

JEMCOnews

SURPRISE! LOCAL EDUCATORS AWARDED BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS FROM JACKSON EMC



DECEMBER 2021 | IN THIS ISSUE

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SOMETHING SPECIAL

As a member of Jackson EMC, you're an owner. That's right. Like other cooperatives, we operate under a different business model, which means you have ownership of your co-op.

Most people are familiar with a traditional business model that benefits investors. When the business makes a profit, the shareholders benefit. With a cooperative, like Jackson EMC, the members benefit with a check in the mail at the end of the year. Talk about a great gift for the holidays!

How does it work?

When you make a payment to Jackson EMC, a portion of the money goes toward strengthening the operation of your co-op. Typically, it's used for expenses, like

buying new bucket trucks and equipment at substations. When all of our expenses are accounted for, any remaining funds – we call them margin refunds – are given back to members, based on how much electricity you used during specific years.

It's always a pleasure to return money to the families, businesses, schools and others that are part of our cooperative. I love hearing how members use their margin refunds – from a special date night with their spouse to local businesses buying the tools or equipment they need to support their customers.

Nationally, electric cooperatives returned \$1.3 billion to their members in 2019. Jackson EMC has refunded \$174 million to members since we were founded in 1938. That's an incredible accomplishment that speaks to the financial strength of your co-op! We're just 17 years away from our

century mark of serving our community. To get there, we'll continue to do what it takes to exceed your expectations.

Being a member of a cooperative means you're part of something special. Returning money to members is just one way that membership sets us apart. We're honored to serve you and look forward to the new year!

Have a story to share on how you used your margin refund check? Email me at chip@jacksonemc.com.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

STUDENTS: APPLY NOW FOR \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Jackson EMC is accepting applications for the annual Walter Harrison Scholarship – an opportunity for students pursuing a post-secondary education at Georgia colleges and technical schools to receive a \$1,000 academic scholarship. Applications are due by February 1, 2022.

Applicants must be accepted, or enrolled currently, as a full- or part-time student, at any accredited two- or four- year university, college or vocational-technical institution in Georgia. Students must live in a primary residence served by Jackson EMC.

The scholarship is merit-based, and students are evaluated on financial need, grade point average, academic standing, scholastic honors and community involvement. Students must complete an application and submit an autobiographical sketch with educational goals.

The Walter Harrison Scholarship is named in honor of a leader in the state and national electric cooperative movements. Fourteen students across Georgia will be awarded scholarships, which are sponsored by Georgia's 41 electric cooperatives.

VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/WALTERHARRISONSCSCHOLARSHIP](https://www.jacksonemc.com/walterharrisonscholarship) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY.



Be Energy Efficient in The Kitchen

Perhaps like no other time during the year, the kitchen becomes a popular spot for family gatherings during the holiday season. Whether you're planning a meal for guests or a dinner to keep cozy on winter nights, consider these tips to save energy and money.



Use a slow cooker or toaster oven.

Give your stove a break and put small appliances to work. You'll save energy using smaller appliances for cooking meals.



Use the right size pan.

Placing a 6-inch pan on an 8-inch burner wastes more than 40% of the heat produced. Cover pans so your food cooks faster while your kitchen stays cooler.



Microwaves are good for more than popcorn.

Use this energy saver to steam veggies, heat soups, cook casseroles and reheat leftovers.



Shift your fridge.

If your refrigerator is pushed against the wall, pull it forward one inch to reduce energy use.



FOR MORE ENERGY-SAVING TIPS, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE](https://www.jacksonemc.com/waystosave).

FIND RECIPES FROM JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

Need some holiday meal ideas? Browse recipes submitted by Jackson EMC members at [jacksonemc.com/recipes](https://www.jacksonemc.com/recipes). There, you'll find *JEMCO News* recipes for desserts, breads, appetizers and main dishes.





Surprise!

LOCAL EDUCATORS AWARDED BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS FROM JACKSON EMC

Jackson EMC recently surprised 39 educators with big checks to fund their innovative class projects. Overall, the cooperative awarded \$61,161 in Bright Ideas grants to educators in 22 middle schools for projects representing a variety of subjects.

“Each year, we hear fantastic stories of Bright Ideas grants unleashing students’ imaginations across disciplines. We’re excited to see what happens in classrooms this school year,” said Karen Ewing, community relations representative for Jackson EMC.

The 2021 Bright Ideas grants represent a variety of subjects, including engineering, music, biology, computer science, math, history, English language arts and more.

The Bright Ideas grant program awards up to \$2,000 to sixth through eighth grade teachers in Jackson EMC’s service area for innovative class projects that would go unfunded otherwise.

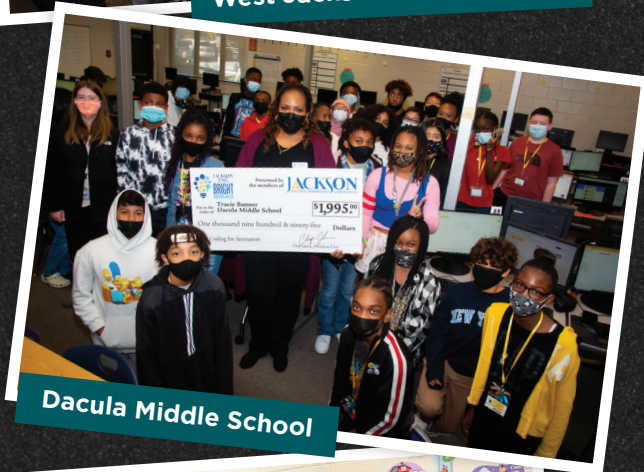
Funded projects must involve the students directly, provide a creative learning experience with ongoing benefits through innovative teaching methods, create opportunities for teamwork and support the continuous improvement of education in Georgia. A panel of independent judges with expertise in education reviews the applications.

Since 2015, Jackson EMC has awarded \$404,655 in Bright Ideas grants to local educators.

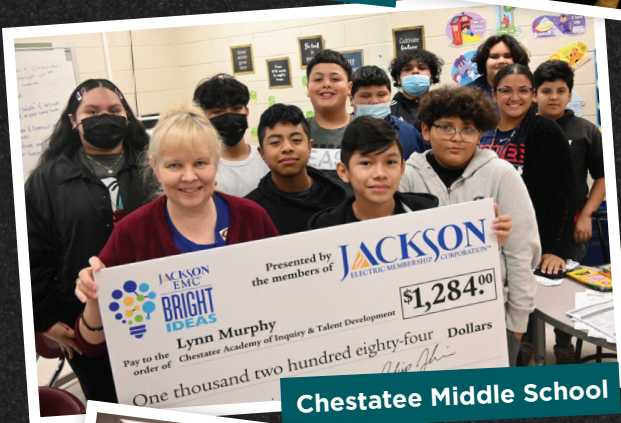
Applications for the 2022 Bright Ideas grants will open during the summer.



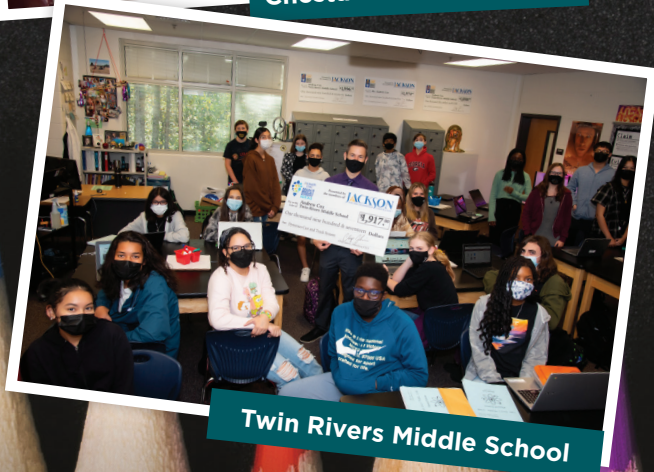
West Jackson Middle School



Dacula Middle School



Chestatee Middle School



Twin Rivers Middle School

A TOTAL OF

\$61,161AWARDED THROUGH
THE BRIGHT
IDEAS GRANT
PROGRAM

SCHOOL NAME	AWARD	EDUCATOR	PROJECT
Barrow Arts & Innovation Magnet Program	\$1,796	Ashley Bailey	STEM + Arts Engagement
Barrow Arts & Innovation Magnet Program	\$1,985	Jennifer Stockwell	Lights, Camera, Communication
Barrow Arts & Innovation Magnet Program	\$1,992	Kristin Fuqua	Robotic Solutions for Future Learners
Barrow Arts and Sciences Academy 8th grade	\$1,224	Jennifer Deckard	Physical Science Gamified
Barrow Arts and Sciences Academy 8th grade	\$1,996	Paul Thornton	Mobile Recording Studio
Bear Creek Middle School	\$1,719	Toni Sessions	Hopping Into Dissection
Bear Creek Middle School	\$1,908	Tonia Harbin	Weather Station
Berkmar Middle School	\$1,468	Monica Shaffer	Bio Science Learning Garden
Burney-Harris-Lyons Middle School	\$1,925	Tymisha Creightney	News casting for the Future
Cherokee Bluff Middle School	\$1,250	Michelle Petersen	Starting from the Ground Garden System
Chestatee Academy of Inquiry & Talent Development	\$510	Lynn Murphy	Theme Park Design
Chestatee Academy of Inquiry & Talent Development	\$1,542	Leanne Alexander	Horticulture for Sustainable Resources
Coleman Middle School	\$1,963	Kelli Sinclair	Aquaponics System
Commerce Middle School	\$2,000	Lydia Peterman	No Red Ink Writing
Dacula Middle School	\$1,346	Susan Rumble	Mystery Minerals
Dacula Middle School	\$1,995	Tracie Banner	Coding for Animation
East Jackson Middle School	\$1,600	Michael Shawler	Robotics: Building for the Future
Gainesville Middle School	\$1,998	Jane Reed	Function Blocks for Graphing
Hull Middle School	\$816	Cindy Mollard	Bravo for Braille
Hull Middle School	\$1,978	Kanisha Sherman	Adobe Spark for Business
Jefferson Middle School	\$2,000	Sheila House	Lego Boost Creative Tool Box
Jones Middle School	\$512	Ashley Saye	iDrum for Special Needs Students
Jones Middle School	\$998	Rick Milleman	Robot Design for Artificial Intelligence
Jordan Middle School	\$1,600	Stacey Edison-Bryson	Food for All Tower Garden
Lumpkin County Middle School	\$826	Mariam Brunner	Hands-on with Raspberry Pi
Lumpkin County Middle School	\$1,284	Tori Jones	Biomedical Designs for Prosthetics
Northbrook Middle School	\$2,000	Zachary Davison	Eco Warriors
Radloff Middle School	\$750	Tamika Sirmons	Literature to Life Stage Play
Radloff Middle School	\$1,335	Carla Chelko	Lego Robotics: Transportation for a Sustainable Future
Radloff Middle School	\$1,620	Haley Gordon	Engineering Skills for Sustainable Development
Radloff Middle School	\$2,000	Celia Ayenesazan	Multiliteracies Through Graphics
Radloff Middle School	\$2,000	Michelle Morgan	Picture Perfect for NASA Science
Sweetwater Middle School	\$1,325	Kobie Flocker	Georgia Studies
Twin Rivers Middle School	\$1,917	Andrew Cox	Dynamics Cart and Track System
Twin Rivers Middle School	\$1,955	Anna Herdliska	Spectroscopy: Quantifying Color of Light in Biological Specimens
West Jackson Middle School	\$1,097	Meg Barber	Adaptive Printing for Special Ed Students
West Jackson Middle School	\$1,410	Laura Miller	Podcasting through Africa & Asia
West Jackson Middle School	\$1,526	Ka Charand	Who Killed Jumpy? Dissection Project
West Jackson Middle School	\$1,995	Dana Harrell	Music Makes the World Go Round

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

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded

\$80,900 in grants

during its October meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,900 | Medlink Georgia, a nonprofit primary medical care network that provides care to medically underserved people throughout Jackson EMC’s service area, to purchase two retinal screening machines.

\$15,000 | Barrow Ministry Village, a Winder nonprofit that provides food distribution, foster family resources and affordable counseling services to needy families in Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett and Jackson counties, to provide counseling for individuals struggling with PTSD, anxiety and other family issues.

\$15,000 | Ser Familia, Inc., a comprehensive social services program for Latino families in Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties, to provide youth programming for students experiencing significant learning loss and anxiety/depression due to COVID-19.

\$10,000 | Gwinnett Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association, Inc., a Lawrenceville-based nonprofit promoting and supporting fire safety education, to provide carbon monoxide alarms and automatic stovetop-fire suppressor devices designed to prevent unattended cooking fires, for needy Gwinnett County residents.

\$10,000 | Helping Mamas, Inc., to provide essential baby items, not available through public assistance programs, to women and children in need in Gwinnett and Hall counties.

\$10,000 | NOA’s Ark, Inc., for its trauma counseling program, designed to serve adults and children in Gwinnett, Hall and Lumpkin counties recovering from domestic violence.

\$5,000 | Burn Foundation of America, to provide financial assistance with purchasing specialized pressure garments and distraction therapy supplies, which help heal and reduce stress during procedures, for burn patients and their families in counties served by Jackson EMC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING LATEST GRANT AWARDS AND HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION.

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Spinach, Tomato and Cheddar Quiche



FEATURED RECIPES RECEIVE A PRIZE PACKAGE VALUED AT \$200

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 9-inch refrigerated pie crust
- 1 10-oz. package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1/2 cup tomato, diced
- 1/2 cup onion, diced
- 1 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup cream, light or heavy
- 1/2 tsp. hot pepper sauce
- 1/4 tsp. dried oregano
- Salt/pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a pan, sauté butter, garlic, onion, tomato and spinach until tender. Allow to cool. Follow directions on pie crust package to roll into a 9-inch deep dish pie plate. Sprinkle 1/2 cup of cheese on bottom of crust. Top with spinach, onion and tomato mixture. In a medium bowl, mix together the eggs and cream; season with salt, pepper, oregano and hot sauce. Pour egg mixture into pie plate and top with remaining cheese. Bake for 40-45 minutes or until set.

“I have made this recipe many times and it is so easy to mix in a cup of sautéed shrimp or cooked sausage to add more flavor and make it into a one-pan meal.”

JAHMICA WALKER, DACULA

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

Good News at Noon, a Gainesville-based transitional shelter for the homeless, is planning to expand its services by offering a 20-bed transitional housing program for women, thanks to a grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation.

They will use the \$10,000 grant to purchase 10 bunk beds for the temporary women's facility until the permanent shelter is complete in Gainesville.

"There's not really an option for single homeless women in our area," said Ken Gossage, director of Good News at Noon. "The Jackson EMC Foundation grant gives us the opportunity to do this sooner before the new facility is built," Gossage said.

Once completed, the new facility will serve men and women experiencing homelessness in Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties. Good News at Noon also provides a food pantry, clothes closet, shower

facilities, medical screenings, and help getting documents for homeless people seeking a job. The organization serves more than 1,000 people a year and often partners with area churches, businesses, individuals and organizations to support its mission with volunteers and funding.

"We're trying to connect with people and help them," Gossage said.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GOOD NEWS AT NOON, VISIT GOODNEWSATNOON.ORG.



Good News at Noon recently broke ground on a new transitional housing shelter in Gainesville. The organization will use bunk beds it purchased with funds from a Jackson EMC Foundation grant for the new facility.

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 Code of Federal Regulations 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, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, 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, 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. 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

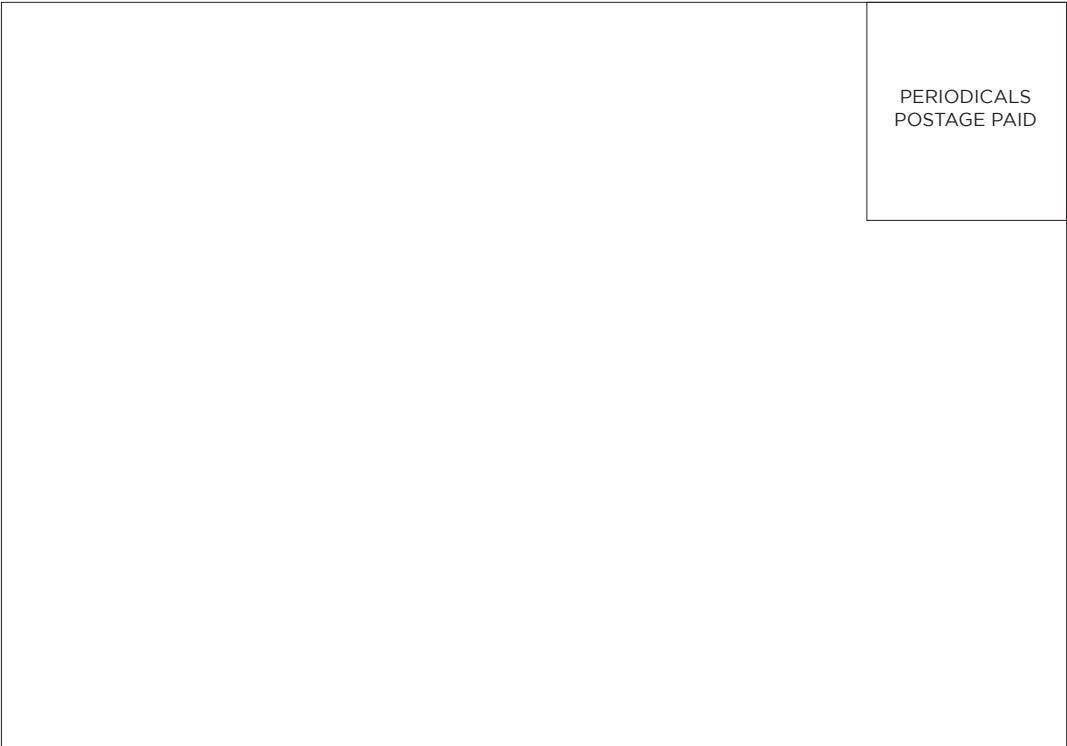
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Jackson EMC Returns **\$14 MILLION** to Members

This month, Jackson EMC is mailing approximately 222,000 checks to current and former members for their share of a total of \$14 million in margin refunds.

“As owners of a not-for-profit cooperative, Jackson EMC members are eligible to receive a portion of the funds left over at the end of the year after all the cooperative’s expenses are paid. That money is called margin refunds, and your board is proud to be able to return it to you,” said Board Chairman Otis P. Jones.

Margins are refunded for a combination of years so former longtime and newer members benefit from belonging to an electric cooperative. This year, margin refunds will go to those who received electric service from Jackson EMC in 1993, 1994 and/or 2020. The sum of each member’s refund check is calculated according to the amount each member paid for electric service during those years.

After this December’s refund, Jackson EMC will have refunded \$174 million in margin refunds to its member-owners since the cooperative was founded in 1938.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
JACKSONEMC.COM/MARGINREFUNDS.