

JACKSON
ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

JEMCO news

THE

POWER

OF YOUR PENNIES

DEMONSTRATING OUR CONCERN
FOR COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 2017

JACKSON EMC NEWS ONLINE
REDUCED WINTER RATES BEGIN NOW
FIRE SAFETY: EVERY SECOND COUNTS



THE COOPERATIVE WAY

I learned early on what the word “cooperate” meant. When you’re raised with siblings, it’s one of the main things your parents teach you—to get along, to play fair and work together, to cooperate.

As an electric cooperative, Jackson EMC’s business model is based on cooperating. That means working together with fellow co-op members who together own the business, and networking with other cooperatives to determine best operating practices to achieve common goals.

Each October, we observe National Cooperative Month, a time to celebrate cooperatives and the principles to which they adhere.

Just last month, my heart was reminded of how unique and important it is to be a cooperative.

When Hurricane Irma began to set its sights on Georgia, we proactively began to seek assistance from other electric cooperatives who could be ready to restore power for our members immediately after the storm. These linemen—many from other states—left their families and homes to make the journey to our community—not knowing how long they’d be here or the difficulty of the job. Overall, 31 cooperatives across Georgia and the nation answered the call to help Jackson EMC members.



Irma, quite frankly, was challenging. It became the second most damaging storm in our cooperative’s 79-year history. Irma devastated our communities by knocking down entire large trees, snapping power poles, and entangling power lines. When it was all said and done, we replaced 186 power poles. In some areas, the destruction was so intense, it took crews days to locate the source of specific outages.

About 55 percent of our 224,500 members lost power at some point during the storm – many of whom didn’t have service for days. But, with the cooperative spirit, we rebuilt our communities.

And we didn’t just see a physical transformation in the rebuilding process from Irma, we also felt the emotional turnaround.

We understand how frustrating it is to be left without power for days. Many of our linemen were working to restore power in hard-hit areas while their own families didn’t have power at home. We get it.

What we didn’t anticipate was the vast outpouring of love and support our members showed for all of us working the storm.

Many of you offered your words of encouragement on our social media accounts. Individuals, civic groups, churches and businesses offered to provide snacks, drinks or meals to crews. Children made thank you cards, which were delivered to our local offices.

All of you, our members, are part of the cooperative spirit. You were facing the challenges of Irma, just like us, and you supported us through a tough storm.

We are humbled by your support and the support of all of the other cooperatives to restore power after Irma. Our deepest gratitude for your cooperation.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO



Your Power. *your community.*

Jackson EMC's most recent online venture puts all the news you're used to reading in this newsletter—plus more! The new Jackson EMC News site (news.jacksonemc.com) was designed to give a fresh look to the current "News" tab on our website and make information easily accessible for members.

At news.jacksonemc.com, you'll find the same great content that comes to your mailbox each month in JEMCO News, including helpful safety tips and energy efficiency advice. The news site also shares more news about Jackson EMC and our community involvement, along with announcements of upcoming events, like our used vehicle auction or Annual Meeting.

In the "Your Co-op" section, we share cooperative stories with vital information about new products and services, and we feature Jackson EMC President/CEO Chip Jakins' popular monthly column, "Perspective."

Jackson EMC Director of Public Relations and Communications April Sorrow serves as media contact and administrator of the news site and looks forward to increasing communication between the cooperative and its members.

"This new site addresses several key areas for employees, our members, and members of the media," said April, who served as project manager for site design. "Using feedback from our recent communications audit, we knew we needed to improve navigation, provide a mobile-responsive site and utilize the powerful social networking channels our members are already using."

According to recent communications research, jacksonemc.com is the first place our members say they turn to for information about the cooperative. Beginning last year, members could choose to receive an e-newsletter version of JEMCO News. But, that version was delivered as an interactive PDF, limiting the content and the overall experience.

"Each article in JEMCO News is now its own piece of content with a landing page, so people can interact and share," she said. "There's a lot more to the news site than what's found in the newsletter. The site features our community involvement and integrates our social network channels, too."

EASY TO USE
With a sleek and simple design, navigation is a breeze.

TIMELY
Stay up to date with the latest news from your cooperative.

RESPONSIVE
Visit us on your desktop, tablet or smartphone.

SOCIAL
Easily share content with friends and followers.

SEARCHABLE
Find money saving tips, community stories, recipes and more.

RELEVANT
Read the stories that matter to you.

Sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter before December 31 for a chance to win one of five iPad minis. For more details on the contest, visit news.jacksonemc.com.

NEED TO KNOW: WINTER RATES IN EFFECT

GOOD NEWS! DECREASED DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY DURING THE WINTER MONTHS ENABLES US TO PASS SAVINGS ALONG TO YOU BY LOWERING OUR RATES. WINTER RATES BEGIN IN OCTOBER AND CONTINUE THROUGH APRIL.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC RATES, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/RATES & VIEW SCHEDULE A-17 RESIDENTIAL RATE.

REGULAR RESIDENTIAL RATE*

Winter Rates

- Service Charge: \$18 per month
- First 650 kWh: 8.96 cents per kWh
- Next 350 kWh: 8.31 cents per kWh
- More than 1,000 kWh: 8.21 cents per kWh

*The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment and other applicable taxes are also a part of your total electric bill.

THE POWER OF YOUR PENNIES

IT'S TRUE: PENNIES ADD UP.

Consider the parents of the bride whose diligence in saving money pays for a beautiful wedding. Or ask the happy couple a few years later when the pennies they've stashed away make the down payment on their new home.

At Jackson EMC, we know the power of pennies. Through our Operation Round Up® program, members contribute their spare change each month by rounding up their power bill to the next dollar. The average contribution per year is only \$6, roughly the cost of a fast-food meal. But with more than 224,500 Jackson EMC accounts, that small amount adds up in a big way.

The Jackson EMC Foundation manages these funds with its volunteer board members meeting monthly to review grant requests and approve those that best serve the most people.

Since the Foundation was formed in 2005, a total of \$12,560,507 in grants has been distributed to non-profit charitable organizations and individuals in need. In the past year alone, grants totaled \$1,095,973.

These funds impact communities in Northeast Georgia in a powerful way, making it possible for Jackson EMC to put into action the Seventh Cooperative Principle: Concern for Communities.

Organizations are allowed to request one grant per year for a maximum gift of \$15,000. The organizations that receive funding are those that reach the most people to provide food, emergency shelter, rent assistance, therapeutic services, family counseling, arts programming, and much, much more.

The list of needs is long, and your Operation Round Up contributions go a long way to help meet these needs.

Here, we share just a few of the programs funded through Jackson EMC Foundation grants in the past year.



MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE FOUNDATION'S 2017 ANNUAL REPORT, AT JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION.



THE HUDGENS CENTER FOR ART & LEARNING

\$10,000 FOR HEALING ARTS

thehudgens.org

The Healing Arts program at Hudgens Center for Art & Learning in Duluth gives those in crisis a joyful break from their worries while creating art. People in medical, physical or emotional duress—along with family members—are invited to take part in projects that allow them to express their hopes and fears through art. For Ginger, a three-time cancer survivor who attends the monthly classes with her mother, Donna, the experience brings joy and respite. “You have to immerse yourself in the art so that you can’t think of anything else,” says Ginger, whose recent mask creation reveals the pain and perseverance she’s experienced.



NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

\$10,000 FOR WEEKEND FOOD BAG MINISTRY

nothingbutthetruth146.org

Nothing But the Truth in Dacula fills the weekend food gap by providing meal items for children who otherwise would go hungry outside of school hours. Executive Director Scarlett Rigsby knows that’s important because missing a meal can alter a person’s disposition from agreeable to agitated, and that doesn’t promote learning in school. Her organization’s Weekend Food Bag Ministry supplies weekend food to approximately 700 Gwinnett County public school students identified by school counselors as food insecure. Jackson EMC Member/Food Bag Ministry Volunteer Christine Stovall is proud that Operation Round Up funds she gives by rounding up her power bill support the same organizations she supports.



LEKOTEK OF GEORGIA/GAINESVILLE

\$7,500 FOR ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND TOYS

lekotekga.org

The power of play comes into action at Lekotek of Georgia’s Gainesville office where children born with autism, cerebral palsy or other disabilities develop new skills by playing with toys adapted to their learning styles. Lekotek uses accessible play and adaptive toys and technology to help children learn and reach their goal of entering regular classrooms. Sheila has seen great improvement in her son, Braxten, in the two years he’s visited Lekotek. A third grader with autism, he didn’t talk during his first visit. “Now he laughs and expresses his feelings,” says his mom. “He opens up socially and is able to interact with people.”



BOOKS FOR KEEPS, INC.

\$5,000 FOR STOP SUMMER SLIDE!

www.booksforkeeps.org

Students evolve from reluctant to eager readers when they have routine access to books. That’s why Books For Keeps distributes books each spring so children can have an ample supply through the summer. Since 2011, the organization has distributed thousands of books to students in 11 Clarke County schools through the Stop Summer Slide! program. The initiative seeks to eliminate the summer slide that some students experience when they don’t have access to books when school’s not in session.

JACKSON EMC FOUNDATION AWARDS \$97,785 IN GRANTS IN JULY

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$97,785 in grants during its July meeting, including \$95,075 to organizations and \$2,710 to an individual.

\$15,000 | American Red Cross of Northeast Georgia to provide disaster relief, including food, shelter, personal needs and clothing, to families in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe counties who have lost their home to a fire or natural disaster.

\$15,000 | Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta/Gwinnett for Power Hour, a comprehensive education program providing club members with daily support, resources and guidance needed to complete school assignments while maintaining educational confidence and ability.

\$15,000 | Boys & Girls Clubs of Winder-Barrow in Winder for its Homework Power Hour, which provides comprehensive homework help and tutoring for elementary-aged members. And, Goals for Graduation, which combats academic underachievement

in middle and high school-aged members by setting and working toward goals for school attendance, homework completion and positive study habits.

\$15,000 | Children's Center for Hope & Healing in Gainesville to provide 36 children who have been sexually abused with therapy to reduce trauma symptoms such as nightmares, anxiety, depression, anger, fatigue and self-hatred, and to provide their families services to decrease the sense of isolation, strengthen the family and assist with parent-child attachment and family functioning.

\$14,800 | Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier for its Triple Play program, which will help 1,300 youth during a 48-week period to increase their knowledge of healthy habits, good nutrition and physical fitness with the primary goal of reducing childhood obesity.

\$12,775 | Athens Nurses Clinic a non-profit health care clinic providing free services to uninsured low-and-no income residents, to help implement the Free From C program, which provides health education, testing and treatment for the Hepatitis C virus.

\$7,500 | 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 at the Lawrenceville location in an effort to end the intergenerational cycles of poverty and abuse.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENT:
\$2,710 to help purchase dental work and dentures for a **low income senior citizen**.

JACKSON EMC FOUNDATION AWARDS \$98,877 IN GRANTS IN AUGUST

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$98,877 in grants during its August meeting, including \$92,700 to organizations and \$6,177 to individuals.

\$15,000 | Center Point Georgia to offer the Smart Girls program, which builds character skills that help girls make healthy choices, to students in Gainesville and Hall County schools.

\$15,000 | Good News Clinics, a non-profit organization that provides free medical and dental care to the underserved and uninsured residents of Gainesville and Hall County, to ensure clients of its Sam Poole Medical Clinic have laboratory tests necessary for physicians to determine their health care needs and provide them with appropriate care.

\$15,000 | Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett, which provides quality, affordable and accessible healthcare and dental services to the poor and uninsured in Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties, to support the Women's Health Advantage Program covering the costs of mammograms for 176 women.

\$15,000 | SISU (formerly Challenged Child & Friends), a Gainesville non-profit organization providing educational, therapeutic, nursing and family support services to children with disabilities in Banks, Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties, to support the Early Intervention Program that provides

special needs children with classroom instruction, individualized therapy and nursing services.

\$10,000 | Tiny Stitches, Inc. in Suwanee, which uses a network of volunteers to make handmade tote bags filled with a 35-piece layette that will keep an infant warm and dry for the first three months of life and are donated to mothers in Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties who have little or nothing for their newborns.

\$7,500 | Bridging the Gap of Georgia which serves veterans across the Jackson EMC service area impacted by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, combat stress and/or homelessness, to help with renovation costs for a donated Oakwood home that will support the Veteran Life Community Program.

\$5,200 | iServe Ministries a Jefferson grassroots organization that helps churches recognize community needs and helps get those needs met, for backpacks and food for its Bags of Love program that sends disadvantaged students in Jackson and Madison counties home each weekend with enough food for family meals and snacks.

\$5,000 | For Her Glory, a Gainesville agency that provides breast cancer patients in Banks, Barrow, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties with items that are not covered by insurance, such as wigs, bras, compression sleeves and gloves.

\$5,000 | Rotary Club of Madison County to purchase materials for 10 handicap ramps, which are constructed by Rotary Club members for local individuals who cannot afford them, increasing their general mobility and improving safety in the event they need to evacuate their home.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENT:
\$3,500 to help a **family**, whose child was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, purchase a new roof for their home.

\$2,677 to help an **elderly man** purchase a lift for his vehicle so he can use his Hoveround scooter.



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

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Required by 39 W.S.C. 3685)

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Kerri Testement, Editor

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Pumpkin Muffins



“ My family, friends and church just love the fall taste of these muffins. It’s easy to adapt the recipe for anyone’s taste. My father-in-law likes to freeze them so he can have them any time. ”

– BRENDA GAY, JEFFERSON

INGREDIENTS:

1 box yellow cake mix
1 egg
1 tbsp. pumpkin pie spice (adjust according to taste)
1/2 tsp. cinnamon (optional)
1 tsp. allspice (optional)
1 can pumpkin
Add as desired: fig pieces, raisins, dried cranberries, walnuts or white chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients well. Spoon into greased muffin tins about 3/4 full. Bake 20-23 minutes; test with toothpick to see if done.

For special treat, top muffins with cream cheese icing.



SEND YOUR BEST THANKSGIVING DINNER RECIPE: RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM OR MAIL TO:
COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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With all family members together, **draw a map of your home**, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.



Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.



Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.



Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.



Close doors behind you as you leave to slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Once you get outside, stay outside. **Never go back** inside a burning building.

THE NFPA OFFERS FREE DOWNLOADS TO INTRODUCE FIRE PREVENTION POINTERS TO STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS. VISIT NEWS.JACKSONEMC.COM