

# JEMCO news

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS



**Bringing Creative  
Classroom Projects  
to Life**

## MAY 2023 | IN THIS ISSUE

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

TAKE STEPS TO STAY COOLER THIS SUMMER WHILE SAVING ENERGY

STAY SAFE AROUND POWER LINES



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

As a cooperative, one of our guiding principles is “Concern for Community.” Here at Jackson EMC, we’re a hands-on organization when it comes to serving our community. Our employees have a passion for community service and you may have seen them volunteering at local schools, food banks and service organizations. Those opportunities are typically accomplished with groups of employees dedicating their time to helping others.

This year we wanted to go farther and really step up our community service efforts. We decided it was time for a BHAG. What’s a BHAG you ask? That’s a “big hairy audacious goal.” It’s a term used to describe an extraordinary goal. A goal that’s bold enough to have a huge impact.

Our “BHAG” was to get every Jackson EMC employee involved in the same initiative in a meaningful way at the same time. We set a goal to package and deliver 3,000 care packages with everyday hygiene supplies for local students who may not otherwise have them.

To make that happen, we designated a special day in April for all employees to roll up their sleeves and assemble care packages. At each of our locations we set up assembly lines. We anticipated it would take most of the day, but it went much faster. With the enthusiasm of the team and working in shifts, we completed all 3,000 packages by mid-day and had them ready to be delivered to schools across our service area. Wow! It was incredible to see and even more fun to be part of an effort like that.

The good news is that was just the beginning. Our employees also volunteered over the week for special opportunities to serve others. Working alongside our nonprofit partners in the community, employees helped complete several special projects across our service area.

It’s an honor to support the great work that is done by the many outstanding nonprofits in our area. It’s clear that each of them have their own BHAGs. And they are doing a tremendous job helping those who need it most.

You’re also helping these organizations by supporting the Jackson EMC Foundation through your participation in Operation Round Up. The small change donated by members adds up to improving lives and meeting community needs through the grants awarded by the Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors.

At Jackson EMC, we’re not just your power provider; we’re a part of the community. We care about our members and making our community better. Working together we can accomplish great things...even BHAGs, when we set our minds to it.

**Have a story to share about our involvement in the community? Email me at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**

**CHIP JAKINS**  
President & CEO

## Take Steps To STAY COOLER

### This Summer While Saving Energy

Summer heat increases the amount of electricity needed to cool homes. Jackson EMC’s summer residential rate last year for an average member using 1,500 kWh was 8% lower than all electric providers in the state, according to the Georgia Public Service Commission.

Cooling your home during the summer can make up a significant portion of your monthly bill. Keeping your thermostat set to 78 degrees will reduce your energy use. Lower settings increase your operating costs approximately 5% for every degree below 78 degrees.

Heat from the sun can warm up your house faster when blinds and curtains are open. Closing your blinds and curtains to act as a layer of insulation will reduce heat in your home.

 FOR MORE ENERGY-SAVING TIPS, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM](http://JACKSONEMC.COM)

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*Summer*  
rates in effect  
(May-September)

- First 650 kWh:**  
8.81 cents per kWh
- Next 350 kWh:**  
11.06 cents per kWh
- Over 1,000 kWh:**  
11.66 cents per kWh
- Service Charge:**  
\$25 per month



SEE MORE FROM JACKSON EMC'S WEEK OF SERVICE ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS. [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [in](#)

# Serving the Community

One of the key principles of cooperatives, like Jackson EMC, is "Concern for Community." That's why we encourage our employees to volunteer in the community. Last month, Jackson EMC employees participated in a special week-long effort to serve local nonprofit organizations with their time, skills and enthusiasm.

Jackson EMC employees:

- **Volunteered at 12 organizations**, including those focused on education, food insecurity and housing. Employees helped Habitat for Humanity prepare for additional housing in our service area and upgraded landscaping at a shelter for victims of domestic violence;
- **Packaged more than 1,000 food boxes** at local food banks;
- **Assembled 3,000 care packages** with hygiene products for students in need in our community;
- **Delivered care packages to 13 local schools** to give to students who may not otherwise have basic hygiene products; and,
- **Contributed more than 700 volunteer hours** in the community.



**JACKSON  
EMC**  
**BRIGHT  
IDEAS**

# Bringing *Creative* **CLASSROOM** Projects to Life

**Local middle school students are learning exciting concepts, thanks to their teachers with creative ideas and a Jackson EMC Bright Ideas grant.**

This school year, 50 teachers in 27 middle schools received Bright Ideas grants to bring new projects to life in their classrooms. These projects range from music to math and engineering to meteorology.

Jackson EMC's Bright Ideas grant program provides middle school teachers with up to \$2,000 for classroom projects that would otherwise not be funded. Since 2015, the cooperative has awarded \$476,163 in Bright Ideas grants to local teachers.

Bright Ideas grant applications for the 2023-2024 school year will open in August.

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



## TONI SESSIONS

BEAR CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Barrow County

**\$1,783**

A math activity inspired by crime shows is an exciting way to get students engaged. In this classroom "whodunit," students discover who's responsible for the crime by solving 10 math problems with 10 clues. A Bright Ideas grant funded the supplies needed for this murder-mystery project.

"I just wanted to make math fun and engaging so that my students don't dread coming to class," said Toni Sessions, a math teacher. "Thank you so much for supporting our students and their learning!"



\$2,000

## DAVID PAULI

OSBORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Gwinnett County

Students at Osborne Middle School used a creative approach to learn how things move. Using a drone, they programmed the device to mimic the actions of a hummingbird.

The biomechanics lesson, written by the 8th graders for their 7th grade peers, successfully demonstrated how hummingbirds collect nectar from a flower based on the color sensor on the drones.

David Pauli, an engineering teacher, used funds from a Bright Ideas grant to purchase drones for his students to program.



## AMANDA MCCLELLAN

HULL MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Gwinnett County

\$1,200

Hull Middle School orchestra teacher, Amanda McClellan, knows the importance of developing intonation skills for middle school orchestra students. Intonation — the accuracy of pitch on a stringed instrument — is a vital component of quickly ensuring an instrument is in tune. Students are required to hear a pitch and adjust their finger placement as needed. New electronic tuners give students a visual cue when they successfully match the pitch.

“Students have been using the tuners we received from the Bright Ideas grant since January to not only tune our open string before class begins, but to fine tune finger interval training,” McClellan said.

The tuners also helped students for a testing portion at a state competition. “It is certainly part of the reason all three judges awarded Hull Middle School the highest rating possible at the LGPE [Large Group Performance Evaluation],” McClellan added. The “Superior” rating was accompanied by a plaque for the classroom and the students wore their blue ribbons and platinum medals at their next concert.

## \$86,200 IN GRANTS RECENTLY AWARDED

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded \$86,200 in grants to organizations during a recent meeting.

### Organizational Grant Recipients:

**\$20,000 to Hi-Hope Service Center, Lawrenceville**, to help fund part-time nursing and nutrition services for 20 Gwinnett County residents with developmental disabilities who require onsite nursing care for services, such as daily medication, insulin, blood checks and specialized medical treatment.

**\$18,200 to Western Circuit Treatment and Accountability Court, Athens**, to provide funding for respite apartments for participants in the TAC program, which is a partnership of court, law enforcement and community mental health treatment providers that work together improve services to offenders with serious and persistent mental health issues.

**\$18,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier in Hall County** for its Success Academy program that provides tutoring and educational enrichment activities for youth to achieve success in math and reading.

**\$15,000 to United Way of Hall County**, for its Mental Health First Aid training program for people 55 and older who may be experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

**\$10,000 to My Sister's Place Inc.**, a shelter for homeless women and children serving all counties in the Jackson EMC service area, for its residence assistance program.

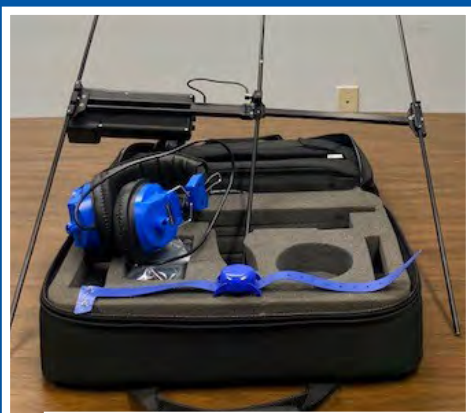
**\$5,000 to Just People Inc., Norcross**, for its financial assistance program serving adults with developmental disabilities in Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT,  
VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](https://www.jacksonemc.com/foundation)

## Community Impact

## Barrow County Sheriff's Office



Along with providing law enforcement, the Barrow County Sheriff's Office also has a program that protects citizens who are prone to wander due to cognitive disabilities.

Originally implemented by the Pilot Club of Winder, Project Lifesaver is a search and rescue program that can track individuals who are at risk of getting lost. At the size of a watch, an unobtrusive device can be worn on the wrist or the ankle of participants. The device sends a signal if a participant is reported missing, so they can be found faster.

"This program adds extra comfort to the families by tracking a person quickly and efficiently," said Lt. Timothy Laturell of the Barrow County Sheriff's Office, which operates the program. "What we do here is a service that makes sure we have a happy ending at the end of the day."

Thanks to funding support, such as a recent \$4,550 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation, Project Lifesaver is free to participants. There are currently seven individuals — four young people and three adults — who are protected by Project Lifesaver. Many of the participants are people with disabilities including Down syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, autism spectrum disorder and dementia.

Families with at-risk individuals may contact the Barrow County Sheriff's Office to ask about program eligibility. For more information about Project Lifesaver in Barrow County, call the non-emergency information line at **770-307-3080**.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE  
ABOUT PROJECT LIFESAVER IN OTHER AREAS, VISIT  
[PROJECTLIFESAVER.ORG](https://www.projectlifesaver.org).

## Chocolate Cobbler



### CAKE INGREDIENTS:

1 cup self-rising flour  
 3/4 cup white sugar  
 3 tbsp. cocoa powder  
 1/2 tsp. salt  
 1/2 cup whole milk  
 2 tsp. vanilla extract  
 1 stick margarine

### CHOCOLATE SAUCE INGREDIENTS:

1/4 cup packed light brown sugar  
 1/2 cup white sugar  
 4 tbsp. cocoa powder  
 1 1/2 cups boiling water

### CAKE DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt 1 stick margarine, pour into 8x8 baking dish and set aside. In a mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, cocoa powder, salt, milk and vanilla extract. Stir until smooth. Pour over melted margarine, but do not stir.

### SAUCE DIRECTIONS:

In a small mixing bowl, combine brown sugar, white sugar and cocoa powder. Stir until well blended. Sprinkle mix over the top of batter making sure to completely cover the top. Boil 1 1/2 cups of water. Pour over the top for the final layer and do not stir. Bake for 40-45 minutes. Allow to cool for 20-25 minutes and serve warm with vanilla ice cream.

“ We served this at our Christmas party last year and everybody asked for the recipe! ”

**GINA POLKINGHORN**, *Commerce*

Send us your best recipes: [recipes@jacksonemc.com](mailto:recipes@jacksonemc.com) or mail to  
**Cooperative Cooking | Jackson EMC PO Box 38 | Jefferson, GA 30549**  
 Find more recipes at: [jacksonemc.com/recipes](http://jacksonemc.com/recipes).

# Always LOOK UP

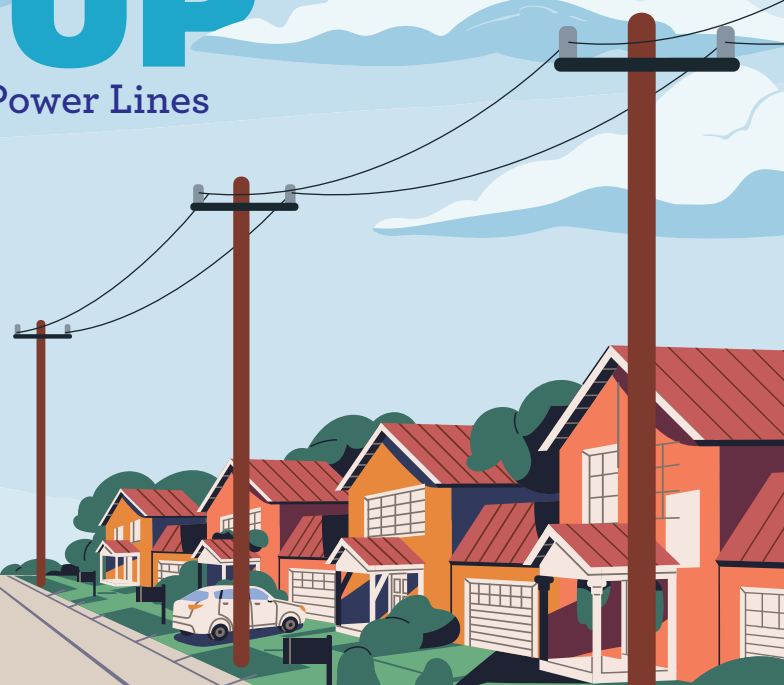
## Stay Safe Around Power Lines

May is Electrical Safety Month. When you're starting any outdoor project, be alert of where power lines are located overhead.

Whether you're working on the roof, trimming trees or painting your house, be aware and alert others about nearby power lines.

### Stay safe by:

- Locating all overhead power lines
- Staying at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines
- Avoiding contact with anything that touches a power line
- Carrying ladders and equipment horizontally
- Staying at least 35 feet away from downed lines and calling 911 immediately.



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# What's the Difference Between a Tornado **Watch** vs. **Warning**?

Spring is typically peak season for tornadoes. Knowing the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning can help you, be prepared to take the right steps to protect yourself and your family.

## Tornado Watch

- **Meaning:** Conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop, but there is not an imminent threat.
- **You Should:** Stay informed of weather conditions, in case a tornado warning is issued, and know where you can take shelter.
- **Bottom Line:** Be prepared.

## Tornado Warning

- **Meaning:** A tornado has been detected and is an imminent threat in your area.
- **You Should:** Take shelter now by going to a basement or interior room in a building.
- **Bottom Line:** Take action.

We want you to be safe when there's severe weather in the forecast. Our website includes resources on how to be ready before, during and after storms.

 FOR MORE TIPS ON PREPARING FOR STORMS, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/STORM](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/STORM)