

Apply for the Washington  
Youth Tour 2016

**THE POWER OF  
YOUR OPERATION  
ROUND-UP  
DONATION**

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

# JEMICOnews

January 2016



In this infrared photo, red and yellow areas show where heat is escaping this home.

Easy ways  
to limit  
**YOUR ENERGY USE**



President/CEO  
Chip Jakins  
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# Proper Prior Planning

You've probably heard about the six P's of planning: Proper Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. That's a very true statement. My wife doesn't understand why it takes at least eight trips to the hardware store to complete a home improvement project; those first seven visits are essential to proper prior planning – it's not until the eighth visit that the action really begins.

Speaking of planning and preparation that leads to action, heroic action I might add, I want to tell you about a couple of our employees who recently put their training to work. Recently, two of our employees rushed to help a man whose car had been hit and then caught fire. They worked together to put out the fire, cut the man loose and get him out of the car. Their planning, preparation and training paid off that day.

All Jackson EMC employees are CPR, AED and First Aid certified. They receive fire safety training, too. Everyone here gets 20 or more hours of safety training each year so they're ready to respond in the event of an emergency. And we practice. Practice is how we develop a pattern of consistency that becomes habit. These habits are how heroes like Chris Garrish, an engineer at our corporate office, and Michael Moon, a journeyman lineman in our Jefferson District, knew how to react to the fiery car crash and how many other employees have rushed to the aid of others, saving lives.

At Jackson EMC, we prepare for emergencies and develop plans to keep our employees and members safe if we need to put those plans in place. Our plans detail roles and

responsibilities of each employee in the event of an emergency. Since we consider ice storms and tornadoes emergencies, we constantly prepare for these events so when they do occur, we are ready.

These plans are about everyone knowing what to do and making sure we know who's in charge of filling up the gas tanks and who'll be watching the weather and communicating with fellow co-ops if we need help. Then, we rehearse. We run scenarios and plan our actions. We practice. We prepare. We do this so that when an event occurs, we can respond and repair the lines as quickly as possible. After an event – real or scenario – we review and edit the plan.

Thinking about the future sometimes involves preparing for events you hope never occur and developing skills you hope you won't need to use. I never want my family to have to climb down the side of a house on an escape ladder; it is a scary thought – but we prepare a fire escape plan and practice climbing down the ladder just in case. It's important to plan for the future and to be prepared for when things don't go according to plan.

At Jackson EMC, I promise we'll do everything we can to keep your power on every minute of every day, but I encourage our members to have a backup plan that is just as robust as ours. We've provided some helpful resources on our website to help you plan for potential power outages. Please remember...proper prior planning prevents poor performance. ⚡

## JEMCO news

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# STORM Center

The Jackson EMC Storm Center provides members with resources important when preparing for and responding to severe weather. In the event of a severe weather emergency, this section is updated with current information about the storm and Jackson EMC's response.

### Members will find:

- Storm preparation tips.
- An outage map that displays the real-time status of outages in the Jackson EMC system.
- Information about the steps Jackson EMC takes to restore power to its members as quickly and safely as possible.

Find these resources online at [www.jacksonemc.com/storm](http://www.jacksonemc.com/storm).





Kirtan Parekh, North Gwinnett High School; Kristen Gomez, Mill Creek High School; Emily Bauer, Brookwood High School; and Chris Larkins, Dacula High School, served as the 2015 Washington Youth Tour Delegates.

# Apply for the Washington Youth Tour 2016

Chris Larkins, a 2015 tour delegate from Dacula High School, was excited about the opportunity to share ideas with people from Georgia and across the U.S.

"I knew this was a chance to meet leaders from across the state and visit Washington D.C., where a lot of the founding beliefs of our country originated," Larkins said about applying for the 2015 tour. "I've become a different person because of this trip – a better person. Experiencing the nation's capital with this group created a chemistry I will never experience again."

Larkins says the Washington Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, "you'll never have a chance like this again, you'll never have a chance to meet people from literally every corner of Georgia and not pay a single dollar for it."


While on the trip, his fellow Georgia delegates elected him to represent them as the 2015 NRECA Youth Leadership Representative.

Now, it's your turn to join an elite group of students from all across America on the 2016 Washington Youth Tour. We are looking for high school sophomores or juniors at least 16 years old at the time of the trip with demonstrated or desired leadership, academic excellence and interest in learning about civil service, American history and U.S. Government.

[www.jacksonemc.com](http://www.jacksonemc.com)


The weeklong leadership tour is set for June 9-16 and applications are currently being accepted. Four Jackson EMC student delegates will join more than 1,600 like-minded teenagers from across the country to experience the nation's capital by visiting its monuments, memorials and museums, meeting state representatives and learning from one another.


The program is sponsored by the nation's electric cooperatives. Jackson EMC's delegates are nominated by their high school. Applications can be downloaded at [www.jacksonemc.com/wyt](http://www.jacksonemc.com/wyt) and submitted to school counselors or leadership contacts. Do not send applications to Jackson EMC. Participating schools' application deadlines vary, so check with your school regarding due dates. One semi-finalist will be nominated from each high school during the last week in February.


For more information, visit your high school counselor/leadership contact or email Kay Parks, PR/Community Relations Representative, at [kparks@jacksonemc.com](mailto:kparks@jacksonemc.com). 





## Washington Youth Tour 2016 Tentative Itinerary


- **June 9:** Kickoff banquet, Atlanta Airport Marriott, Atlanta 


- **June 10:** Team-building activities; flight to Washington D.C. 

- **June 11:** Tour and lunch at Mount Vernon; dinner at Union Station; evening guided tour of FDR, Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr., World War II memorials; White House; Lafayette Square 

- **June 12:** Guided tour of Lincoln, Korean War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans Memorials; Arlington National Cemetery guided tour; dinner performance of "Peter Pan" at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, Maryland 

- **June 13:** All States assembly; tour Smithsonian museums; riverboat cruise on Potomac River; dinner at the Fish Market 

- **June 14:** Tour U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol and Washington National Cathedral; Sunset Parade at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima statue) 

- **June 15:** Meet with Georgia's congressional delegation; tour Newseum and Madame Tussauds Wax Museum; All States farewell event 

- **June 16:** Return flight to Atlanta 

## Easy Ways to Make your Home More

# Energy Efficient

### HVAC

- Seal cooling and heating ducts with mastic sealant to prevent the loss of warm air in the winter or cool air in the summer.
  - For energy saving, we recommend setting the thermostat to 68 degrees in winter.
  - Install a programmable thermostat\* and set it to adjust the temperature inside just before you are set to arrive home.
  - Replace filters regularly, usually every 1-2 months.
- \* Make sure the thermostat is compatible with heat pumps or it will cause bills to increase.



### LIGHTING

- Replace incandescent bulbs with CFL or LED bulbs to save energy.
- Run ceiling fans counterclockwise on low during the winter to circulate warm air and run the heat pump less.
- Install inexpensive foam gaskets behind light switches on exterior walls to prevent air leaks.
- Install outdoor solar lights.



### INSULATION

- Make sure you have adequate insulation in ceilings and walls to prevent unwanted heat loss or gain. Insulation should be 10-14 inches deep in the attic.
- Insulate hot water pipes.

### DOORS AND WINDOWS

- Keep curtains open and tilt blinds down to let the sun and warmth in; close curtains at night to prevent heat loss.
- Use low VOC caulk and weather stripping around windows and doors to reduce air infiltration.
- Install door sweeps and door shoe gaskets to further control heat loss and gain.

**Use the fireplace sparingly.**  
It draws the home's heated air up the chimney. Make sure the damper is closed when not in use.

**Set the water heater thermostat no higher than 120°, 140° if your dishwasher doesn't have a heating element.**

**If you have to replace windows, install ENERGY STAR® certified windows to keep hot air out in the summer and prevent warm air from escaping during winter.**



Jackson EMC offers rebates for members who need to replace their water heater or heat pump. **Learn more at [www.jacksonemc.com/rebate](http://www.jacksonemc.com/rebate).**

## Nominating Committee

Jackson Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) has corporate offices at 850 Commerce Highway in Jefferson, Ga., with district offices in Gainesville, Lawrenceville, Jefferson and Hull. Jackson EMC is a cooperative providing electric service to 10 Northeast Georgia counties: Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe.

The cooperative is governed by a nine-member board of directors geographically representing the service area. Board members serve three-year staggered terms. Board members representing Gwinnett, Hall/Lumpkin and Barrow counties will be elected at

the 2016 Annual Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2016, at the corporate offices in Jefferson.

Candidates may be nominated by the nominating committee, or by a petition complying with Article III Section 4 of the Bylaws that is signed by 50 or more members. Petitions must be delivered to the Corporation's office in Jefferson not less than 150 days, and not more than 200 days, prior to the day of Annual Meeting. The complete director nomination and election process is contained in Articles II and III of the Jackson EMC Bylaws, which are available at [Jacksonemc.com](http://Jacksonemc.com) or at any office.

### WHAT'S COOKIN'?

*"This is one of our favorite recipes for entertaining."*

*- Angel Perry - Jefferson, GA*

### Pizza Dip

#### Ingredients:

- 1 8 oz. package cream cheese, softened
- 1 14 oz. jar pizza sauce
- ¼ cup chopped onion
- 1 ½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 6 oz. can chopped or sliced black olives
- 2 oz. package chopped pepperoni

#### Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350°
- Press cream cheese in bottom of 9 inch pie plate.
- Spread pizza sauce over cream cheese and layer remaining ingredients in order listed.



- Bake for 25 minutes.
- Serve with corn chips or bagel crisps.
- Enjoy!

Submit  
Recipes to:

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

## Challenged Child and Friends

Started in 1985, Challenged Child and Friends is an early intervention center that provides therapeutic and educational services for children with disabilities alongside their typical peers. Clients are aged six weeks to six years.

Two things make the program unique: the fact that it serves both children with and without disabilities, and that fulltime nurses are on staff to meet medical needs of the preschoolers.

"In a classroom with 12 kids, seven may be challenged while five are typical," says Executive Director/CEO Amy Gates. "This inclusion model works well. Kids with disabilities look to their typical peers to learn language and play skills, while typical children learn tolerance, compassion and inclusion."

While all children benefit from the high quality education program and family support services, children with disabilities at Challenged Child and Friends can receive all necessary services in one place, freeing their parents from the necessity of making multiple stops at doctor offices, therapy centers and preschool.

"We're a one-stop shop for all therapies, medical needs, education and so on," says Gates. "Parents tell me they know their child is safe and getting the services they need while learning at the same time."

A 1-to-4 teacher-student ratio means children with autism, Down's Syndrome, seizure disorders, cerebral palsy or speech delays – as well as their typical peers – receive loads of individualized attention. In addition, a full time registered nurse and licensed practical nurse are on staff and therapists provide occupational, physical, speech and language, music and pet therapy.



"Medical needs are not seen to in the typical preschool," says Gates, noting that the service is necessary for the children with disabilities and an extra bonus for those without.


School Principal Monique Jackson handles day-to-day operations at Challenged Child and Friends. The organization's 70 employees include a family resources coordinator who helps families connect with community resources and a teaching and learning coordinator who oversees lesson plans and the quality instruction curriculum.

For 10 years, the Jackson EMC Foundation has funded early intervention and therapy services and helped financially strapped families pay tuition costs.

"Financial assistance to families is our biggest need, and the Jackson EMC Foundation allows us to say to families, 'Hey, we can help you,'" says Gates, noting that 21 children were able to receive assistance, thanks to the most recent Foundation grant.

"Some children with financial need would not have been able to come at all without the grant," she adds. "Jackson EMC members who give to the Foundation can feel good about their donations. These families are so happy, and we are so grateful."

In 10 years, the Jackson EMC Foundation has awarded a total of \$90,000 in grant monies to Challenged Child and Friends.

For more information, visit [www.challengedchild.org](http://www.challengedchild.org). 

## operationroundup

### Jackson EMC Foundation Awards \$98,910 in Grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total of \$98,910 in grants to organizations during its November meeting.

#### Organizational Grant Recipients:

**\$15,000** to **Annandale at Suwanee**, a nonprofit community serving adults with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injury, for the Afterglow Gardens program, a horticulture therapy program using a climate-controlled greenhouse and garden center that will provide year-round recreational/therapeutic gardening opportunities ranging from potting plants, working in raised beds and harvesting produce.

**\$15,000** to the **Gwinnett Children's Shelter** to provide 60 homeless children and their mothers with The Next Step program, which provides a 3-12 month transitional living experience where children can regain a sense of security and mothers can work with a life coach to develop a customized plan to help them achieve

financial security and permanent housing to prevent future homelessness.

**\$15,000** to the **Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center Foundation**, a multi-use science, history, culture, heritage and environmental facility located on a 700-acre campus in Buford, to allow students from low-income families to attend interpretive, hands-on field studies and educational programs.

**\$12,000** to **St. Vincent de Paul Society Prince of Peace Catholic Church** in 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.


**\$12,000** to **St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Catherine Labouré** in Jefferson for its financial assistance program, which provides funds to families in crisis for rent, mortgage, food, transportation, gas, car repair and insurance premiums and medical assistance.

**\$12,000** to **St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Michael** in Gainesville to help fund direct aid for housing assistance, including rent, mortgage and temporary housing for families in crisis, as well as to purchase an industrial quality freezer to support their food distribution program.

**\$10,000** to **Athens Urban Ministries**, a grassroots organization dedicated to assisting those who need a hand up, to help provide instruction and materials for GED training to promote self-sufficiency.

**\$6,000** to **Enotah CASA**, which serves Lumpkin County by training community volunteers who represent the best interests of abused and neglected children, to cover the travel expenses of volunteers who work through the Paths to Permanency Initiative to find permanent homes for children in foster care.

**\$1,910** to **Reins of Life**, a Franklin County nonprofit that uses hippotherapy treatment for special needs and at-risk children, youth and their families, to help five Franklin County clients attend therapy sessions that use a horse's movement to improve neuromuscular function.

For more information about the Jackson EMC Foundation, or to learn how to apply for a grant, visit [www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation](http://www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation). 

# WHAT WILL \$6 BUY?

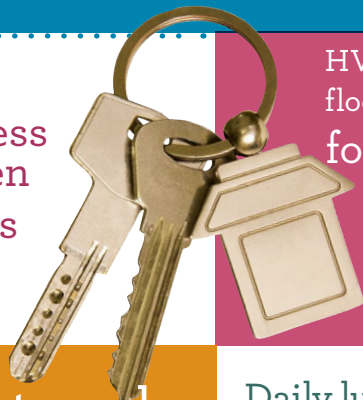
THE POWER OF YOUR OPERATION ROUND-UP DONATION

When you decide to round your bill up, your spare change becomes powerful in changing the lives of those in need. In 10 years, your donations have exceeded \$10 million back into Northeast Georgia. On average, Jackson EMC members contribute \$6 a year. Through the power of membership in a cooperative, the Foundation uses that members' money to make extraordinary impact.

## THIS IS SOME OF WHAT YOUR \$6 BOUGHT:

Housing for **60** homeless children & their mothers

\$15,000 Gwinnett Children's Shelter



HVAC, electrical, cabinets, flooring and lighting for a home built by Habitat for Humanity

\$15,000 Habitat of Hall County

**744** nights of emergency shelter

\$9,672 Salvation Army of Athens

Summer STUDY for **50** at-risk youths

\$15,000 Exodus Outreach

170 child safety and booster seats for low income parents

\$5,000 Pilot Club of Madison County

Daily lunch & snacks for **225 KIDS** with no access to food over the summer



\$10,000 Georgia Mountain Food Bank

Homework help for **65-75** young people

\$15,000 Boys & Girls Club of Winder-Barrow



**15,000** cans of food distributed to hungry citizens



\$15,000 Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry

600 laboratory tests for the working poor and uninsured

\$15,000 Good Samaritan Health Center

Delivery of daily hot meals for 11 senior or disabled citizens

\$15,000 Madison County Senior Center Meals On Wheels

100 eye exams, glasses & **5** EYE surgeries

\$10,000 Georgia Lions Lighthouse

**40** FORMER INMATES a GED study program

\$14,010 Adult Literacy Barrow

Dental care for **300** poor and uninsured people

\$12,500 Mercy Healthcare



Board books and parenting resources for **5,000** NEW PARENTS

\$14,867 United Way of Northeast Georgia's Success by 6 Program

**1,600** 50-pound boxes of food distributed through the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia's Mobile Pantry Program

\$15,000 NEGA foodbank

## Jackson EMC Offices

1000 Dawsonville Highway  
Gainesville, GA  
(770) 536-2415

85 Spratlin Mill Road  
Hull, GA  
(706) 548-5362

850 Commerce Road  
Jefferson, GA  
(706) 367-5281

461 Swanson Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA  
(770) 963-6166

EMC Security  
55 Satellite Blvd., NW  
Suwanee, GA  
(770) 963-0305 or  
(706) 543-4009

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## smartconnections

# Budget Billing

Do you have trouble budgeting each month with a fluctuating electric bill? Jackson EMC's Budget Billing may be the solution for you.

This plan lets members level their monthly power costs over a 12-month period to level out the summer and winter energy usage peaks from seasonal temperature changes. The plan works by averaging the current month and last 11 months of electric use, which will be your monthly bill payment amount. On the anniversary of the date you signed up for Budget Billing, your average will be recalculated to determine your new amount. An increase could be caused by an unusually cold winter or hot summer or the addition of appliances or a swimming pool; a decrease could be caused by milder weather, the installation of a new heat pump or energy efficiency improvements such as the addition of insulation.

### To qualify, members:

- Have lived at their current address for at least a year
- Plan to live at their current address for at least a year
- Have a zero balance on their account
- Have a single meter that is wired for their individual use
- Have an established good payment record

**To find out more, call your local Jackson EMC office or email [info@jacksonemc.com](mailto:info@jacksonemc.com).**

## Budget Billing Example

**Budget Bill** —●—

**Actual Bill** ■

