.



The **Lighting** guide shows how much you can save by replacing old incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.



And the **Heating and Cooling** guide estimates annual savings that can be obtained by updating heating and cooling systems with energy efficiency in mind.



### HOME FITNESS PLAN

Another online feature, the Home Fitness Plan, walks viewers through a 3-D home plan that details where and how energy is used in the home and provides tips on where and how changes can be made to lower utility bills.

### HOME FITNESS CHECKUP KIT

A do-it-yourself Home Fitness Checkup Kit will be mailed straight to your home upon your request. The detailed kit features a video hosted by HGTV's Pat Simpson and provides a thorough checklist to help members examine their home to identify potential energy-busters.

Along with pinpointing problems, the kit provides suggestions to improve energy efficiency and reduce power bills.

### PERSONAL HOME FITNESS EVALUATION

The Right Choice™ Personal Home Fitness Evaluation is a free service for Jackson EMC members who have trouble diagnosing energy ailments at their home. Upon request, a Jackson EMC residential professional will conduct a free energy audit to locate problems you may have overlooked.

Typically, the home energy evaluation will resolve your energy concerns, but if there's a problem detected with air

infiltration or a complex heating and cooling issue, your Jackson EMC representative may recommend a more in-depth evaluation with the Right Choice Home Performance with **ENERGY STAR® Audit**. Upon completion of this more technologically advanced and scientific study, you'll receive a prioritized list of recommendations for improving your home's energy efficiency and comfort.

The advanced audit costs, on average, about \$550. Jackson EMC members may be eligible for rebates that offset part of that cost.

For more information on these services, visit [www.jacksonemc.com](http://www.jacksonemc.com) or call 1-800-462-3691.



## Providing Safety for the Tiniest Passengers

The Infant Car Seat Safety Program of the Gwinnett Hospital System not only provides car seats for parents who can't afford to buy one; it also teaches parents how to properly use safety seats.

In Georgia, car crashes are the number one cause of death for children ages 2 to 14, according to the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Every year, children's lives are lost in accidents where they were not restrained, or not restrained properly, in a child car safety seat.

At Gwinnett Medical Center in Lawrenceville, between 10 and 12 infants are born monthly to parents who do not have or cannot afford to purchase an approved car seat, according to Jason Chandler of the Gwinnett Hospital System Foundation. To ensure the safety of its youngest patients, the hospital provides an approved child safety seat for parents who otherwise could not obtain one.

The Infant Car Seat Safety Program recently was awarded a \$14,941 Jackson EMC Foundation grant to purchase 192 car seats to continue its work. The program received a \$7,000 JEMC Foundation grant in July 2010.

Along with providing approved, easy-to-install, rear-facing car seats, which are required by law for transporting young children, the program:

- Reinforces the importance of proper use of safety belts and child restraints,
- Increases availability of information about the proper seating positions for children in air bag equipped motor vehicles,
- Provides training at no charge to all parents provided a car seat, and
- Provides training to any parent who owns a car seat and does not know how to properly install it.

In addition, the hospital provides car seats at reduced costs to those who meet certain financial criteria and attend a safety seat class.

The Gwinnett Hospital System serves all 10 counties in Jackson EMC's service area and is the leading healthcare provider in Gwinnett County. The Gwinnett Women's Pavilion at Gwinnett Medical Center in Lawrenceville is one of the largest providers of obstetrical services in Georgia with close to 5,000 babies delivered annually. ▲

## operationroundup

### Jackson EMC Foundation Awards Almost \$82,000 in Grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$81,941 in grants during their October meeting, including \$78,441 to organizations and \$3,500 to individuals.

#### Organizational Grant Recipients:

**\$14,941** to the **Infant Car Seat Safety Program**, a service of the Gwinnett Hospital System, to purchase 192 approved, rear-facing car safety seats for infants who are born in system facilities and whose parents cannot afford to purchase car seats.

**\$10,000** to the **St. Vincent de Paul Society - Flowery Branch** for its Aid Hot Line program, which provides emergency aid to families in crisis for rent, mortgage and temporary housing to prevent homelessness and disrupted lives.

**\$10,000** to the **St. Vincent de Paul Society - St. Michael Church** in Gainesville to help fund direct aid for housing assistance, including rent, mortgage and temporary housing, for families in crisis.

**\$10,000** to the **St. Vincent de Paul Society - Jackson County** for its St. Catherine Labouré assistance program which provides funds to

families in crisis for rent, mortgage, food, transportation, gas, repair and insurance premium, education assistance and medical assistance.

**\$10,000** to **Family Promise of Gwinnett County** to help fund a part-time staff member that will allow its SaltLight Center temporary shelter for homeless women to expand its operations from five nights a week to seven.

**\$10,000** to **Habitat for Humanity of Jackson County** to purchase plumbing, electrical equipment, HVAC and cabinets for its 11th house, which is being built for the single mother of two young children.

**\$6,000** to **Family Promise of Hall County** to purchase four desktop computers and Microsoft licenses for the day center to provide families with a computer lab to use for applications and job searches, resumes and cover letters, as well

as signing up for food stamps, birth certificates and other necessities.

**\$5,000** to the **Boy Scouts of America Northeast Georgia Council** to provide uniforms, handbooks and summer camp fees that will help underprivileged youth participate in scouting, teaching them to make ethical choices and promoting citizenship, leadership, mental and physical fitness.

**\$2,500** to the **Spirit of Joy Food Bank in Flowery Branch** to purchase food for the more than 30 families they serve in an average month.

#### Individual Grant Recipients:

**\$3,500** to replace a heat pump for a **disabled senior citizen**.

## Statement of Non-Discrimination

Jackson EMC is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the following: the provisions of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Act of 1991, as amended; Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991, as amended; Section 42 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended; 41 CFR Part 60-300, and other protected veterans; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Labor, OFCCP which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, age, disability or Vietnam or disabled veteran status shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is William P. Ormsby, Manager, Corporate Administration. Any individual, or specific class of



individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above, and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250, and the Director, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible. ▲

## smartconnections

### Jackson EMC Returns \$5.5 Million in Margin Refunds

Just in time for holiday shopping, most Jackson EMC members will receive a check in the mail. Each of approximately 201,000 members will receive their share of a total of \$5.5 million in margin refunds in December.

"Jackson EMC is a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative," says Board Chairman Otis Jones. "The board of directors is able to return a portion of the revenue left over after all the bills are paid, funds which we refer to as margins, to our members."

Margins are refunded for a combination of years so that both longtime and newer members benefit from belonging to an electric cooperative. This year, margin refunds will go to those members who received electric service from Jackson EMC in 1988, 1989 and 2012. The sum of each member's refund check is calculated according to the amount each member paid for electric service during these years.

After this December's distribution of margin refunds, Jackson EMC

will have returned more than \$96 million to its owner/members since the cooperative was founded in 1938. This record of returning margins to members ranks among the highest of the 840 electric cooperatives in the nation.

Jackson EMC historically has enjoyed great success in returning margins to members. Its first margins were returned as "free" electric bills to members in December 1950 and July 1951. In 1953, the cooperative started mailing checks to members. By July 1963, Jackson EMC reached the \$1 million mark in terms of the total amount returned to members.

In addition to providing its members with electricity - and annual margin refunds - Jackson EMC remains intimately involved in the communities it serves by



promoting economic development projects, small businesses, job creation and improvement of water and sewer systems. Ever a community-partner, Jackson EMC is active in local chambers of commerce and industrial authorities and in schools through Partners in Education programs.

*Billing department employees in July 1954 prepare margin refunds to mail to members. Employees included Mary George McCain, Melrose Roberts, Mrs. A.W. Tolbert, Martha Jean Elrod and Mrs. Jimmy Tompkins.*

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# what's cookin'?

## Cooperative **Cooking**

Each month *Jemco News* features recipes which represent the people and products of Jackson EMC. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Jackson EMC area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to:

Cooperative Cooking  
Jackson EMC  
P.O. Box 38  
Jefferson, GA 30549

Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Jemco News* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.

## *South of the Border Christmas Morning Casserole*

### **Ingredients:**

1 pound ground pork sausage	2 cups milk
1 teaspoon mustard powder	6 slices white bread, toasted and cut into cubes
½ teaspoon salt	8 ounces Mexican blend cheese, half sharp/half Monterey Pepper Jack, shredded
1 teaspoon Louisiana hot sauce	Fresh cilantro
4 eggs, beaten	

### **Instructions:**

Crumble sausage into a medium skillet. Cook over medium heat until brown; drain. In medium bowl, mix mustard powder, salt, hot sauce, eggs and milk. Add sausage, toasted bread cubes and cheese; stir to coat evenly. Pour into greased 9"x13" baking dish; cover. Chill in refrigerator for minimum of 8 hours or overnight.

In the morning, preheat oven to 350°. Cover dish with aluminum foil and bake 45 to 60 minutes. Uncover and reduce temperature to 325°; bake for 30 more minutes or until firm. Garnish with fresh cilantro.