

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS



Bright
IDEAS
INNOVATION IN
CLASSROOMS

APRIL 2019 | IN THIS ISSUE

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PRACTICE, PERSISTENCE AND TEAMWORK

Like many folks, I'm a big fan of college football. It's one of my favorite pastimes. Ask me what I'm doing on most Saturdays in the fall and it's usually something related to watching football – whether on a screen or in the stands.

OK, so I know we're still several months away from the start of football season. But, as I write this, both players and coaches are getting ready for next season's games. Right now, there's practice, persistence and teamwork underway to prepare everyone for competition.

The same thing is going on at Jackson EMC right now. Our "sport" is a little different, but it's equally exciting. On our training fields, we're getting ready for the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo – an annual event that brings together the best linemen in the state to compete in events based on traditional linemen skills. In recent years, some of our linemen have won top team and individual honors at the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo. Last fall, two journeyman lineman teams from Jackson EMC won some of the highest awards at the International Lineman's Rodeo, held in October.

It's an honor to support these talented and skilled professionals as they compete among their peers. A rodeo is a great way for linemen to learn from each other, including those from other electric cooperatives. There's a strong sense of camaraderie when linemen hear about the experiences of others and learn from each other.

Just as I enjoy seeing a football player evolve from their freshman to senior season, it's rewarding to watch our apprentices grow their skills as linemen through their participation in rodeo. Many of our experienced journeymen linemen and foremen, who serve as rodeo coaches for the younger competitors, are also accomplished rodeo participants. Working together in the competitive rodeo environment makes them better prepared for the challenges they face every day on the job. The emphasis on safety, skills and teamwork at rodeo are vital to the real-life work of linemen.

You know what's also special about lineman's rodeo? The strong sense of family. Jackson EMC linemen are joined by their families for

an exciting competition. You'll see spouses and kids cheering for their favorite lineman, all while sharing in fellowship with other lineman families. Most of the year, these families make tremendous sacrifices to support their loved one's career. At rodeo, they see them put their talent in action – and cheer them on.

The truth is, the linemen who work so hard to restore power any time of the year are always a shining light for the community. At rodeo, they get an opportunity to shine a little brighter.

Have a story about the extraordinary work of a lineman? Share it with me at chip@jacksonemc.com.



**Chip Jakins,
President/CEO**

WAYS TO SAVE: HOMEPLUS LOANS

LOW-INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM HELPS MEMBERS MAKE HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Thinking of making energy efficient improvements to your home? As a member of Jackson EMC, you may qualify for our HomePlus Loan program.

The low-interest loan program allows members to finance up to \$5,500 for 36 months for energy efficient improvements, like:

- ENERGY STAR®-qualified heat pump replacement
- Water heater replacement
- ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances (dishwashers, refrigerators and washing machines)
- Ductwork repair, insulation and air sealing
- ENERGY STAR-qualified windows

Qualification for a HomePlus Loan is based on assessment of creditworthiness and the underwriting standards of our partner, GEMC Credit Union. Additional terms are available at jacksonemc.com/homeplus.



TO GET STARTED WITH A HOMEPLUS LOAN, CONTACT JACKSON EMC AT **1-800-462-3691** AND ASK TO SPEAK TO A RESIDENTIAL ENERGY ADVISOR.

teach Kids

ABOUT A HOME SECURITY SYSTEM

A home security system provides your family with additional protection in the event of an emergency. As children get older and can stay at home by themselves for longer periods of time, it may be time to teach them about using a home security system.

BELOW ARE SOME TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN MAKING HOME SECURITY PROTECTION A FAMILY AFFAIR:

REVIEW YOUR HOME'S ACCESS POINTS, SUCH AS DOORS AND WINDOWS.

Discuss how an alarm system is activated and what happens if the system is triggered.

CONSIDER USING A MOBILE SECURITY APP FOR ADDITIONAL PEACE OF MIND AND CONVENIENCE.

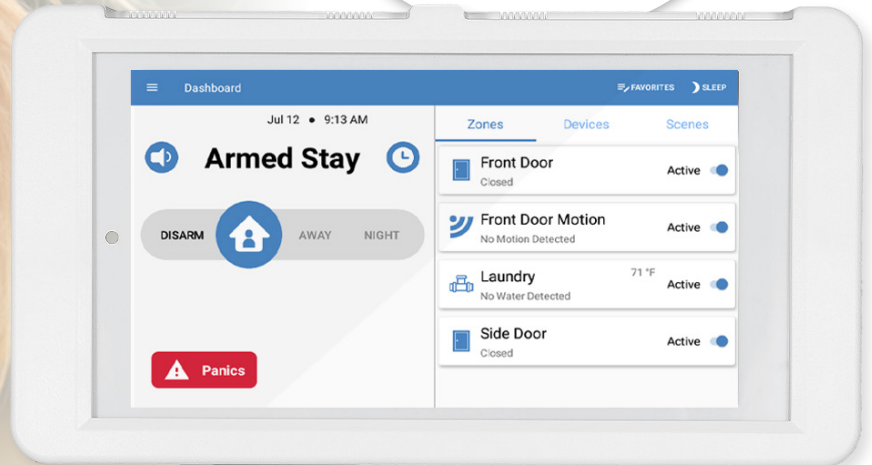
With a mobile app, you're able to view, arm and disarm the security system from anywhere.

ROLE PLAY SO THEY CAN RESPOND PROPERLY.

Set up times to perform practice drills and review security measures for various scenarios, like a fire. This is a great time to teach children what to do in the event of a false alarm.

PROVIDE HANDS-ON INSTRUCTION TO TURN THE SYSTEM ON AND OFF.

Review the password and talk about the importance of keeping it secure by not telling others. This is particularly important if your child has friends over while you're not at home. To be on the safe side, consider changing the password periodically.



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HOME SECURITY SYSTEMS, CONTACT EMC SECURITY AT 770-963-0305 OR VISIT EMCSECURITY.COM.

Applications
for the 2019-2020
Bright Ideas grants will be
available in July. Stay tuned to

JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS

for additional
details.



Bright

IDEAS

INNOVATION IN CLASSROOMS

Stimulating a student's interest in learning a new idea or concept can be a challenge. For educators, there's the additional challenge of funding learning experiences in the classroom that are outside the textbook.

That's why **Jackson EMC funded \$51,461 in Bright Ideas grants this academic year** to give middle school teachers the tools and technology they need to bring their innovative ideas to life. Since 2015, Jackson EMC has funded more than \$216,300 in Bright Ideas grants to fund innovative and creative classroom projects developed by state-certified educators in public middle schools throughout our service area.

These are some of the stories from the latest grant recipients.



3D Science

RUSSELL MIDDLE SCHOOL, BARROW COUNTY
NICOLE BAKER | \$1,851

Students in Nicole Baker's physical science class at Russell Middle School in Barrow County are learning key physics concepts thanks to a Bright Ideas grant, which funded small "smartcars," tracks and wireless sensors that enable students to collect data, make predictions and use critical thinking skills.

"The students can see real-time data and experiment visually while running the cars," Baker said. "Before we received this grant, students just saw the chart in a textbook. Now, students can see the data while the cars are running. We're the only school in the county with this new technology."

Baker said the cars and tracks are used for numerous other lab units across multiple classrooms, benefitting more than 1,000 students this year alone. She has used the components to teach conservation of energy, acceleration, velocity, speed, Kinematics and Newton's Law.

Our Model City

SWEETWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL, GWINNETT COUNTY SHANE THOMPSON AND JAMES MITCHELL | \$1,845

Shane Thompson, a STEAM teacher at Sweetwater Middle School in Gwinnett County, developed an interdisciplinary program for his students that incorporated five subject areas: social studies, technology, engineering, art and math.

“The Internet of Things is the next frontier in computing science,” said Thompson. “Thanks to our Bright Ideas grant, our students can develop their own version of a connected world by building a model city.”

First, students worked in groups to select a significant building in Africa. They created a presentation demonstrating the historical, economic, governmental, cultural or religious significance of their building. The math portion of the project involved determining the dimensions for each building and creating a scale ratio factor.

Using the scale factor, students created a model, then painted them to match the real building. “All their buildings must fit in the classroom-sized model city, so the students worked together using engineering principles to design the layout,” said James Mitchell, a STEAM teacher. “They’re learning how to use micro-controllers and sensors to build a roadway system around their city.”

Next, the students will create a road network around their buildings that will support self-driving cars, which they will build using a microprocessor, LED lights, ultrasonic and temperature sensors and other electrical devices. They can also use the LEGO EV3 robots from Mitchell’s 2017 Bright Ideas grant.

“These grants help us provide hands-on learning opportunities for real-world situations,” said Thompson. “Our students are learning how to create a city of the future.”



Innovation in Soil and Water Conservation

HULL MIDDLE SCHOOL, GWINNETT COUNTY DAVID SCHOENROCK AND CELIA AYENESAZAN | \$845

Students at Hull Middle School in Gwinnett County used their Bright Ideas grant to plan, plant, grow and harvest varieties of lettuce through an aeroponic tower garden — which uses at least 90 percent less water than soil farming. Water circulates continuously in the aeroponic garden, and the lights for encouraging plant growth allow the garden to be used as a teaching tool year-round.

“The mobility of the aeroponic garden gave us opportunities to use it in more classrooms, the STEAM lab and the Green Team — an after-school club that maintains the outdoor garden and recycling program,” said science teacher Celia Ayenesazan. “We can use it as a teaching tool in all seasons, indoors and outdoors.”

“The garden supports visual and tactile learning,” said STEAM teacher Virita Bridges, who also uses the garden in her classroom. Students see a live representation of their biology book. “It’s a textbook in action,” she said.

Before transplanting assorted varieties of lettuce from the aeroponic garden to the school’s outdoor garden, students learn the importance of hardening-off the plants; gradually acclimating the plants to the cooler outdoor temperatures. The cycle repeats as students germinate seeds which they will transfer into the growing cells of the tower garden. During the entire process, the students learn about the health benefits of greens they grew themselves.

“This is the Bright Ideas grant that keeps on giving because each year more than 2,000 students will benefit from the reuse,” said science teacher David Schoenrock.

Kenita Pierce-Lewis founded H.O.P.E., Inc. so single parents could earn their college education much easier than she did.

Juggling parental responsibilities, work and college courses, it took her 10 years to get her bachelor's degree in business administration.

H.O.P.E. — which stands for Helping Other People be Empowered — helps low-income single parents obtain college degrees by providing rental and childcare assistance, connections to community resources, financial advising, counseling resources and success coaching.

“Statistics show the number one reason students don't finish their college education is financial stress,” Pierce-Lewis said. “We focus on single parents who work and don't qualify for government assistance but need help to provide for their children and plan for a better future.”

H.O.P.E. recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation to assist with childcare and housing so parents can continue their college education.

The foundation grant targets childcare and housing costs for H.O.P.E. clients, who receive up to \$100 a week in childcare assistance and up to \$400 a month in rent when lack of either puts acquiring a college degree at risk. Pierce-Lewis said her own college degree was delayed because she couldn't afford childcare.

“This enables students to focus on their academics without the anxieties of shelter loss and childcare issues,” she said. “With this investment, parents not only increase their



Kenita Pierce-Lewis, left, leads H.O.P.E., Inc., which helps clients like Tamika obtain their college degree.

earning potential, but they also increase the likelihood that their children will pursue higher education.”

Based in Duluth, H.O.P.E. has served 53 families since 2011. Of the 27 participants who have graduated from college, most have used their degree to increase their income by an average of \$20,000, according to Pierce-Lewis.

“We have a single dad, our first male participant, who recently graduated from college. He has doubled his salary, and now he donates to the program,” she said.

While many charitable organizations provide one-time assistance with rent or childcare, what sets H.O.P.E. apart is that it continues to help with rent and childcare until clients have their college diploma in hand. Pierce-Lewis credits the Jackson EMC Foundation for helping H.O.P.E. get off the ground and is thankful for its continued support.

“The Jackson EMC Foundation grants have been a blessing,” she said. “It was one of the first foundations that believed in us and our vision. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for believing in H.O.P.E.”

 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT H.O.P.E., INC., VISIT HOPBE.ORG.

NEED TO KNOW: CALCULATING YOUR CAPITAL CREDITS

ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER OF A COOPERATIVE IS RECEIVING CAPITAL CREDITS

Jackson EMC is a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by our members. Each year, amounts collected above the cost of providing electric service are credited to members' capital accounts based on their patronage (total billing less sales tax).

Your 2018 capital was 6.658 percent of your total patronage. See the example to calculate your capital credit.

This notification is for all rates, except QF, LPS, LGS or MBS (you can find your rate designation printed on your monthly bill). Members with those rates have received a separate notification.

EXAMPLE FOR CALCULATION OF 2018 CAPITAL CREDITS

AMOUNT OF BILLS FOR 2018 (EXCLUDING SALES TAX) x ALLOCATION PATRONAGE (6.658%) = YOUR DOLLAR ALLOCATION

FOR EXAMPLE:

IF YOUR 2018 POWER BILLS TOTALED \$500
 Amount of Bills for 2018 (excluding sales tax) x Allocation Patronage = Your Dollar Allocation
 $\$500 \times 6.658\% = \33.29

IF YOUR 2018 POWER BILLS TOTALED \$1,500
 Amount of Bills for 2018 (excluding sales tax) x Allocation Patronage = Your Dollar Allocation
 $\$1,500 \times 6.658\% = \99.87

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

\$81,150 IN GRANTS

during its February meeting, including \$75,050 to organizations and \$6,100 to individuals.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | **Food Bank of Northeast Georgia**, in Athens, for its monthly Mobile Pantry Program, which distributes large quantities of food to communities in need through partner agencies in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, eliminating the need for the agencies to store the food and distributing an average of 11,000 pounds of food each month at a fraction of the cost.

\$15,000 | **Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too**, in Stone Mountain, which helps people with injuries and disabilities of all ages regain their mobility, independence and quality of life throughout the Jackson EMC service area,

for its Home Medical Equipment Program that refurbishes medical equipment, such as power lifts and motorized chairs.

\$15,000 | **Georgia Mountain Food Bank**, which serves Hall and Lumpkin counties, for its Prescriptive Food Box program, which provides healthy food and nutrition information tailored for low-income patients with cancer, diabetes or cardiac disease.

\$15,000 | **Good News Clinics**, in Gainesville, which provides free medical and dental care to the underserved and uninsured residents of Hall County, to provide clients of its Sam Poole Medical Clinic with laboratory tests that help physicians to determine their health care needs and provide appropriate care.

\$10,000 | **Sexual Assault Center and Children's Advocacy Center**, in Athens, to provide assistance for 40 survivors of sexual assault with access to therapeutic intervention to begin the healing process.

\$3,050 | **Allen R. Fleming, Jr. Post #20-American Legion**, in Clarke County, to provide assistance for 10 students to participate in Georgia Boys State and Georgia Girls State, programs where high school students learn about municipal, county and state government through mock elections, governance and legislative bill-writing.

\$2,000 | **Penfield Christian Homes**, to assist people living in the Jackson EMC service area to participate in the substance abuse treatment program.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$4,500 to provide assistance with home repairs for a senior citizen.

\$1,600 to provide assistance with home repairs for a senior citizen.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION.

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Braised Herbed Lamb Shanks



FEATURED RECIPES WIN A **\$200 PRIZE PACKAGE**

INGREDIENTS:

- 1-1/2 to 2 lbs.** bone-in lamb shanks, thawed (if frozen)
- (3) 4"** sprigs each fresh rosemary and thyme (or 1 Tbsp each, if dried)
- 1** bay leaf
- 2-4** cloves garlic, slivered, to taste
- 1/4** cup butter (1/2 stick), melted
- 2** cups broth (beef or vegetable)
- 1/4 to 1/2** cup apple cider vinegar or red wine vinegar, to taste
- After cooking, salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS:

Brown shanks on all sides in a hot and dry skillet (cast iron works well). Place browned shanks in a slow cooker (4 quarts or larger) on low. Scatter herbs, slivered garlic, and bay leaf over shanks. Melt butter in same skillet used to brown shanks, add broth and vinegar, mixing well. Pour warm liquid over herbed shanks in slow cooker.

Cook on low for 6-8 hours. After cooking, salt and pepper to taste. Drippings and broth may be thickened into a tasty brown sauce. Serve with roasted or steamed baby potatoes and Brussels sprouts.

“This recipe features farm-fresh herbs, which grow so well in north Georgia, and a tender, flavorful shank that falls off the bone — perfect for spring meals.”

— ANN SEIGIES, MURRAYVILLE

SEND US YOUR BEST ENTRÉE RECIPE: RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM OR MAIL TO: COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549
FIND MORE RECIPES AT JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES.

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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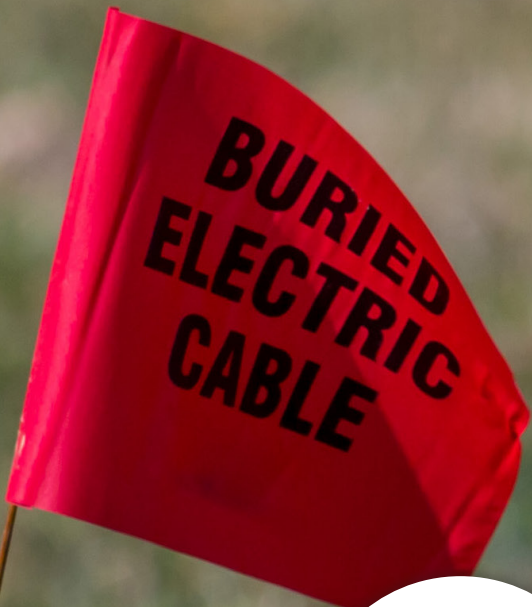


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Jackson EMC

jacksonemc.com



Know What's Below
CONTACT 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Before starting any landscaping work that requires digging – such as planting trees or shrubs, setting posts, or building a deck – be sure to call 811 first.

Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a landscaping project into a dangerous situation.

Play it safe by calling 811 or visiting my.GA811.com to submit a free request at least two business days before digging. Your local utility companies, including Jackson EMC, will be contacted and will mark the areas where underground utilities are located. Once marked by the appropriate flags, you can dig safely.

FOR
ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION, VISIT
JACKSONEMC.COM/DIG.

