

# JEMCOnews



MARCH 2018

SIGN UP FOR ENERGY SAVINGS WITH TIME-OF-USE RATES  
COMMUNITY IMPACT: SER FAMILIA  
SURGE PROTECTION FOR YOUR VALUABLE INVESTMENTS

*Bright*  
**IDEAS**  
GRANTS FUND INNOVATIVE  
CLASSROOM PROJECTS



# PREPARING OUR YOUTH

OK, I admit it. I'm impressed with what kids nowadays accomplish. I mean, when I was a kid, playing to win against the aliens in Space Invaders was tough stuff. I still listened to music on record players. My definition of a pen pal meant writing an actual letter to someone and putting it in the mail — then waiting until they responded.

Our kids today live in a faster, more connected world. They are smart. They are focused. And many of them have a social awareness that I don't recall my generation embracing. Millennials tend to get a bad rap, but I see a promising future ahead for these young people. Just think of how much more complex our world is today — and how our youth are rising to meet those challenges.

At Jackson EMC, we know the importance of providing young people with opportunities to grow and develop. And as a good community partner, we have long embraced our role in guiding young people to a brighter future.

Take, for example, our longstanding support of the FFA's wiring contest and the Jackson EMC Quality Beef Show. These events bring together high school students to compete in a meaningful way that develops hands-on knowledge of both technical wiring and animal sciences. We've been supporting these programs since each was started over 50 years ago. Both programs started decades ago to spark the interests of the student competitors and involve them in activities that teach life-long skills. It's no surprise that many of those same students, equipped with valuable skills and a passion for learning, later became employees in electric cooperatives across the state.

We also support other education programs for youth in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM). In this issue of *JEMCO News*, you'll read about just a few of our student interns who plan to become engineers. Those students participated in robotics programs

funded, in part, by the Jackson EMC Foundation. A little encouragement for their passion as younger kids is resulting in their decision for a career in engineering. Now, that's pretty cool!

In middle school classrooms, the Bright Ideas program has funded some really innovative projects. Kinetic sculptures and animatronics, wind turbines, 3D printing, solar cars and drones are just some of the hands-on learning projects we've helped support for students. You'd think lessons like these would happen in high school or even college. But, it's really quite impressive that these types of projects are taking place in middle schools.

For high school students, we also have a long history of supporting the Washington Youth Tour, an opportunity for selected delegates to represent Jackson EMC in Washington, D.C. Other EMCs across the nation also participate in this week-long leadership development program. I'm always impressed by the caliber of students who apply to the Washington Youth Tour.

In my opinion, the time and energy we devote today to projects like these are the best investment we can make in our youth and our future leaders of tomorrow.

**Have a suggestion how we can better serve youth? Send me an email at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

## WAYS TO SAVE: TIME-OF-USE RATES

**IF YOU CAN SHIFT USING HIGHER ENERGY USERS — SUCH AS AIR CONDITIONING AND ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS — TO OFF-PEAK HOURS, TIME-OF-USE RATES MAY BE FOR YOU.**

By signing up for Jackson EMC's Time-of-Use rates, you can take advantage of a year-round lower electric rate for reducing your energy usage between the hours of 3 to 8 p.m. on weekdays from June 1 to September 15.

During peak periods (3 to 8 p.m. on weekdays, excluding the Independence Day and Labor Day holidays, between June 1 to September 15), the cost of electricity per kilowatt hour will be 34.35 cents for participating members. During off-peak periods, the cost lowers significantly to only 7.35 cents per kilowatt hour. The normal residential rate is 8.81-11.66¢ per kilowatt hour. The monthly service charge for Time-of-Use members is \$23 per month.

**To participate this summer, sign up by May 1. Register by calling 1-800-462-3691 or visiting your local Jackson EMC office.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TIME-OF-USE RATES, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/TIME-OF-USE](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/TIME-OF-USE).



**REGULAR RESIDENTIAL RATE (YEAR-ROUND)**



**TIME-OF-USE-RATE (JUNE 1-SEPTEMBER 15)**



**TIME-OF-USE-RATE (SEPTEMBER 16-MAY 31)**

# real life LEARNING

**For student interns at Jackson EMC, the opportunity to work at one of the largest electric cooperatives in the nation means getting hands-on, real-world experience.**

"One of my favorite things to do here is helping with the installation process for solar systems at members' homes," said Sandie Gaskins, a student at the University of North Georgia.

A graduate of Jackson County Comprehensive High School, Sandie's passion for robotics landed her a position in Jackson EMC's internship program in 2016. She's since been a part of the team developing the cooperative's grid automation and smart switches, which will enable quicker power restoration to members during outages.

"I like building things," said Sandie, who has used her internship experience at Jackson EMC to refine her career path from computer programming to engineering.

Tan Tonge, a student at Jefferson High School, has always known his career would be in engineering – but he didn't know the specific area of engineering he'd enjoy.

"I wanted to get professional engineering experience to see where I want to focus," said Tan, who plans to attend the University of North Georgia and later transfer to Georgia Tech.

As a member of the cooperative's engineering and operations team, Tan plays a role in studying electrical fuses on power lines and determining the right power poles to install at specific sites.

For another intern, Lance Wilson, his experience at Jackson EMC also has helped him develop the important skills he'll need for the next stage of his career.

After an early career in the Army, Lance realized he needed civilian work experience to take his career in information technology (IT) to the next level. A student at Athens Technical College, Lance works in the IT department at Jackson EMC.

"I feel like I have a lot of freedom in this internship to learn and grow," said Lance, who plans to transfer to Kennesaw State University and pursue a career in cybersecurity.

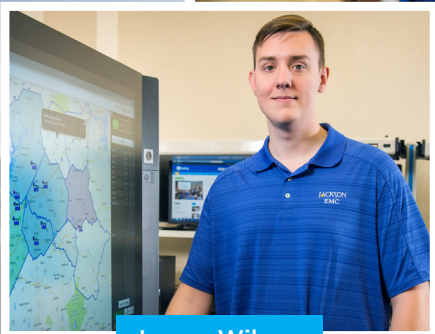
Jackson EMC offers internships in a variety of fields. Local high schools, colleges and universities are notified when internship opportunities are available.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENT INTERNSHIPS AT JACKSON EMC, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/CAREERS](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/CAREERS).



Sandie Gaskins



Lance Wilson



Tan Tonge

# Bright IDEAS

GRANTS FUND INNOVATIVE  
CLASSROOM PROJECTS

Sometimes, an innovative or creative idea for a classroom project just needs a little support. That's why Jackson EMC's Bright Ideas grant program provides educators with up to \$2,000 to support classroom projects that could not be funded. This academic year, Jackson EMC gave a total of \$50,000 in Bright Ideas grants for 34 classroom projects in 20 area middle schools. These are just some of their stories.

## INCORPORATING CREATIVITY WITH COOPERATION

Julie Wilkerson, (shown on cover) a 30-year veteran math and science teacher, applied for a Bright Ideas grant so her sixth grade students could complete more project-based learning assignments as part of the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics team at Radloff Middle School in Gwinnett County.

She created a project called, "Solar Cars to Solar Lives," where her students could work in pairs to design and build solar-powered model cars from kits she was able to purchase after winning a \$2,000 Bright Ideas grant from Jackson EMC.

Wilkerson's Bright Ideas project promoted cooperation and engineering design concepts. Her students learned the basics of design, aerodynamics, gears and mechanical engineering as they chose the appropriate design and necessary gears to make their wheels and axles turn. After students completed their solar cars, Wilkerson and her STEAM team colleagues held a race to determine the fastest car.

"The Bright Ideas grant enabled my students to complete more rigorous and detailed projects," said Wilkerson. "We were able to bring science, technology, engineering, arts and math alive for our students. These grants help increase their understanding and knowledge of STEAM and the skills necessary for our ever-changing world."

READ A TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO RECEIVE A BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT.



VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS](https://www.jacksonemc.com/brightideas)



Andrew Cox



NOW ACCEPTING 2018  
**BRIGHT IDEAS**  
APPLICATIONS

**“BETTER MUSICIANS — BETTER LEARNERS”**

Joe Pearce, an educator with 27 years of experience teaching band and music appreciation, applied for a Bright Ideas grant after seeing his colleagues at **Westside Middle School in Barrow County** win the grant funding. For years, he wanted to purchase multi-instrument chromatic tuners for his students but the funds weren't available.

“So, I decided to try for a Bright Ideas grant,” Pearce said. His efforts were rewarded when Jackson EMC awarded him a \$640 Bright Ideas grant to purchase 55 enharmonic tuners.

The tuners clip to the instruments, read vibrations from the instruments when played

and show the results of a musical pitch on a display that students can see immediately.

“This simple device allows our band students to know if they are playing the correct pitch as indicated in the music,” Pearce said. “Now, they can make adjustments on-the-fly, correcting mistakes of which they may not have been aware.”

He added: “Using the tuners allows the students to improve their evaluation skills. While they are sustaining the pitch, they can evaluate the pitch for quality of tone, correctness, volume and other musical factors.”

**PREPARING FOR A CAREER**

Joe Herbert, a theater arts and social studies teacher at **Hull Middle School in Gwinnett County**, applied for a Jackson EMC Bright Ideas grant as a way to teach lighting and sound engineering to his students. Before becoming an educator, Herbert gained real-world experience performing improv comedy on the main stage of the celebrated Whole World Improv Theatre in Atlanta.

Many of Herbert's theater students would like to take advantage of the increase in film and video production opportunities in Georgia.

“This grant has enabled our students to learn about two essential jobs in live theater and video productions very quickly,” said Herbert, who used his \$2,000 grant to purchase two variable white stage lights, two powered speakers, a soundboard and a spotlight.

Students take turns operating the light and sound boards and performing on stage. The direct experience both speaking in the spotlight, and operating the spotlight and adjusting the sound provides students with



opportunities to understand all aspects of theater productions.

“Several students can practice lighting techniques while others are reviewing scene exercises — all at the same time, and I see students teaching each other,” said Herbert.

“This grant will benefit students and the community for years to come as it will enable us to create a full-time theater program starting next school term,” said Herbert.

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 fresh, creative learning experience through innovative teaching methods, provide ongoing benefits to students, and create opportunities for teamwork.

Grant applications will be evaluated using a scoring rubric, and will be judged by an independent panel. Grant recipients will be notified and awarded funds in October 2018. Grant funds must be used in the 2018-2019 school year, and grant awardees must submit a grant report at the end of the school year.

Grant requests must align with a teaching unit, program or curriculum. We will not consider applications for professional development, field trips, student fees, salaries, incentives, furniture, smart boards, computers, printers, software or hand-held electronic tablet-like devices. However, electronics and/or equipment may be considered if part of an overall innovative project.

All 2018 applications must be completed online and received by Jackson EMC on Friday, June 1 for consideration.



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

## OPERATION ROUNDUP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

**\$117,000 IN GRANTS**

to organizations during its January meeting.

**\$15,000 | Boys & Girls Clubs of Jackson County** to help purchase a 15-passenger van to provide safe, dependable transportation to the club after school, as well as to summer program field trips and activities.

**\$15,000 | Food Bank of Northeast Georgia** in Athens for its monthly Mobile Pantry Program, which distributes food through partner agencies in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties in a farmer's market style event, eliminating the need for the agencies to store the food and allowing the Food Bank to distribute an average of 11,000 pounds of food each month to those in need at a fraction of the cost.

**\$15,000 | Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too**, an organization based in Stone Mountain and serving all counties in the

Jackson EMC service area by helping people with injuries and disabilities of all ages regain their mobility, independence and quality of life, for its Home Medical Equipment Program, which refurbishes medical equipment, such as power lifts and motorized chairs.

**\$15,000 | Independent Transportation Network (ITN)**, a Gainesville-based organization providing door-to-door transportation for adults 60 years and older and visually impaired individuals 18 years and older, to assist with its member and volunteer recruitment efforts in Banks, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties.

**\$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, enabling them to maintain and enhance family bonds, as well as providing a safe and nurturing environment for their children when reunited.

**\$15,000 | J.M. Tull-Gwinnett Family YMCA** for its Afterschool Enrichment Program

in project-based Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics activities for at-risk youth from low income families, which helps them keep pace with science and math learning outside of school.

**\$12,000 | St. Vincent de Paul Conference-St. Matthew**, in Winder, for its financial assistance program that provides funds to Barrow County families in crisis for rent, mortgage and food.

**\$10,000 | Gainesville-Hall County Alliance for Literacy** to purchase materials and provide instructors for basic literacy classes for adults 16 and older, and GED preparation classes for students who have not completed high school.

**\$5,000 | Oglethorpe County 4-H**, to help students in low-income households participate in 4-H Residential Leadership Events, including junior and senior conferences, state 4-H council, and district project achievement.



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

## MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

### *Cheeseburger Casserole*



“This is a vintage recipe from the 1950s-60s and is still quick and easy for modern cooking.”

—BARBARA HUGHES

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 lb. hamburger or ground steak  
1 medium Vidalia onion  
1 Tbls. butter or margarine  
1 can of tomato sauce (8 oz. can)  
1 Tbls. Worcestershire sauce  
16 oz. of macaroni noodles (shell or elbow)  
2/3 cup cheddar cheese, shredded  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. black pepper

#### DIRECTIONS

Finely chop one medium onion. Melt margarine in heavy skillet. Brown onion in skillet. Add hamburger meat to onions, and season with salt and pepper. Add Worcestershire sauce. Brown the meat, then drain it. Return meat to skillet. Add a can of tomato sauce and bring to a simmer. Cook for 10 minutes.

In a separate pot, bring water to boil and add pasta. Cook two minutes less than directed on the noodle package. Drain pasta. Then, add pasta to meat mixture either in a skillet or casserole dish.

Sprinkle the shredded cheese evenly on top of mixture. Cook in pre-heated oven at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Serve hot.

FEATURED  
RECIPES RECEIVE

**\$200**

PRIZE  
PACKAGE



SEND YOUR BEST SAVORY SNACKS: [RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM](mailto:RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM) OR MAIL TO:  
COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549

## COMMUNITY IMPACT:

# Ser Familia

What started as a personal passion has evolved into an organization that serves thousands of Latinos in North Georgia and prepares hundreds of volunteers to serve other families.

Ser Familia, Inc.'s mission is to strengthen, revitalize, and equip Latino youth, couples, parents and families through programs and services that empower them to thrive and enjoy a healthy family environment. The nonprofit has more than 72 programs with 200 volunteers to help facilitate its services.

Almost 20 years ago, Miguel and Belisa Urbina began helping couples who were having relationship difficulties. Both natives of Puerto Rico, they noticed the lack of local programs for couples in Spanish.

"Your feelings are in your native language," Belisa said. "When you're talking about love and other emotions, your natural reaction is to express it in your native language."

Miguel and Belisa started Ser Familia in 2001 to serve Latino families. Over the years, the organization has grown to include parenting classes, workshops for youth and teens, family counseling, and support for victims of domestic violence.

"You see the transformation in families," said Belisa, who is also the executive director of the organization.

Ser Familia has been successful, according to Belisa, because it strives for families participating in its programs to later serve as volunteers. Those volunteers work along side professionals at Ser Familia to provide counseling to families and individuals.



"There is a problem with mental health, especially among youth," said Belisa. "More teens are suffering from depression and talk about suicide."

The Jackson EMC Foundation recently awarded Ser Familia a \$12,500 grant to provide mental health services for its Spanish-speaking clients. The funds will be used to prepare a child's play therapy room at its Buford office and telemedicine services to link clients with medical professionals.

Belisa said the grant will help some of its youngest clients get the support they need.

"We have children who have been victims of sexual violence," she said. "We have children who have witnessed sexual violence."

Besides providing families with love and support, Ser Familia uses its multi-disciplinary approach to encourage clients to become self-sufficient, Belisa said.

Ser Familia also received a \$7,500 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation in July 2016 to provide mental health counseling services, including for victims of domestic violence and sexual, and for suicide counseling. **For more information, visit [serfamilia.org](http://serfamilia.org).**

# SAVE BIG

WHEN YOU ADD JACKSON EMC  
REBATES TO YOUR UPGRADE PLANS

YOU CAN LOWER YOUR POWER BILL BY USING ENERGY  
EFFICIENT PRODUCTS, AND JACKSON EMC WILL  
HELP YOU PAY FOR THEM.

When you use energy efficient technologies, the amount of electricity we need to generate decreases, resulting in savings for the cooperative — and our members. That's why we're happy to offer rebates when you purchase certain energy efficient products.

Rebates for electric water heaters, heat pumps (starting at 15 S.E.E.R.) and home energy evaluations are available to Jackson EMC members. Be sure to contact us before making a purchase. Details are available on Jackson EMC's website or by calling your local Jackson EMC office.



FOR A LIST OF REBATES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, VISIT  
[JACKSONEMC.COM/REBATES](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/REBATES).



**YOUR POWER.  
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR  
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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

# SURGE PROTECTION FOR YOUR VALUABLE INVESTMENTS


Lightning is a giant spark of electricity in the atmosphere. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimates about 25 million lightning strikes hit the ground each year in the United States. 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 to protect your equipment. Jackson EMC offers high-quality surge protectors. 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 Jackson EMC bill. Annual coverage starts at \$5.75 a month for \$2,000 coverage.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JACKSON EMC'S SURGE PROTECTION PROGRAM, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/SURGE](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/SURGE).



JACKSON EMC OFFERS  
**HIGH-QUALITY SURGE PROTECTORS**  
TO PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENTS.