

*Kids: Learn a Lot about Energy
With Online Pages Just for You*

**Save the Date:
Annual Meeting, Sept. 18**

JEMICO A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS news

August 2014

**JACKSON EMC FOUNDATION:
COVERING THE BASICS**

TURNING
**SMALL
CHANGE**
INTO
**LIFE
CHANGE**



Annual Meeting on the Horizon

On September 18, Jackson EMC will host its Annual Meeting of members, our biggest event of the year. We hope you'll save the date.

If you're one of our regulars who attends each year, you could probably write this column because you're well acquainted with the program we put on.


Each year, every registered member gets a gift and a boxed barbecue chicken dinner for you and each member of your family to enjoy at our Jefferson campus. We stage a huge health fair with free screenings and information from friendly health professionals. Jackson EMC employees man booths to share information with you about our products and services. We entertain children with a Kids Carnival, complete with bounce house, balloon animals, face painting and more. And we entertain adults with inspirational music performed by a popular gospel group, a tradition from our earliest annual meetings.

All of this takes place before the evening business meeting, which features addresses by Jackson EMC management and the board chairman who report on the past year's accomplishments, with a slide show that explains important events from the past 12 months. After the business session, the evening winds down with drawings for door prizes, and one lucky member will win the grand prize, a \$2,500 energy efficient appliance package.

While the entertainment, meal and prizes are enticing, the real reason we hold Annual Meeting is to conduct the business of your cooperative. As members of a not-for-profit electric cooperative, you are business owners, and Jackson EMC is your business. As a cooperative, Jackson EMC is governed by the members it serves. We all share in this work, our board and employees who handle important decisions and day-to-day operations, and our members, who have the opportunity at Annual Meeting to hear how their business performed in the past year.

Bottom line, you are more than a customer at Jackson EMC. You are a business owner.

The 2014 Annual Meeting will be here before we know it. Whether your interest is in enjoying a barbecue chicken meal, bringing your kids to the carnival or hearing some of the best gospel music around, we hope you'll attend. It's a great opportunity to see old friends and make new ones, and to learn about your electric cooperative.

We've been preparing for this event for almost a year and look forward to seeing you on September 18. Get involved in your cooperative. It's easy and fun, but most of all, it's important. We hope to see you at Annual Meeting. 



President/CEO
Chip Jakins

Chip Jakins

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Last Chance for Home Energy Fitness Challenge

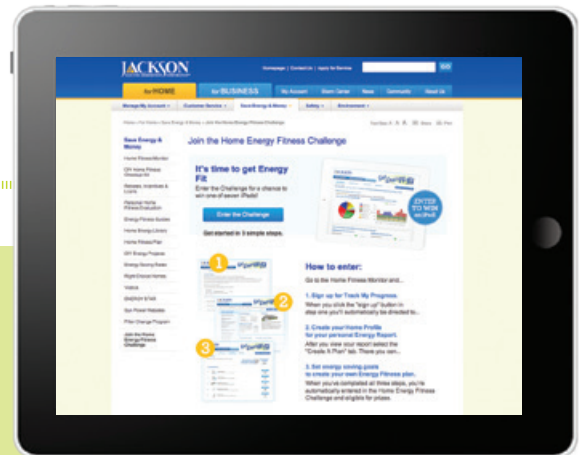
You have through August 31 to sign up for Jackson EMC's Home Energy Fitness Challenge and the chance to win an iPad.

Get your home on its way to becoming energy fit by creating a fitness plan at www.jacksonemc.com/challenge to reduce your home energy use.

When you sign up for the Challenge, you're automatically entered in a drawing to win one of seven iPads to be awarded to eligible members whose names are randomly drawn on or after September 1.

But even if you don't win an iPad, you'll gain useful tips and strategies on how to save money throughout the year by cutting back on energy use. Follow the plan you create for our Challenge and increase your home's energy fitness while slimming down your power bill. Now that's a fitness plan you can count on!

Find full details and enter today at www.jacksonemc.com/challenge.



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Welcome Students!

Jackson EMC invites you to become an e-SMARTkid! Becoming an e-SMARTkid means learning about electricity and how to use it safely and wisely. Check out our games and activities, and you'll be an e-SMARTkid!

Students

- Get SMART!
- Safety SMART!
- Energy SMART!
- Sustainability SMART!
- Games
- Electrical Safety World Video
- Activity Pages for K-5
- Ask an Expert
- Home Inspections

Get SMART!

Electrical Safety-SMART!



Games



Video



Activity Pages for K-6



Ask an Expert



Kids Pages

Make Learning Extra Fun

Whether you're a teacher gearing up for a new class or a parent getting back in the routine of packing lunch for your little one, our e-SMARTkids web pages are designed to help you get through the school year.

Packed with games, videos, experiments and activities that teach energy efficiency and sustainability, electrical safety and energy science, this interactive website is a one-stop shop for core curriculum science content for students in grades K-6.

Best of all for teachers, the content meets Georgia State Performance Standards for science and health, and an online teacher's guide shows you how to put the site to work for you and your students. Numerous experiments offer hands-on instruction to reinforce electricity concepts, and printable

worksheets are available to assess comprehension of these online lessons. A comprehensive glossary features energy vocabulary words used on the site.

Whether in the classroom or on the home computer, kids learn important electrical safety and energy science concepts while having tons of fun playing games featured on the site. For a preview of games on the site and to test your own knowledge, take the accompanying quiz.

For more on this free resource, visit www.jacksonemc.com/kidspages.

Take our Quiz to Become an e-SMART Kid

Our online e-SMARTkids pages feature fast-paced interactive games that test your knowledge while teaching important electrical safety and energy science concepts. Here's a sample of what you'll learn as you play:

Find the Hidden Dangers:

Electrical Safety

Q. What are two dangers to avoid outdoors around electric power lines?

A. Stay away from downed power lines and don't fly a kite near power lines.

The Voltinator:

Energy Science

Q. How is the circuit on The Voltinator game like a real live circuit?

A. In order for electrical current to flow to an appliance, electricity must stay in the closed circuit or loop, just like the electrons do in The Voltinator.

Eco Racer:

Renewable Energy

Q. What renewable energy sources are used to generate electricity that runs race cars in this game?

A. Solar power, wind power, hydropower, geothermal power and biomass.

Make the Sustainable

Choice: Sustainable Living

Q. Why is it important to put fewer things in the trash?

A. Disposing of product packaging, food and old electronics like cellphones contributes waste to landfills and can be toxic for the environment.

Stop the Guzzler:

Energy Efficiency

Q. What should you not do when you're at the refrigerator to get something to eat?

A. Keep the door open while you decide what you want. ⚠

TURNING SMALL CHANGE INTO LIFE CHANGE



Habitat for Humanity: Jackson County Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Paul Brown, center, takes a break from building a tool shed with help from the children, from left, Shikeem, Shivade, Shicuria and Shaquita.

Jackson EMC members who contribute pennies through Operation Round Up® can take satisfaction in knowing that the small amount of change they give each month brings about positive change throughout our communities.

Organized in 2005, the Jackson EMC Foundation oversees the funds collected through our Operation Round Up program, where monthly power bills of participating members are rounded up to the next dollar with the extra change providing grants to charitable organizations and individuals in need. Almost 90 percent of Jackson EMC members take part in this philanthropic program.

On average, each participating Jackson EMC member contributes about \$6 per year to Operation Round Up. By giving this small change – roughly the cost of a fast-food meal – our members join together to create change that constructively impacts the lives of our neighbors. Each month, an average of \$85,300 in grants are distributed; in the past eight and a half years, our members' contributions have put nearly \$9 million into surrounding communities to positively impact individuals and strengthen service and charitable organizations.

Foundation grants help charitable organizations cover the basic needs of our area's less fortunate. At a time when other program funding has been cut and local and state governments have reduced services, the Jackson EMC Foundation supports groups that feed the hungry, house the homeless, educate the young, provide medical services for the sick and boost job skills of the under- or unemployed. Individuals in need are helped with immediate needs, such as repairing an air conditioner so a family doesn't suffer in the summer heat or making disabled-accessible changes to a home so an automobile accident victim can lead a more normal life.

Read the stories that follow to learn just a few of the ways your small change makes big life change possible. For more on the Foundation, visit www.jacksonemc.com/foundation. Be on the lookout for the Foundation's online annual report in October where you'll learn about more grant recipients.

JACKSON COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

www.jacksoncountyhabitat.homestead.com

Building Homes, Community and Hope

A year after moving into a home of their own, Desmond and his four children have settled into their new neighborhood in Jefferson. Employed by Dayton Superior concrete company in Braselton, the single dad had been living with his mother in Statham but sought a home of his own for his family.

"It's not crowded like it used to be," says his older daughter, 14-year-old Shaquita. "There's more privacy for us, and for Dad, too."

In June 2013, Shaquita and her 13-year-old sister, Shicuria, along with their brothers, Shikeem, 15, and Shivade, 10, moved into their new house, constructed by Jackson County Habitat for Humanity. The same month, a groundbreaking ceremony was held next door on what would become Habitat's 12th house. The kids helped work on both houses, hammering nails while getting to know their neighbors.

"Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, community and hope," says Paul Brown, the Jackson County affiliate's executive director. The nonprofit depends on donations like those from the Jackson EMC Foundation, which provided a \$10,000 grant for plumbing, electrical equipment, HVAC and cabinets for the family's house.



Gwinnett Tech Foundation: Assisting student Alexa, second from right, are, from left, Jennifer Hendrickson, director of Institutional Advancement; Stephanie Rooks, dean of Adult Education; and Perry Roberts, executive director of Gwinnett Tech Foundation.

"In recent years, donations have suffered a gradual decline, but Jackson EMC has been consistent," says Brown. "Without the Jackson EMC Foundation, we would only have built about half as many houses as we have."



Good News Clinics: Nurse Practitioner Leigh Anne Day visits with Brian, a clinic patient.

"To be helped by others feels great," says Shaquita. So great, in fact, that she wants to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in the future. "I'd like to do for others what they did for me."

GOOD NEWS CLINICS

www.goodnewsclinics.org

Good News Clinics Keeps Family Healthy, Hopeful

When Brian, 52, first visited Good News Clinics in Gainesville, he was searching for help with acquiring life-sustaining medication. Six years later, the diabetes patient attributes life itself to his community's free clinic.

"The insulin I take costs \$1,600 a month, but I can't work because of all my medical issues," says Brian, of Flowery Branch. "If not for Good News Clinics, I don't know how I'd survive."

A self-employed commercial construction contractor until diabetes took hold in 2008, Brian takes five insulin shots daily. He also suffers from hypertension, osteoarthritis, progressive degenerative disc disease and sleep apnea. When speaking of his own medical issues, he is stoic. But when conversation turns to his wife, Sheila, tears well up in the tender brown eyes of this gentle man.

"She was diagnosed here with breast cancer two years ago and is now a cancer survivor," he says. "I still have my wife because of this clinic."

Addressing the needs of underserved and uninsured residents of Hall County, Good News Clinics provides free medication and medical, dental and vision care to patients. Staff healthcare professionals team with volunteer medical doctors and dentists to provide care, and all services are free. To assist, the Jackson EMC Foundation granted \$15,000 to replace inefficient and outdated computers as the clinic transitions to an electronic medical records system.

Brian gets emotional when speaking of Good News Clinics.

"Any help this facility can get goes to the good," he says. "They want to help everyone they can."

GWINNETT TECH FOUNDATION

www.gwinnettech.edu/foundation

Nontraditional Students Accelerate Forward

If predictions hold true, according to Stephanie Rooks, dean of Adult Education at Gwinnett Technical College (GTC), 60 percent of all jobs will require at least an associate's degree by the year 2020.

To help nontraditional students earn degrees, GTC's Adult Education Department offers the Accelerating Opportunity program, which pairs Adult Basic Education or English as a Second Language teachers with technical education instructors in the classroom to help students progress faster and more confidently as they work toward certificates, diplomas and/or degrees.

The program has been a godsend for Alexa. A pre-DMS (diagnostic medical sonography) student, she moved with her family from Nicaragua to America almost 20 years ago and has lived in the Atlanta area since 2007. She first enrolled at GTC to learn English and eventually earned her GED.

"My dream was always to have a career, but I was terrified to study here because of the language," says Alexa, who is on a business administrative technology pathway with a medical concentration; she earned her medical billing certificate in May. "I always wanted to be a doctor. When I achieve my degree here, I may feel more confident to go to medical school."

The college's Adult Education Department currently serves 3,660 students in 11 GTC locations across Gwinnett County. The Jackson EMC Foundation this year granted \$15,000 to the Gwinnett Tech Foundation to use for Accelerating Opportunities.

"This grant helps second chance students go to college and move forward into a career," says Jennifer Hendrickson, director of Institutional Advancement. "The stories our students share will move you to tears. Many are the first in their family to graduate high school, then college." ▲

Interlocking Communities by Teaching the Language



A nonprofit organization in Lawrenceville, Interlocking Communities Inc. helps children and adults in Gwinnett County learn the English language in order to better navigate their way through school and work.

Interlocking Communities does this through two programs: an academic-based, after-school program for students in Gwinnett County Public Schools and the English Language Learner (ELL) program, which started 15 years ago as an outreach to adults in Gwinnett neighborhoods that had evolved into highly transient, low-income, international communities.

“The overwhelming majority of our students come from low socioeconomic families who are struggling to survive,” says Executive Director Louise Radloff. “Many of our students are illiterate in their own language and need help learning the English language. We help them learn English in order to close the learning gap so they can get and maintain a job and help guide their children through the school system.”

Interlocking Communities serves all Title One elementary schools within Gwinnett County Public Schools, two charter schools and high-risk students in

other Gwinnett County elementary schools. Adult family members of these students are served by the ELL program, which provides certified teachers and two computer labs equipped with Rosetta Stone software to teach adults English and computer skills. Classes are offered on Sunday afternoons during the school year with attendance averaging 50 adult students; a total of about 100 adults are served each year. All services are free.

“Our students are better able to work with their children’s teachers and keep up with their child’s activities and friends, and they are better able to communicate on the job,” says Radloff. “Ultimately, the knowledge gained correlates with a better standard of living and with the successful graduation of their children from high school.”

The Jackson EMC Foundation in June granted the organization \$15,000 for the ELL program to replace 10-year-old text- and workbooks, to hire two additional part-time instructors and to install support technology when Interlocking Communities moves to a new location later this year. For more on Interlocking Communities, visit www.ICIEducates.org. ▲

operationroundup

Jackson EMC Foundation awards almost \$82,000 in grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$81,955 in grants during their June meeting, including \$73,200 to organizations and \$8,755 to individuals.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to **Good Samaritan Health Center** in Lawrenceville, to offer evening and weekend operating hours that give the working poor access to healthcare without having to take unpaid time off from work and risking their employment.

\$15,000 to **Interlocking Communities**, a Lawrenceville grassroots community service organization focusing on education, to install support technology at its new location, replace 10-year-old textbooks/workbooks, and hire two additional part-time instructors for the new location’s smaller classrooms.

\$10,000 to **I Still Have a Dream Foundation**, an Athens-based nonprofit that provides brain and spinal cord injury patients in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties with transportation and supplies, to help purchase and equip a wheelchair accessible van that will allow the organization to serve more patients.

\$10,000 to **Gainesville Action Ministries**, a network of 17 Hall County congregations that works to prevent homelessness by providing emergency financial, food and clothing assistance and children’s services, to provide rent assistance.

\$7,000 to **Angel House of Georgia**, a Gainesville recovery residence for women with alcohol and/or drug addiction, to cover program fees that will enable indigent women to participate in the 12-month program.

\$6,000 to **Guest House** to provide low-income clients with access to the

Gainesville nonprofit senior daycare center, which offers high-quality medical attention, personal care, occupational therapy and safety to older seniors and those suffering from Alzheimer’s and dementia.

\$5,000 to the **Girls Leadership Summer Program** in Gainesville, an intensive six-week course for girls ages 13-17 that establishes mentoring relationships between girls and women in the minority community, develops leadership and collaboration skills, and promotes the development of new leaders in the community.

\$3,200 to **Friends of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia** in Athens to produce calendars used as learning tools by Garden Earth Naturalist Clubs, after-school science clubs that encourage youth ages 8-10 to study and explore natural habitats.

\$2,000 to the **Path Project**, a Gwinnett nonprofit dedicated to helping at-risk children close the achievement gap and find the right path for their lives, for college student interns that will lower the organization’s staff-to-child ratio at its summer camp.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$3,387 to repair the floors in the home of **a disabled woman**.

\$2,870 to purchase a special stroller for **a child with cerebral palsy**.

\$2,498 to purchase a scooter lift for **a disabled woman**.

Annual Meeting Notice to Members

Dear Member/Customer:

Notice is hereby given that the 2014 meeting of the members/customers of Jackson Electric Membership Corporation will be held at the headquarters in Jefferson, Ga., on Thursday, September 18, 2014.

Registration will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at approximately 7:20 p.m. by the chairperson.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- (1) receive reports of officers, directors and committees;
- (2) elect three directors; and
- (3) handle all other business which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Prizes, entertainment, a box supper, important business and other special programs will be featured at this meeting. You are requested to be present.

Sincerely,
Rodney Chandler, Secretary
Board of Directors



Annual Meeting Entertainment


THE PERRYS TO PERFORM AT ANNUAL MEETING

Southern gospel group The Perrys are set to perform at this year's Annual Meeting on September 18 at Jackson EMC's offices in Jefferson.

Originally formed in 1970, the group today consists of Libbi Perry Stuffle and her husband, Tracy; their son, Jared; Andrew Goldman; and Bryan Walker, who appeared on American Idol's ninth season and was known as "the Singing Cop."

The Perrys travel the nation, night after night entertaining audiences with traditional gospel songs. The Stuffles manage the group, which has become one of the most recognizable in Southern gospel today.

The Perrys' original recordings are radio mainstays, and the group has won numerous Dove Awards and honors. Their song, "If You Knew Him," was named Southern Gospel Song of the Year in 2010.

Don't miss out on this popular group's inspiring performance. Jackson EMC members can see them at Annual Meeting on September 18. 



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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.

Pimiento Cheese Pocket Burgers

Ingredients:

2 pounds ground beef
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 1/3 cups prepared pimiento cheese, divided
1 teaspoon salt

Hamburger buns

Desired burger toppings: mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, etc.

Instructions:

Combine ground beef and pepper in large bowl until blended. Shape mixture into 8 patties, approximately 4 inches in diameter. Spoon 1 1/2 tablespoons pimiento cheese in center of each of four patties. Top with remaining four patties, pressing edges to seal. Cover and chill for 30 minutes. Sprinkle evenly with salt or all-seasoning.

Preheat grill to medium high heat, about 350 degrees. Grill, covered with grill lid, 7 to 8 minutes on each side or until beef is no longer pink. Serve on buns with desired toppings and remaining pimiento cheese.