

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

# JEMCOnews

**BRIGHT**  
*ideas*

FUNDING INNOVATIVE CLASSROOMS

**MARCH 2017 | IN THIS ISSUE**

---

ENLIGHTENED LEARNING WITH BRIGHT IDEAS INNOVATION GRANTS  
TIME TO SIGN-UP FOR TIME-OF-USE  
PLUG INTO YOUR MEMBER RESOURCES



# CREATED TO SERVE

My family always volunteered at our area Special Olympics. I joined my parents at the annual event as soon as I was old enough to help out, or at least not be in the way. I think I was about 10 years old. In rural Mississippi, I watched our community come together to hold a sporting event; we really just cared about each other and about bringing joy to other people. That's important. I'm glad my parents made that contribution to my life. I think I enjoyed those days more than the athletes who took home gold medals. It started me on a path looking for ways to serve others.

At Jackson EMC we spend a lot of energy investing in the communities we serve because it's important. Actually, it's why we're here. Jackson EMC was created to serve this community with electricity 79 years ago because it wasn't here and we needed to come together to bring power to this area and with it, a better way of life.

We were created to serve, and we've been doing it ever since. "Involvement in our Communities," is one of the values that guides our business decisions. While our service area is geographically diverse, stretching from the metro areas of Gwinnett County to the quiet farms of Madison County, the one thing that remains consistent is the care we have for one another and that's why we serve. It's important to us. And, it's important to you; a strong community is important to everyone.

In this issue you'll learn about some of the classrooms receiving support through our Bright Ideas grant program. That's just one of many programs we have that support education. Each of our four local offices has partnerships with local schools to help out with field day, mentoring, electrical safety demonstrations, career days, science fairs and much more. For 48 years we've hosted an annual Quality Beef Show for young

people. This summer, more of our young people will head to our Nation's capital as Washington Youth Tour delegates, where they'll meet other amazing students from across the U.S. and strengthen their leadership skills. We do these things because we care about each other and we want to serve.

My early involvement with volunteerism through Special Olympics and that feeling of community spirit opened my eyes to how fulfilling it can be to give back. It's heartwarming to work at a place like Jackson EMC where so many of our employees feel the same way about being a deeper part of their community.

We strive to be servant leaders both inside this company and outside in the community we serve. Many of our employees decide to serve in civic clubs, on economic development authorities and on the boards of charitable organizations. We recently worked on a video project where I learned more about some of the servant work our employees are involved in. A great number of our employees serve as coaches and missionaries and mentors and volunteers for organizations making an impact in our community. I'm very proud of their community spirit.

**Do we have an employee coaching your team or leading your civic group who deserves recognition? Send me an email [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

## NEED TO KNOW: SAVE MONEY WITH TIME-OF-USE RATES

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO SAVE MONEY WHILE CONSERVING ENERGY, OUR TIME-OF-USE RATES MAY BE FOR YOU.** To participate this summer, sign up by May 1; members who sign up after May 1 will begin Time-of-Use rates next summer.

For members who sign up for Time-of-Use rates, Jackson EMC installs a meter that logs all energy used during peak and off-peak periods. At peak periods— from 3 to 8 p.m. on weekdays between June 1 and September 15—the cost of electricity per kilowatt hour will be 34.50 cents. This is when you agree to reduce your electric use, specifically on the power users like air conditioning and electric water heaters.

During off-peak periods, the cost for power substantially drops for Time-of-Use members. During summer mornings, early afternoons and nights—and 24/7 the rest of the year—members on Time-of-Use rates pay only 7.50 cents per kilowatt hour. The normal residential rate is 9.12-11.97 cents per kilowatt hour. The monthly service charge for Time-of-Use members is \$21 per month.

**Sign up by May 1.**

### REGULAR RESIDENTIAL RATE



YEAR-ROUND

### TIME-OF-USE-RATE



JUNE 1-SEPTEMBER 15

# Member Resources

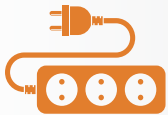
## JACKSON EMC DOESN'T HAVE CUSTOMERS; WE HAVE MEMBERS.

If you receive power from Jackson EMC, you are a member-owner of this cooperative. In addition to receiving margin refunds and having a say in the management of the cooperative, you have access to services you may not be aware of.



**MEMBERS OVER AGE 62** with a household income less than \$15,930 **CAN RECEIVE A \$12.50 CREDIT** on their monthly bill. Low-interest loans up to \$5,500 can assist members in completing energy efficient improvements or replacing broken HVAC systems.

[www.jacksonemc.com/payment-plans-and-assistance](http://www.jacksonemc.com/payment-plans-and-assistance)  
[www.jacksonemc.com/loans](http://www.jacksonemc.com/loans)



**WHOLE-HOUSE SURGE PROTECTION** is available for motor-driven appliances, such as HVAC units, refrigerators, garage door openers and water heaters. High-quality plug-in surge protectors are available as well \$17-\$88.

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



Members interested in adding monitored security service from **EMC SECURITY** to their homes or businesses can add the charges to their monthly electric bill.

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



**VIEW YOUR DAILY, WEEKLY AND MONTHLY ENERGY USE** through your online account.

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

**BUDGET BILLING** levels out the seasonal peaks of electricity use and members pay an average of their annual consumption each month.

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



Through our partnership with filterchange.coop you can have the right-sized **FILTERS** delivered to your door at the lowest price. You can also get email reminders when it is time to check them.

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



**REBATES** save you money if you need to replace your heat pump or water heater.

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

Learn more about these benefits at [www.jacksonemc.com](http://www.jacksonemc.com), which is a huge member resource.

Online, members can:

Sign up for our free monthly bank draft program <https://ebill.jacksonemc.com>

Want help installing energy efficient products? Watch our DIY videos [www.jacksonemc.com/diy](http://www.jacksonemc.com/diy)

# BRIGHT ideas

Stimulating a student's interest in a new idea or concept is often the most difficult part in getting them to learn. Having the resources available to excite those thoughts is a barrier for many teachers with innovative ideas, so in 2016 Jackson EMC funded \$65,705 in Bright Ideas grants to provide necessary tools and technology for classroom teachers so they could bring their innovative ideas to life. This money went into 53 classrooms.

Here are three of their stories...



DANA HARRELL | WEST JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL, JACKSON COUNTY

## \$1,229 | THE STORIES WE SING

If you listen closely, you can hear our country's history in the folk songs we sing. Yankee Doodle Dandy, for example, teaches us about life during the American Revolution. Dana Harrell, choral director at West Jackson Middle School, wants to empower her students to tell these stories and make them their own. Using grant funds, her students will do everything from arranging and recording music to designing the artwork for the CD cover and marketing their recording for sale.

"We are learning a variety of American Folk Songs, all which are in the public domain so that they can be arranged without permissions and fees," Harrell said. "The students are coming up with ideas about how to change the songs to make them more exciting to listen to."

In all, her chorus will record their versions of 13 traditional songs using their new sound equipment and will sell the music as a fundraiser for the chorus.

"This has been an adventure in music, history, marketing, recording and working together," she said. "We will continue to use our recording equipment in the classroom, primarily as a tool to listen to our progress on music we are rehearsing, evaluate and make appropriate changes."

Recordings from the chorus will be available at: <http://danaharrellsonlineportfolio.weebly.com/the-stories-we-sing-cd.html>

“ I CANNOT TEACH  
ANYBODY ANYTHING,  
I CAN ONLY MAKE  
THEM THINK. ”

- SOCRATES



**JIM ROBerson | BERKMAR MIDDLE SCHOOL, GWINNETT COUNTY**

**\$1,080 | LITERACY FOR THE DEAF**

Jim Roberson is charged with teaching a second language; not Spanish or French. He's teaching English to deaf children who use American Sign Language at Berkmar Middle School.

"In English, words have multiple meanings, but we only have one sign," he explained. "Deaf students can't make sense of the word in print because they don't have those multiple meanings built up in their head."

Think about the various meanings for the word "run." You can run an errand, run for president, your pantyhose can run, your nose can run and you can run a race. When a student reads a book and they only understand one

meaning for "run", they can become confused.

"You have to understand that word has multiple meanings in your mind," he said. "The English language may have more idiomatic expressions than any other language and that creates obstacles, too."

Roberson used an innovation grant to purchase a literacy program that uses sign language.

"Without the proper tools to help them learn, many deaf and hard of hearing students never learn to read passed a fourth grade reading level," Roberson said.



**TINA KINCHEN | WESTSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL, BARROW COUNTY**

**\$1,819 | 3D PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

Two students are fighting in a corner of the classroom; a couple of group members disagreed over whose turn it was to weigh the copper cube on the balance.

"I'm always surprised by what they are interesting in-that task in lab they all want to do," said Tina Kinchen, physical science teacher at Westside Middle School.

This type of disagreement is happy chaos. If not for the Bright Ideas innovation grant, Kinchen said her students wouldn't have the resources for these hands-on labs. Today, students are learning about density using cubes and cylinders made from different

materials. A cube made of copper and one made of plastic may be the same size, but their density is very different. That's not an easy concept to wrap your mind around unless you can physically touch them, weigh, measure and compare the two.

"Last year, trying to teach some of these physical science concepts without these resources—even electricity and magnetism—you can watch videos and talk about it, but giving the students the opportunity to manipulate things and work collaboratively with other people in their discovery – that interaction isn't possible with a worksheet."



NOW ACCEPTING 2017  
**BRIGHT ideas**  
APPLICATIONS

Bright Ideas is a grant program from Jackson EMC that funds creative, innovative classroom projects developed by state certified educators in public middle schools in Jackson EMC's service area.

Educators can earn up to \$2,000 for classroom projects. Projects must involve students directly, provide a creative learning experience through innovative teaching methods, provide ongoing benefits to the students, and create opportunities for teamwork.

Grants will not be considered for professional development, field trips, student fees, salaries, incentives, furniture, smart boards, computers, printers, software or hand-held electronic tablet-like devices. However, if electronics and/or equipment are an integral part of an innovative project, they may be considered.

Grant applications will be judged by an independent panel of college-level educators and administrators. Grant recipients will be notified and awarded funds in October 2017. Grant funds must be used in the 2017-2018 school year, and grant awardees must submit a grant report at the end of the school year.

All 2017 applications must be completed online and received by Jackson EMC on Friday, June 2 for consideration.



FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF CRITERIA AND TO APPLY FOR A BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS)



# EMC SECURITY

MAKES IT EASY FOR MEMBERS TO

## Feel Safe at Home

CALL EMC SECURITY TODAY & GET 2 MONTHS FREE MONITORING FOR NEW CUSTOMERS!

Jackson EMC's own EMC Security now offers residential members up to 24 months same as cash financing with a \$99 down payment on equipment. Jackson EMC residential members can use this special financing program to purchase equipment such as:

#### NEW SECURITY SYSTEM:

Add EMC Security protection for your home and family.

#### SYSTEM UPGRADES:

Enhance your current system with an upgraded touchscreen keypad, window sensors, glass breaks, and more.

#### ADD FIRE PROTECTION:

Monitoring your home for fire can be as simple as adding smoke or heat detectors to your new or existing home security system.

#### VIDEO CAMERAS:

Both indoor and outdoor cameras allow you to check on the kids at home with the sitter, make sure the dog is not chewing the furniture, ensure your teenager got home from school safely, see when UPS has delivered your packages; the possibilities are endless.

#### AUTOMATE YOUR HOME:

Automated locks, lighting, thermostat, and other equipment will allow you to conveniently control your home systems from anywhere in the world!

EMC Security makes it easy for everyone to feel safe with security monitoring from just \$16.95, no contracts required, and the highest level of CSAA Five Diamond UL certified, redundant monitoring for dual protection. Home security and automation is easy for members with EMC Security's 24-months same-as-cash financing, auto-pay feature, and ability to bundle your bill with your Jackson EMC electric bill.

## OPERATION ROUNDUP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded

**\$103,750 IN GRANTS**

during its January meeting.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$15,000 | Gainesville Action Ministries**, a network of 25 Hall County congregations that work to prevent homelessness by providing emergency financial, food and clothing assistance, and children's services, to provide rent assistance that enables clients to stay in their homes as well as case management for those clients and financial literacy training to help them break the cycle of poverty.

**\$15,000 | ACTION, Inc.**, an Athens based organization serving Barrow, Clarke, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, for the Full Plate Food Program, which collects surplus food donated by Athens area restaurants and redistributes it to homeless shelters and other human service agencies, and for the Opportunities Now Program, which supports students seeking to improve their lives by completing a higher level of education.

**\$15,000 | Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center**, 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 in Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties to attend interpretative, hands-on field studies and educational programs.

**\$15,000 | Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Georgia Chapter**, to help cover copayments for qualified blood cancer patients in the 10 counties Jackson EMC serves. The society provides copay assistance from \$2,500 to \$10,000 per year per patient, depending on their diagnosis, and assisted 84 patients in Jackson EMC's service area during the first three quarters of 2016.

**\$15,000 | The Tree House**, a children's advocacy center working to reduce child abuse in Banks, Barrow and Jackson counties, for the Family Services Supervised Visitation Program, which provides a neutral, child-friendly environment for visits between children in foster care and their parents to enable them to maintain and enhance family bonds and provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children when reunited.

**\$12,000 | Mercy Health Center**, an Athens ministry using a community of professional and lay volunteers to provide primary and specialty medical care, dental and pharmacy services for low income uninsured patients in Barrow,

Clarke, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, to provide "Whole Person Care" that meets patients' physical, spiritual and emotional needs to improve health outcomes and manage resources more efficiently and effectively.

**\$10,000 | Angel House of Georgia**, a Gainesville recovery residence for women with alcohol and/or drug addiction, to enable indigent women with no financial resources or support in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Hall, Jackson and Madison counties to participate in the twelve-month program by covering their program fees and living expenses, offering these women a second chance at life so they can become productive members of society.

**\$6,750 | Prevent Child Abuse Athens**, a grassroots organization focused on ending neglect and abuse of children in Clarke, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, to offer the First Steps primary prevention program that offers support, parenting education and community referrals to new parents to help them with the challenges of parenting.



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



## Creamy Scallop & Bacon Pasta



### INGREDIENTS:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 pound angel hair or spaghetti pasta - cooked to a firm al dente | 4 (or more according to taste) cloves minced garlic |
| 4 slices bacon  | 1 & 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream                   |
| Salt & pepper   | 1 & 1/2 cups low sodium chicken stock               |
| 1 pound medium-sized scallops (drain liquid)                      | 1 cup white wine                                    |
| 3 Tablespoons olive oil   | 2 large ripe tomatoes, diced small                  |
|   | 1 cup Locatelli Romano grated cheese                |

### DIRECTIONS:

- Fry bacon in large cast iron skillet until crisp; cut into pieces and set aside.
- Lightly season scallops with salt and pepper. Pan sear scallops in same pan with bacon grease, about 1-1/2 to 2 minutes per side, then set aside with bacon.
- Drain fat from pan. Pour in olive oil & minced garlic. Sauté garlic about 1 minute until soft, but not burned.
- Add chicken stock and white wine to pan. (Optional - add 1 cup thin fresh asparagus cut into 2-inch pieces). Cook until liquid reduces to almost half.
- Add whipping cream and simmer 2 minutes.
- Add scallops, tomatoes, bacon to pan and simmer long enough to arm the scallops, 1 or 2 minutes.
- Toss Romano cheese and pasta thoroughly with sauce and serve immediately.

*Note: if using cooking wine, which is usually salty, go easy with added salt. Can substitute shrimp for scallops if you prefer.*

“ I love to cook this dish for my family - especially when my daughter comes to town. It was always one of her favorite things to eat growing up.”

- JOY ALBANO  
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA



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

## ACTION, INC.: FULL PLATE AND OPPORTUNITIES NOW

Have you ever visited a buffet or looked into a dessert case and wondered what happened to the remaining food at the end of the night? Unfortunately, in the USA, 30 to 40 percent of the food supply is wasted, according to research from World Resources Institute.

ACTION, Inc. found a way to put that perishable food onto the plates of hungry people through their Full Plate program, which works with community partners to pick up excess perishables from their commercial kitchens and quickly deliver these items to sites that prepare meals and serve the homeless and low-income individuals.

“Full Plate deliveries allow our partner agencies to reduce the amount of money that would normally be necessary for food purchase and preparation, and then redirect these savings to support the human services that are instrumental to their successful operations and missions,” said Lisa Gautreaux, ACTION, Inc. president and CEO.

The Full Plate program is the only food rescue and redistribution program in Northeast Georgia and has been reducing the food budgets of the organizations committed to feeding the hungry. In 2017, the Full Plate program plans to serve 4,475 individuals in Athens-Clarke, Jackson and Barrow counties.

Equally as important as the Full Plate program, ACTION, Inc. operates several programs

which focus on having an actual impact on poverty through education and education-based training. Under the umbrella of Opportunities Now, ACTION expanded on the success seen through their years of operating its High School Youth program. In addition to the High School Youth program, the Agency has four additional programs which focus on varying populations, including individuals who have dropped out of high school, foster care youth who are transitioning out of the system, individuals who have been incarcerated or are on probation, and individuals regardless of any identifying qualifier. Each of these programs are different in many ways, but all focus on personalized career coaching, mentoring, educational support, financial assistance and continued follow-up to allow students to stay in and be successful in all levels of education.

“We are trying a different approach to impact and break the cycle of poverty by focusing our efforts on those who are motivated to become self-sustaining,” Gautreaux said. “We’re working side-by-side with individuals who are committed to making strategic and long-term life changes. There are very real barriers that make education and training unachievable, and



a vital part of our relationship is to help remove or minimize the barriers preventing individuals from achieving their full potential. We are only able to do this by partnering with other service agencies, businesses and schools/colleges to participate in the success of changing lives. This is not a quick fix.”

Since 2015, 92 percent of students served through the High School Youth program graduate from high school. 87 percent of students continue to college and technical school.

**The Jackson EMC Foundation awarded \$15,000 to support these ACTION Inc. programs at its January board meeting.**



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ACTION, INC., VISIT [ACTIONATHENS.ORG](http://ACTIONATHENS.ORG).

**YOUR POWER.  
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR  
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

**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

825 Buford Dr  
Lawrenceville, GA  
(770) 963-6166

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



jacksonemc.com | @JacksonEMC | jacksonemc | JEMCTV1 | jackson\_emc

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID

## SMART CONNECTIONS

# Surge Protection

Lightning is a giant spark of electricity in the atmosphere. NOAA estimates about 30 million lightning strikes hit the ground each year. When lightning hits the ground it can enter homes through electrical cabling and introduce dangerous energy surges into equipment connected to the system.

To keep electronics safe, high quality surge protectors are a good idea, in fact Jackson EMC offers them. Single outlet protectors are available for \$17 and are equipped with a variety of other features, including modem and coaxial protection. An eight-socket strip is available for \$88.

Surge protection for motor-driven appliances, such as HVAC units, refrigerators, garage door openers and water heaters is available through Surge HELP®. Fees for this protection can be added to your monthly bill with annual coverage starting at \$5.75 a month for \$2,000 worth of coverage.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JACKSON EMC'S SURGE PROTECTION PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE AT [JACKSONEMC.COM/SURGE](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/SURGE)