

JEMCOnews

Surprise!

TEACHERS WIN BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS



NOVEMBER 2016 | IN THIS ISSUE

JACKSON EMC MEMBERS GET 16 MILLION KWH FROM THE SUN

CASA GRANT SUPPORTS CHILDREN IN NEED

ENTER OUR ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS CONTEST FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!



THANKFUL

There's a new function on my phone that tells me when I need to go to bed to get the hours of sleep I will need, based on the morning alarm I've set. I never knew I'd need something like that. But these days seem to flow from one into the next, filled with busy work schedules, kids' activities and too few moments to concentrate on what's really important.

For me, the Thanksgiving holiday is an important time for me to slow down and focus attention on the many blessings I am thankful for. And they are abundant. Loving family. Friendly co-workers. Strong community. Reliable power. Democracy. Modern medicine. Big fish. Strong poles. Football. A new Star Wars movie. I could go on.

I know we all have lists like these that include the people and ideas that make us wish life would slow down just a bit. We all share a tremendous quality of life, due in part to the hard work of this cooperative's employees who work here and don't ask for a lot of recognition. We pay them, but that's not enough. But, we really ask a lot.

I'm thinking about Dwayne Dickerson, a lineman in Neese who literally risks his life every day climbing utility poles and touching live electric lines—all so we can enjoy uninterrupted power. Dwayne also serves his co-workers on the employee association and plans picnics and other events so he can add some special moments to their day. This Christmas he'll work with other linemen in his free time to collect toys and clothes to help needy families. Dwayne just wants to do his job and help others.

I'm thinking about Yesenia "Jessie" Guevara who answers your calls in the contact center. Recently, she took a call from a member

who was trapped in an elevator when her power went out. Rather than telling her to call 911, Jessie got the help she needed and called the member back several times to make sure she was okay during that difficult situation. I only know about it because the member wrote a thank you letter telling us about her "hero." Jessie just wants to do her job.

I'm also thinking about Tommy Haggard. He'll be at work on Thanksgiving. We have a group of employees who work in System Control 24 hours a day, every day of the year—even Thanksgiving and Christmas—to make sure your electricity stays on. Tommy, and the other employees who work in System Control, want to make sure your Thanksgiving dinner isn't interrupted by an outage.

Wherever you find yourself in our community—at work, in your church, cheering on the sidelines or visiting with neighbors—you are surrounded by people like Dwayne Dickerson, Jessie Guevara and Tommy Haggard. Great people who want to give you the best possible service.

Do you have a story about one of our Jackson EMC employees? Send me an email to chip@jacksonemc.com

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

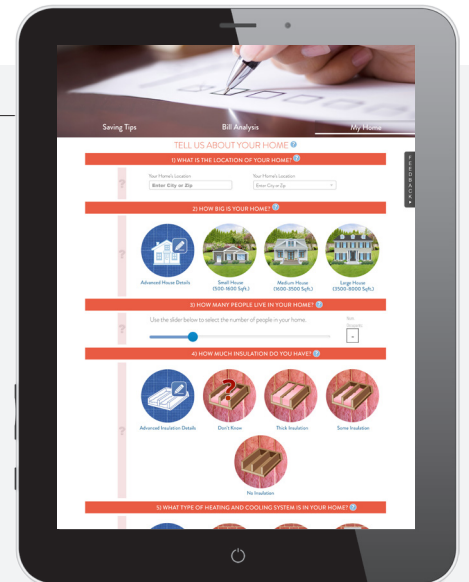
WAYS TO SAVE: PERSONALIZED ENERGY PROFILE

JACKSON EMC MEMBERS CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW THEY USE ENERGY AND WAYS TO CUT COSTS BY COMPLETING AN ONLINE ENERGY PROFILE.

Using your account number, the Jackson EMC Home Energy Monitor will produce a comprehensive energy report using your answers to a few questions.

Your results will tell you how much of your energy money is spent heating or cooling the air inside your home. You'll see how much you spend on lighting and cooking, too. Based on your answers, you'll receive a list of suggestions for ways to save you money. You can also see how your bill is affected by weather.

 [GO TO JACKSONEMC.COM/ENERGYUSE](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/ENERGYUSE) TO GET STARTED.



here comes the SUN



You might not know it, but Jackson EMC sourced enough solar energy last year to power roughly 415 homes. Through our partnership with Green Power EMC, Jackson EMC members receive solar energy from facilities across the state, which added more than 6.8 million kWh of solar power to our distribution system in 2016. And, we're adding more.

A large solar farm in Hazlehurst, Georgia, will open before the end of the year. Two more facilities will open early next year: Cedar Creek solar farm in Barrow County and Turnipseed in Douglas County, providing additional solar power for Jackson EMC members. These three additional facilities nearly double the amount of solar power Jackson EMC members receive, adding more than 10 million kWh of power. By this time next year, we'll have enough solar energy for 1,100 homes.

WHY ARE WE INCLUDING SOLAR IN OUR ENERGY STRATEGY? THE ANSWER: BETTER TECHNOLOGY, LOWER COST AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

Solar energy is the most abundant energy resource on earth. However, harnessing that energy into a useful power supply has obstacles. Thanks to advancements in photovoltaic (solar) panels and batteries, the availability of solar energy is expanding. Georgia is currently 6th among U.S. states for solar electric capacity, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association.

Southwestern states are ideal for solar power production because of their intense sunshine and limited cloud cover, but Georgia isn't bad either. Georgia's relative location to the equator makes it a good place for investment in solar power technology, according to Jeff Pratt, president of Green Power EMC, recently named 2016 Solar Power Players Electric Cooperative Utility of the Year.

"Other components that can affect a state's ability to employ solar are inexpensive suitable land as well as a strong electricity transmission and distribution system," Pratt said. "Georgia is blessed with both of these components."

The cost of equipment necessary to produce electricity from sunshine has declined significantly in the last five years. "The economics of solar are lining up where it makes sense for us," said Jonathan Weaver, Jackson EMC project engineer. "It's important to have a good mix of energy inputs and that means putting in solar where it makes sense."

HARNESSING ENERGY FROM SUNLIGHT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION, TOO. SOLAR POWER IS A CLEAN, SAFE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE THAT CONSERVES NATURAL RESOURCES.

There are drawbacks, too. Energy storage technology has not advanced to keep the lights on with solar power generation alone. Reliability of the electric grid relies on continuous production of electricity.

"Solar energy availability is fully dependent upon available sunlight," Pratt said. "Even on a bright, sunny day, large cumulus clouds passing over the solar site will reduce energy production by 50-80 percent."

In addition, we use significant amounts of energy after dark. No sunshine, no electricity production.

Do you want to support more energy coming from renewable sources? Sign-up for Green Power and add \$4.50 a month to your electric bill. Learn more at www.jacksonemc.com/green.



Surprise!

You won a Jackson EMC Bright Ideas Grant for your school!



Jackson EMC employees surprised 53 middle school teachers in 29 schools with more than \$65,700 in grant money from the Bright Ideas program throughout the month of October. Winning entries represented a variety of disciplines, including engineering, history, information technology, language arts, math, music, science and social studies.

Jackson EMC increased the grant funding this year by more than \$10,000, awarding 17 more classroom projects for experiential problem-solving such as exploring blood splatter analysis with forensic entomology and predicting the next viral outbreak. Several award winners will take their classroom outside to construct a compost unit or build a vertical aeroponic growing system for fruits and vegetables.

The Bright Ideas grant program, in its third year at Jackson EMC, funds creative lesson plans and innovative classroom projects developed by state-certified teachers for public middle schools within the counties served by Jackson EMC. Educators for grades six through eight can apply for up to \$2,000 in grant funds for classroom projects that are not funded through general education dollars.

Projects must involve the students directly, provide a creative learning experience with ongoing benefits through innovative teaching methods, create opportunities for teamwork and support the continuous improvement of education in Georgia. Applications are judged by an independent panel from higher education institutions in North Georgia. Applications for 2017 Bright Ideas grants will open in February.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM,
GO TO JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS

SCHOOL NAME	AWARD	EDUCATOR	PROJECT
Bear Creek MS	\$1,284.82	Holly Shepherd	Grizzly Garden
Berkmar MS	\$1,080.00	Jim Roberson	Literacy for Hearing Impaired
Brooks Coleman MS	\$2,000.00	Sheila Harmony	Indoor Hydroponics System
Burney-Harris-Lyons MS	\$603.10	Patrick Harrigan	Windmill Blade
Burney-Harris-Lyons MS	\$676.36	Barbara Saunders	Soil Creation
C.W. Davis MS	\$1,974.50	Meredith Westbrook	Building Spanish Skills
Chestatee Academy	\$682.50	Heather Chandler	It's WONDERful
Chestatee Academy	\$1,591.50	Jeanne Rountree	Think Tank
Clarke MS	\$707.00	Shelby Robinson	Owls Magazine
Commerce MS	\$1,200.00	LeaAnn Nash	Engaging the Senses
Commerce MS	\$907.89	Stephanie Ring	Water Conservation
Commerce MS	\$1,648.67	Adam Shirley	RoboLegoMania
Creekland MS	\$336.00	Leah Loper	Find Your Way Directional Skills
Creekland MS	\$355.00	Marcy Martin	Literature Circles
Five Forks MS	\$248.75	Laura Ross	Peer Leading Communication Skills
Frank Osborne MS	\$1,782.50	Kellyn Aguilar	Tower Garden
Frank Osborne MS	\$1,590.51	Steven Clark	3D Circuit Building
Gainesville MS	\$740.00	Sharla Gladden	Dissection Lab
Gainesville MS	\$843.78	Jim Bradley	Hydro/Wind Power
Haymon-Morris MS	\$954.32	Melissa Miller	Exploring Renewable Energy
Hull MS	\$898.04	Kari Salomon	Modeling Solar Energy
Hull MS	\$2,000.00	Regina Dobbs	Electromagnetism Motor Build
Jefferson MS	\$445.00	Jeff Williams	Breakout Escape Boxes
Jefferson MS	\$1,149.60	Taylor Brown	Garden of Eatin
Jefferson MS	\$1,598.00	Jessica Bowden	Art in Space
Jordan MS	\$895.05	Jennifer DaSilva	Electromagnetism Simulation
Lanier MS	\$1,920.00	Amy Franks	Designing a Butterfly Garden
Lanier MS	\$1,999.52	Michele Langhans	Colony Design With Chemistry & Physics
Lanier MS	\$2,000.00	Katheryn Holden	Creating An Outer Space Colony
Lanier MS	\$1,189.93	Karen Jones	Historical Investigations
Lumpkin County MS	\$499.53	Tina Wood	Science Court
Lumpkin County MS	\$1,170.46	Mariam Brunner	<i>Carry On</i> Learning Journal
Lumpkin County MS	\$1,720.00	Bryan Fagan	STEAM Virtual Reality
Madison County MS	\$2,000.00	Melody Christian	Lego Education: Building a Robotic System
North Hall MS	\$478.94	Lori McBride	Forensic Science
Northbrook MS	\$650.39	Angelika Shelley	Postcrossing: International Exchange
Pinckneyville MS	\$349.65	Bridget B. Guenther	Communicating Mathematically
Radloff MS	\$434.10	Pepper Price	Viral Outbreak: Where Next?
Radloff MS	\$536.55	Sarah Farr	<i>Leaving Glorytown</i> Novel Study
Radloff MS	\$1,974.31	Julie Wilkerson	STEAM Design & Build
Russell MS	\$1,950.00	Leah Jordan	Audio Books
Russell MS	\$1,169.00	Aprille Williams	Media Maker Space
South Hall MS	\$1,037.90	Megan Kotula	Pollution & Plants
Sweetwater MS	\$1,960.00	Tracy LeSueur	Media Maker Space
Sweetwater MS	\$1,960.00	Clarisa Rene-Kinshasa	COMPEL: Collaborative Learning
Twin Rivers MS	\$699.00	Lindsey Robertson	MobyMax
Twin Rivers MS	\$1,974.00	Andrew Cox	Vernier LabAQuest
West Jackson MS	\$1,229.74	Dana Harrell	American Folk Songs
West Jackson MS	\$1,988.00	Lara Komaneky	Literacy Integration
Westside MS	\$1,270.00	Elizabeth Moore	Mobile Editing
Westside MS	\$1,532.44	Christina Morris	Un mundo de la exploracion
Westside MS	\$1,819.35	Tina Kinchen	3D Physical Science

A TOTAL OF
\$65,705
 DONATED THROUGH
 THE BRIGHT
 IDEAS GRANT
 PROGRAM

COMMUNITY IMPACT: CASA GRANT SUPPORTS CHILDREN IN NEED

Today, over half a million children are living in foster care because they have been abused or neglected. Every day in the U.S., another 1,900 children become victims of abuse or neglect, and four of them will die. Every day.

The Hall-Dawson Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA, Program is a nonprofit organization of citizen volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities. Last year, the program served 537 children who were found to be victims of abuse and neglect, according to Executive Director Janet Walden.

“So far this year, we have already served more than 600 children,” she said. “For the first time in more than 25 years of service to abused and neglected children in our community, we have had to prioritize and place children on a waiting list for CASA volunteers. Currently 27 children are awaiting a CASA volunteer.”



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA’s mission is to “ensure abused and neglected children have the right to a safe placement and permanent home.”

CASA provides trained, screened and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children requiring court intervention.

“The importance of the CASA relationship with children in foster care is that they exemplify dependability and stability,”

said retired Juvenile Court Judge Cliff Jolliff. “The CASA volunteer brings comfort and trust to a system that is alien to most people, especially to a child.”

Hall-Dawson CASA is one of nearly 1,000 local community programs support volunteers serving children. Since 2006, the Jackson EMC Foundation has awarded \$23,400 in grants. Most recently, funds helped to train 25 new volunteers, cover costs for family visitation and provide special needs funding for 71 children to provide food and clothing.

“We appreciate the partnership we have with the Jackson EMC Foundation. With their support we are able to recruit, train and equip more volunteers so no abused or neglected child will have to wait for their voice to be heard,” Walden said.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CASA,
VISIT HALLDAWSONCASA.ORG

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Carrot Casserole



“For kids it is great because they are getting an important vegetable but like the cheesy taste.”

- LAURA BELL, GAINESVILLE, GA

INGREDIENTS:

1 bag of carrots, cleaned and sliced thinly	1/2 cup milk
1 large onion, chopped	2 1/2 cups grated cheddar cheese
1/4 cup margarine	1/2 tsp Worcestershire
3 eggs, beaten	Salt to taste

DIRECTIONS

Boil carrots and onion in salted water until tender, about 40-45 min.

Drain, then mash with potato masher.

Add butter, eggs, milk, Worcestershire and cheese and blend on low speed with hand mixer just until blended, do not over blend.

Pour into 1 1/2 qt casserole dish sprayed with Pam and bake at 350 degrees for 45 min. Top should be set and lightly browned. (I have tried this with canned carrots to save time and it does not taste the same!)

FEATURED
RECIPES RECEIVE

\$200

PRIZE
PACKAGE



SEND YOUR BEST SOUP & CHILI RECIPES: ASORROW@JACKSONEMC.COM OR MAIL TO:
COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549

OPERATION ROUNDUP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

THE JACKSON EMC FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWARDED

\$66,500 IN GRANTS

DURING ITS SEPTEMBER MEETING.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | Elachee Nature Science Center in Gainesville To help offer discounts for students in Title 1 schools in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin and Madison counties to encourage environmental science/nature field trips that provide students with STEM-based educational experiences which cannot be duplicated in the classroom.



\$15,000 | Wishes 4 Me Foundation A Lawrenceville charitable organization that provides housing for low-income disabled adults so they may live independently and be a part of the

community, to replace the damaged driveway to a home that houses three disabled adults and to help enclose an existing carport to provide housing for two additional disabled adults.

\$10,000 | Nothing But the Truth A Dacula faith-based organization dedicated to meeting needs in the community, to purchase food for the Weekend Food Bag Ministry that provides food for the weekend to Gwinnett County public schoolchildren who have been identified by counselors as food insecure.

\$10,000 | Rainbow Children's Home A Dahlonega shelter for abused and neglected girls, to help fund programs that go beyond the basics of food, clothing and shelter to provide services such as substance abuse treatment, independence and wellness training, and family reunification services.

\$7,500 | CASA Hall/Dawson Program, Inc. Which trains and supervises community volunteer advocates for abused and neglected children in Juvenile Court proceedings

in Hall and Dawson counties, to train 25 new volunteers, cover costs for family visitation and provide special needs funding for 71 children to provide food and clothing.

\$5,000 | Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse A Stone Mountain nonprofit organization that helps individuals recovering from traumatic brain injury to regain employment and living skills, to provide nearly 40 days of rehabilitation services for eight adults from Gwinnett and Clarke counties who are permanently disabled by traumatic brain injury.

\$4,000 | Lumpkin County Family Connection To purchase food and supplies for its Backpack Buddy program, which provides a supply of 10 pounds of food for seven meals and four snacks each week to children identified by Family Advocacy as food insecure.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT,
VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/
FOUNDATION](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION)

Operation Round Up® Fast Facts



To date, the Jackson EMC Foundation has awarded 1,123 grants to organizations and 336 to individuals, totaling nearly \$11.4 million.



Rounding up began in October 2005.



Currently, more than 183,189 accounts participate in the program; 89% of the cooperative's 206,797 accounts.

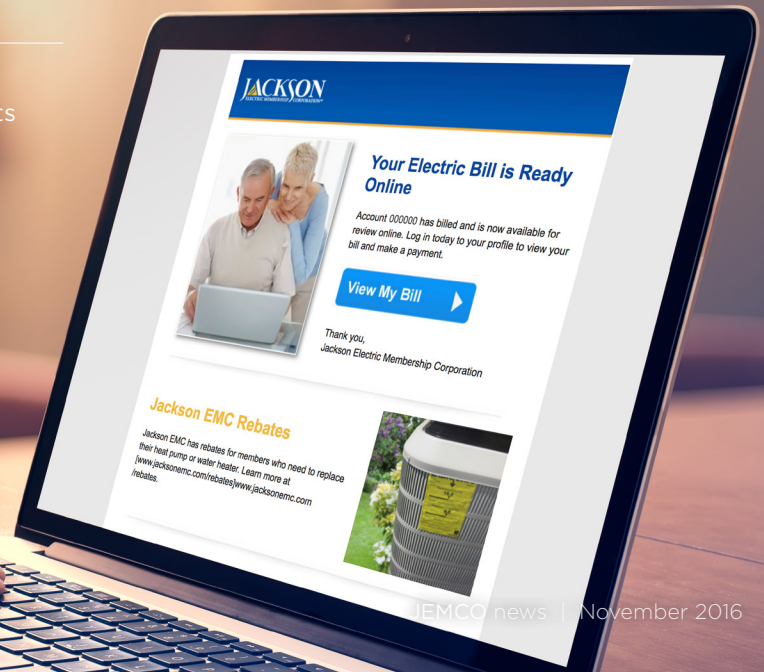
NEED TO KNOW: GO PAPERLESS

Paperless billing saves you time and money. When you go paperless, you can securely access your account statements online and it's an easy way to get less mail every month.

Join nearly 17,000 Jackson EMC members who already receive their monthly bills in their email inbox rather than their mailbox, saving paper, time and postage.



TO SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING,
VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/PAPERLESS



**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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ELECTRIC *Christmas*

While holiday lights are meant to be festive and fun, it's important to remember that many of our favorite decorations carry the risk of fire or electrical injury if not used carefully. In fact, up to 150 home fires are caused by holiday lights each year and another 240 home fires start from Christmas trees.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY:



Only use indoor lights indoors (and use only outdoor lights outdoors).



Never place a Christmas tree near any heating source, especially your fireplace!



Always turn off holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed.



Water your tree daily to prevent it from drying out.



Consider using electric or battery powered candles instead of the burning kind.



Be careful not to overload extension cords—this can cause an electrical fire. Use no more than three light sets per extension cord.



LEARN MORE AT JACKSONEMC.COM/HOLIDAYLIGHTS

**CALLING ALL
JACKSON EMC
MEMBERS**

**WE'RE HAVING
A CONTEST!**

Whether you prefer traditional holiday lights or something a little more Griswold style, we'd love to see how you deck the halls. Post your pic on social media and be sure to tag us (Facebook & Twitter: @jacksonemc; Instagram: @jackson_emc) by 12/11 for a chance to win an XBOX ONE console — the perfect gift for that gamer on your list.