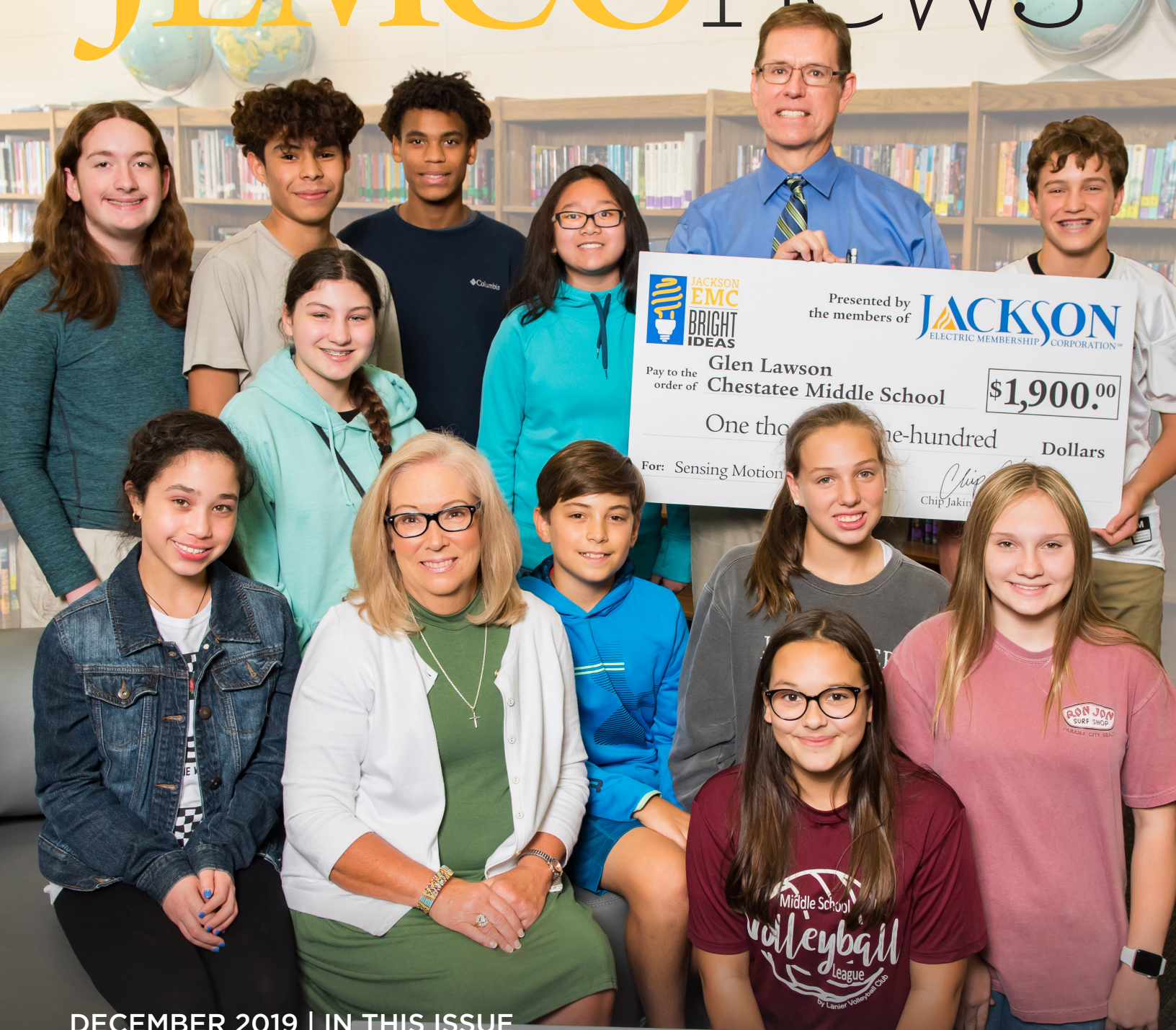


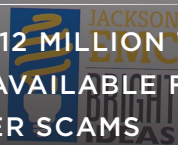
# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS



## DECEMBER 2019 | IN THIS ISSUE

JACKSON EMC RETURNS \$12 MILLION TO MEMBERS  
CONTRACTOR NETWORK AVAILABLE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT IMPROVEMENTS  
STAY SAFE FROM IMPOSTER SCAMS



Presented by the members of



Pay to the order of

**Dawn Hudgins**  
**Chestatee Middle School**

**\$2,000.00**



# PERSPECTIVE: ALONG THE JOURNEY

At Jackson EMC, we're interested in serving our community and helping young people develop the skills and knowledge they'll need in their future careers. We're long-time supporters of programs that serve students throughout their educational journey. And, one of the ways we support students in our community is by offering an internship program.

We currently have 17 interns across our cooperative. They're serving in many departments throughout our offices in a variety of roles. Interns at Jackson EMC can serve in our engineering, information technology, accounting, communication, residential marketing and fleet management departments, and our local offices. We value giving our student interns – whether they're in high school or college – real-world experience while on the job. Our goal is to help students learn the skills they'll need in their future careers and help give them a sense of direction to be successful in those careers.

For one of our interns, Alyssa Meeks, her role at Jackson EMC is giving her reassurance about her choice to be a public accountant. She's double majoring in accounting and Spanish at the University of Georgia. Alyssa has been helping our accounting team with its budgeting process for next year.

One of our recent student interns, Zac Saine, graduated from Jackson County Comprehensive High School in May after completing a year-long internship. He's now studying at Emmanuel College and plans to work as an attorney. Before graduating high school, Zac shared the lessons he

learned about contributing to teamwork. Zac and Alyssa are only two of the many impressive young adults we've had the opportunity to watch work, learn and grow during their time at Jackson EMC.

Our cooperative has many opportunities to serve young people in our community. I've seen the excitement from elementary school students when they talk about our linemen visiting their school. As you'll read in this issue of *JEMCO News*, many middle school students will benefit from innovative projects in their classrooms thanks to their teachers earning Bright Ideas grants. At the high school level, we select four students each year to serve as delegates for Jackson EMC on the Washington Youth Tour, a weeklong leadership opportunity in Washington, D.C.

As your cooperative, we care about supporting our community, including younger members of our community. We know the importance of providing students with opportunities to grow and develop. We've also long embraced our role in guiding young people along their journey.

**Have a story to share about Jackson EMC supporting students? Email me at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**



**Chip Jakins,  
President/CEO**



TO VIEW THE LIST OF PARTICIPATING CONTRACTORS, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/CONTRACTORS](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/CONTRACTORS).

## CONTRACTOR NETWORK AVAILABLE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT IMPROVEMENTS

**Looking for a contractor for energy efficiency upgrades or repairs?**

Jackson EMC's contractor network connects members with qualified contractors to make weatherization, insulation and HVAC improvements.

To be part of the cooperative's contractor network, contractors get specialized training from Jackson EMC.

Members interested in low-interest financing from Jackson EMC for energy efficiency improvements are required to use a participating contractor. Members who want to use a rebate from Jackson EMC for energy efficiency improvements recommended by a home energy evaluation are also required to use a participating contractor.

To learn more about the networks, including qualifications, contact a Jackson EMC Residential Energy Advisor by calling 1-800-462-3691.

# JACKSON EMC RETURNS \$12 MILLION TO MEMBERS

## HOW DO MARGIN REFUNDS WORK?

Since 1939, Jackson EMC has returned \$147 million in margin refunds to members.

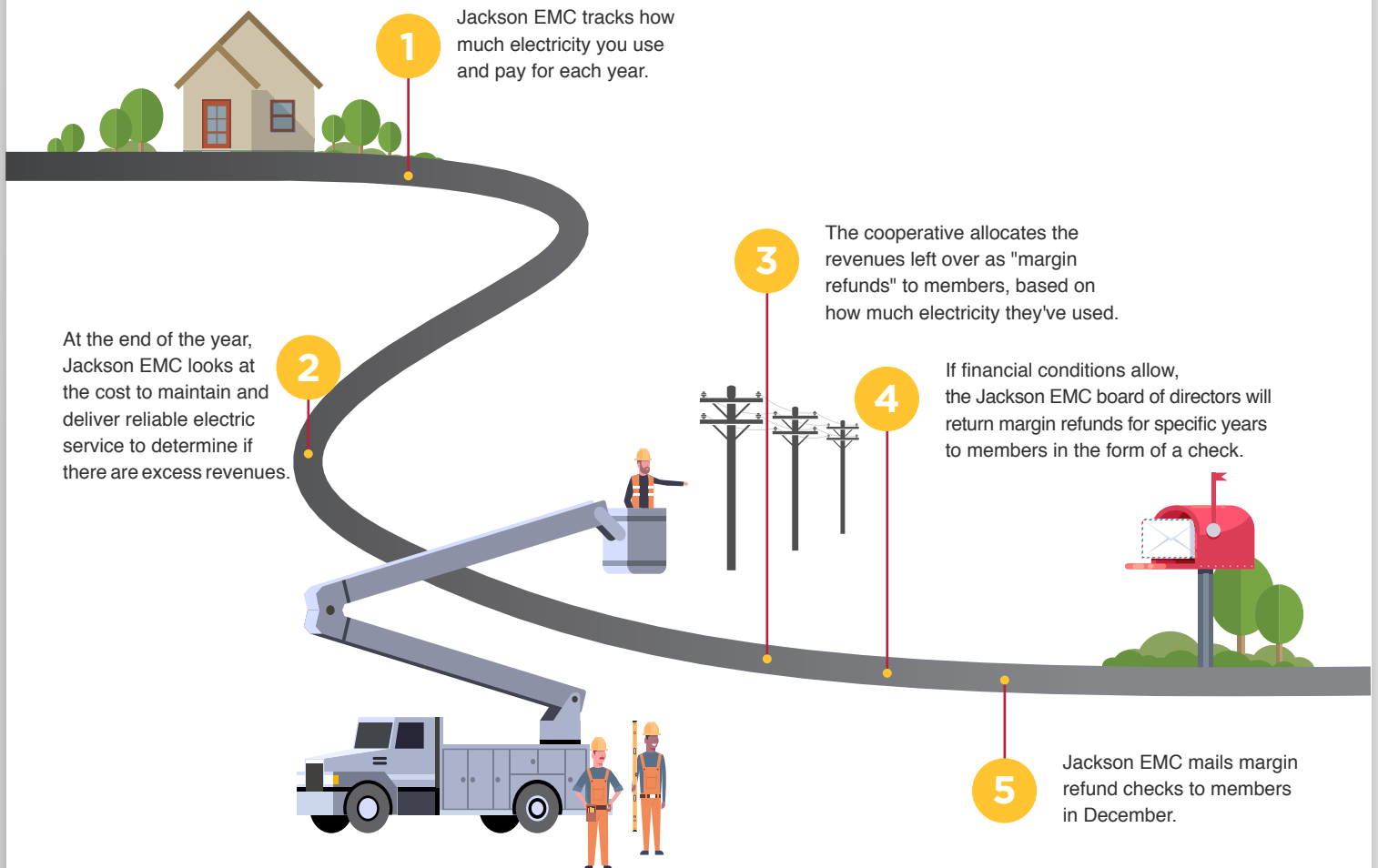
As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, all revenues Jackson EMC receives through monthly bill payments – beyond the costs of providing electric service – remain the property of members and are returned annually in the form of margin refunds.

Excess revenues are used by the cooperative to improve its distribution system, including poles, transformers, substations

and other equipment. Based on the financial condition of the cooperative, the board of directors decides each year how much of the excess revenues – called margin refunds – are returned to members. Excess revenues are refunded for a combination of years – so both longtime and newer members, as well as former members, benefit from belonging to an electric cooperative.

**This December, current and former Jackson EMC members who received electric service during 1991, 1992 and/or 2018 will receive their share of \$12 million in margin refunds. Checks will be mailed this month.**

### AT A GLANCE: MARGIN REFUNDS





# Surprise!

## EDUCATORS AWARDED BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS FROM JACKSON EMC

Jackson EMC awarded \$61,720 to 40 middle school classrooms in 25 schools with grant money from the Bright Ideas program. Winning entries represent a variety of disciplines that interest students, including biology, information technology, history, language arts, math, science and social studies.

The Bright Ideas grant program, in its fifth year at Jackson EMC, funds innovative classroom projects developed by state-certified public middle school educators 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.

Science and social studies teachers will use their Bright Ideas grant funds to research, design and build models of energy efficient and environmentally-friendly communities. Computer science educators will use virtual reality technology to help students visualize complex concepts in science, social studies, health, computer programming and art. Another educator will use their Bright Ideas grant for an invention studio for students to create products and prototypes in order to develop skills in entrepreneurship.

Funded 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. A panel of independent judges with expertise in education in north Georgia reviews the applications.

*Applications for the 2020 Bright Ideas grants will be open **June 1—Sept. 8, 2020.***

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM, GO TO [JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS).



Twin Rivers Middle School



Jefferson Middle School



West Jackson Middle School



Gainesville Middle School



Radloff Middle School

A TOTAL OF  
**\$61,720**  
 GRANTED THROUGH  
 THE BRIGHT  
 IDEAS GRANT  
 PROGRAM

SCHOOL NAME	AWARD	EDUCATOR	PROJECT
Arts and Innovation Magnet	\$1,995.00	Ashley Bailey	Innovation Station
Arts and Innovation Magnet	\$1,735.00	McKendree Ramsell	Clay Stop Motion
Arts and Innovation Magnet	\$836.00	Ysheena Lyles	Jammin' on the 1
Bear Creek MS	\$1,145.00	Donna Morris	Seeing Our World
Bear Creek MS	\$1,600.00	Tonia Harbin	Success in STEM
Berkmar MS	\$1,075.00	Linzi Bullard	Escape the Math
Burney-Harris Lyons MS	\$999.00	Julie Petway	Science Tower Garden
Cherokee Bluff MS	\$1,860.00	Jacqueline Greene	Snoezelen Room
Chestatee MS	\$1,900.00	Glen Lawson	Sensing Motion
Chestatee MS	\$2,000.00	Dawn Hudgins	Digging Up Our Roots
Coleman MS	\$532.00	Jennifer Dunn	Middle Invention Studio
Commerce MS	\$895.00	Adam Shirley	Stop the Sun from Seeing You
Dacula MS	\$1,999.00	Tracie Banner	Virtual Reality Explorations
East Jackson MS	\$1,840.00	Terri Tyner	Community Around Us
East Jackson MS	\$1,815.00	Bucky Sorrow	Slope Box Derby
Gainesville MS	\$1,034.00	Dory Moore	Ukuleles for the Classroom
Hull MS	\$1,840.00	David Schoenrock	Hydroponics: Transformation
Hull MS	\$1,640.00	Kari Salomon	Eco-Safe Communities
Hull MS	\$1,170.00	Rick Young	Exploring the Night Sky
Hull MS	\$1,000.00	Aimee Burgamy	DrawBots: Giving STEM an A for ART
Jefferson MS	\$1,675.00	Jennifer McAuley	Real World Science
Jordan MS	\$1,189.00	Sidney Hurst	STOP! Your Carbon Footprint
Lumpkin County MS	\$1,850.00	Tori Jones	Coding to New Heights
Madison County MS	\$2,000.00	Melody Christian	Drone Technology
McConnell MS	\$1,195.00	Kristin Fuqua	Our Microscopic World
Northbrook MS	\$1,995.00	Arpan Boshnia	Analyzing the Aerodynamics of CO2
Osborne MS	\$1,515.00	Heather Zook	VeRy Engaging Lessons
Radloff MS	\$2,000.00	Haley Nagle	Breakout EDU
Radloff MS	\$1,990.00	Michelle Morgan	Preparing English Language Learners
Russell MS	\$1,160.00	Darby Bozeman	Storytelling Through Podcasting
Twin Rivers MS	\$1,560.00	Anna Herdliska	Shaking up Earth Science
Twin Rivers MS	\$1,590.00	Jason Hurd	Crikitt Putt Robo Mini Golf Challenge
W.R. Coile MS	\$710.00	Samantha Barnum	Go GREEN for the News
West Jackson MS	\$1,300.00	Caralena Luthi	3D Printer Car
West Jackson MS	\$1,675.00	Laura Miller	We Are From Team 601
West Jackson MS	\$1,865.00	Melinda Wallace	History through Graphic Memoirs
West Jackson MS	\$1,675.00	Angie Konarski	Junior Journalism
West Jackson MS	\$1,897.00	Margaret Barber	Robot Olympics
West Jackson MS	\$1,995.00	Brad Hillman	Golf Simulator
Westside MS	\$1,974.00	Jennifer Deckard	Gamifying Physical Science

## MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

### Bayou Shrimp, Beans and Rice



#### INGREDIENTS:

- 12 oz. flavored chicken sausage links
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 pkg (15-oz) frozen vegetable gumbo blend
- 1 can (14.5-oz) can diced tomatoes with Italian herbs, undrained
- 2 cups of water
- 1 pkg (8-oz) red beans and rice mix
- 1 pkg (10-oz) frozen Cajun-marinated shrimp

#### DIRECTIONS:

Cut sausage into ¼ inch-thick slices. Pre-heat large, nonstick stockpot on medium heat for 1-2 minutes. Place oil in stockpot, then add sausage. Cook 2-3 minutes or until hot and sizzling. Stir in remaining ingredients (except shrimp) and cover; bring to a simmer, cook 20 minutes. Stir shrimp into rice and cover; simmer 6-8 more minutes or until shrimp are pink and opaque. Serve.

“This one pot meal is quick and easy to prepare. It is so good that you actually think you are in the Louisiana Bayou.”

— PAM CARMICAL, FLOWERY BRANCH



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).

## OPERATION ROUND UP\*: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

### \$95,500 IN GRANTS

to organizations during its October meeting.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$15,000** | **Habitat for Humanity, Hall County**, to purchase materials such as appliances, cabinets, decks, insulation, flooring, paint and an HVAC unit for its 65th house, being built for a family of three.

**\$15,000** | **Habitat for Humanity, Madison County**, to purchase materials such as drywall, insulation, plumbing, interior construction and an HVAC unit that have not been donated for a house being built for its 10th partner family.

**\$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.

**\$14,750** | **Center Point Georgia**, in Gainesville, for its Smart Girls program, which focuses on goal planning, social skills education, and decision-making as well as developing personal responsibility and safety for middle and high school students in Gainesville and Hall County schools.

**\$10,000** | **Childkind**, a nonprofit organization supporting families that care for medically fragile children, to help provide in-home care instructions through its Home Based Services program, preparing parents in Banks, Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties to adequately and successfully care for their child or foster child at home.

**\$10,000** | **CHRIS 180, (Creativity, Honor, Respect, Integrity and Safety)** Gwinnett Counseling Center, which serves Banks, Gwinnett and Hall counties with a mission to heal children, strengthen families and build community, to support mental health services

and trauma counseling for uninsured and underinsured clients in an effort to end the intergenerational cycles of poverty and abuse.

**\$5,000** | **Blue Heart Initiative**, a nonprofit counseling program serving Banks, Barrow and Jackson counties, to help provide no-cost professional counseling services for military veterans and first responders and their immediate family members.

**\$4,000** | **Lumpkin County Family Connection**, to purchase food for its Backpack Buddy program, which provides six meals, snacks and drinks each week to children identified by Family Advocacy as food insecure.

**\$2,500** | **Homer United Methodist Church Food Pantry**, in Banks County, for its "Serving Our Neighbors" food pantry program serving needy families in Banks, Franklin, Jackson and Hall counties.

#### INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$4,250** | to an elderly resident for roof repairs.



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

Foster parent Alecia King credits Bethany Christian Services with expanding her family in Hoschton. With assistance from the foster care and adoption service, King has fostered several children and adopted two.

"Bethany has always been there to help," says King. "Bethany does events for foster families, and even after you've become a foster, they provide you with training."

As a Jackson County Schools bus driver for students with special needs for 18 years, King became aware of the area's need for loving, stable families to serve children in difficult situations. Over the years, she has fostered numerous children, including those with special needs and, in February, she adopted 7-year-old Jasmine, a special needs student who rode her bus.

"My love for these kids is my inspiration to foster and adopt," says King.

While her love for kids provided the inspiration, Bethany provided the ways and means.

Headquartered in Atlanta with a regional office in Bogart, Bethany's services include adoption, foster care, pregnancy counseling and post adoption support to families who have adopted children. The organization's recent \$5,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation is being used to recruit and train new foster and foster-to-adopt families in Northeast Georgia.

"Our goal is to develop 40 additional approved foster families, so that all children coming into foster care in this area will be placed and cared



Alecia King holds her newly-adopted daughter, Jasmine, during a home visit from Bethany Christian Services Regional Manager Bindi Avrett.

for within their home community," says Director of Donor Engagement Andi Swan, noting that the additional foster families will make it possible to host 200 to 225 more foster children at any given time.

Bindi Avrett is regional manager at Bethany's office in Bogart, which works with the Division of Family and Children Services to serve about 80 foster children in the Athens area.

King, Swan and Avrett appreciate assistance from the Jackson EMC Foundation which, in the long run, makes it easier for families to foster.

"All the grant money goes toward costs incurred with recruitment and training, so we don't have to charge a fee to parents who are already opening their homes to children," says Swan. "This enables us to say, 'Hey, we just need your availability and your love.'"



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[BETHANY.ORG/ATLANTA](http://BETHANY.ORG/ATLANTA).

## STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Jackson EMC is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the following: the provisions of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Act of 1991, as amended; Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991, as amended; Section 42 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended; 41 CFR Part 60-300, and other protected veterans; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Labor, OFCCP, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability or Vietnam or disabled veteran status shall be excluded from participation in, admission, or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. **This contractor and subcontractor shall abide by the requirements of CFR 60-300.5(a) and 60-741.5(a). These regulations prohibit discrimination against qualified individuals on the basis of their status as protected veterans or individuals with disabilities, and prohibit discrimination against all individuals based on their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Moreover, these regulations require that covered prime contractors and subcontractors take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran status, or disability.**

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Keith Johnson, Vice President, Human Resources and Employee Development. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

**YOUR POWER.  
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR  
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

**JACKSON EMC OFFICES**  
1000 Dawsonville Highway  
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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

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# STAY SAFE

## FROM IMPOSTER SCAMS

Scammers are known to target customers of utility companies, including Jackson EMC, by pretending to be a representative of the company. Oftentimes, these imposters threaten to disconnect services if they don't receive a payment immediately.

**YOU CAN AVOID BEING THE VICTIM OF A UTILITY SCAM  
BY DOING THE FOLLOWING:**



### PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Keep your Social Security number, date of birth, credit and bank account numbers private from anyone initiating contact with you - whether by phone, email or in person.



### TAKE YOUR TIME

If someone calls, appears or emails you telling you to pay a power bill immediately to avoid a service disconnection, tell them you want to verify that information. Then, call Jackson EMC at 1-800-462-3691 to speak to a representative about your account.



### ALWAYS ASK QUESTIONS

Ask the person calling or visiting you to provide your account number, last payment amount or date of payment. If they are a legitimate representative of the company, they should have that information handy. If not, hang up the phone or close the door.



### PAY JACKSON EMC DIRECTLY

Be suspicious if a caller tells you to pay your bill with a specific payment option, like a prepaid debit card. Always pay your bills directly to Jackson EMC - whether online, by phone, via the MyJacksonEMC mobile app, automatic bank draft, mail or in person at a local office.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION AT JACKSONEMC.COM/SAFETY-AND-SECURITY.](#)

