

# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS



## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO FOUR STUDENT LEADERS



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JACKSON EMC FOUNDATION AWARDS \$100,000 IN EMERGENCY FUNDING



# FINDING THE SILVER LINING

You may recall earlier this year how much it rained. It felt like it would never stop raining! Shortly after one of those storms, an employee snapped a photo of one of our trucks. In the photo you can see the sun peeking through the gray sky. This photo reminds me of the importance of looking for the silver lining, something that's important to remember in today's world.

Over the last few months, we've seen a lot of change, including staying home more. I've been able to spend a lot of time with my son. He arrived home from college early after his classes were changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He and I have been spending time together cleaning and reorganizing our shop. We even epoxy-coated the floor! Having a clean, well-organized shop is one of those silver linings that I didn't expect from this crisis. And making sure my son doesn't get too comfortable on the couch – well that's just a bonus.

Speaking of my son, this time last year we were reflecting on different types of memories. My son had recently graduated from high school. I know how much he values the memories of his senior prom and graduation night. Thinking about how special those memories are for him, I imagine how those families and

kids who missed those experiences this year due to the pandemic must feel.

From virtual proms to socially-distanced parades for seniors, the opportunity to make memories was still there – it just looked different.



At Jackson EMC, we normally spend this time of year gearing up to send four outstanding student leaders on the Washington Youth Tour, a weeklong leadership and learning opportunity in Washington, D.C. While this year's tour is canceled, these student leaders won't go unrecognized. Each student will receive a \$4,000 scholarship, and we're glad to be able to still recognize their commitment to our community. You can read more about those students in this issue of *JEMCO News*.

Another silver lining during this time is the hard work of Jackson EMC employees who continue to go above-and-beyond to provide reliable electricity and personalized service for our members. Before the pandemic, we didn't have any employees working remotely. When we decided to move to a remote workforce, our Information Technology team was very quick to source and implement the equipment and technology needed. I want to thank our employees for continuing to be flexible and adaptable as we continue to make changes to operations for the safety of our employees and members.

I'm also both impressed and proud to see the cooperation and innovation throughout our community to support each other. I encourage you to look for ways to find the silver lining both within your families and throughout the community.

**Have an experience to share with me about your silver lining? Send me an email at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**

**Chip Jakins, President/CEO**

## WAYS TO SAVE: SAVE BIG WITH REBATES FROM JACKSON EMC



FOR A LIST OF REBATES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/REBATES](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/REBATES).

**Using energy efficient products can help you lower your electric bill. Did you know that Jackson EMC offers rebates to help you purchase certain energy efficient products?**

When you use energy efficient technologies, the amount of electricity we need to provide decreases, resulting in savings for the cooperative – and our members. That's why we're happy to offer rebates when you purchase certain energy efficient products.

Rebates for electric water heaters, heat pumps (starting at 15 S.E.E.R.) and home energy evaluations are available to Jackson EMC members. Be sure to contact us before making a purchase. Details are available on Jackson EMC's website or by calling your local Jackson EMC office.

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# MEET OUR FLEET

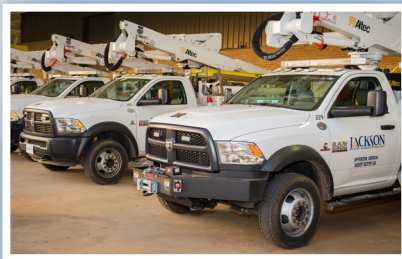
## FAST FACTS ABOUT OUR TRUCKS

Whether you pass them on the highway or see them on your street responding to an outage, Jackson EMC's trucks are quick to catch our members' attention. In 2019, these vehicles traveled more than 3.9 million miles, playing their part in providing reliable power to our members. Check out these fast facts about some of our trucks.



### PICKUP TRUCKS

Pickup trucks are the most common trucks in our fleet, easily recognized by the Jackson EMC plate on the front. We have 111 pickup trucks that are used by a variety of employees at Jackson EMC, such as field service representatives checking meters or line superintendents visiting job sites.



### SERVICE BUCKET TRUCKS

Jackson EMC has 34 service bucket trucks. These smaller bucket trucks are found at job sites where line crews are installing and repairing lighting, meters and smaller power line construction projects that don't require a large bucket truck. Buckets on these trucks can extend up to 45 feet high. This is as tall as three giraffes standing on top of one another!



### LARGE BUCKET TRUCKS

Did you know the buckets on our large bucket trucks can extend up to 72 feet high? This is a reach longer than the length of a humpback whale! We have 24 large bucket trucks that are used on jobs where line crews are installing and repairing overhead power line construction.



### DIGGER DERRICK TRUCKS

We have 34 digger derrick trucks that help do a lot of the heavy lifting on job sites. Digger derrick trucks can be recognized by a large auger on top of the truck. These trucks are used to dig holes, set poles and help lift and set heavy items like pad-mounted transformers - those large, green boxes you might see in your neighborhood.

### SAFETY REMINDER

WE LOVE SAYING "HI" TO OUR MEMBERS, BUT WE ASK THAT YOU STAY AT LEAST 10 FEET AWAY WHILE WE'RE WORKING FOR BOTH YOUR SAFETY AND OUR SAFETY.



# SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO FOUR STUDENT LEADERS

Since 1971, Jackson EMC has selected high school students to participate in the Washington Youth Tour - a weeklong leadership and learning opportunity in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the nation's electric cooperatives through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year, we continued this tradition and selected four students as Jackson EMC's 2020 Washington Youth Tour delegates. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NRECA decided in April to cancel this year's trip.

**Jackson EMC is proud to recognize these students and their dedicated service to our community. Jackson EMC has honored these students by awarding them each a \$4,000 scholarship. Meet these young leaders from our community.**

## Alex Crabb, Junior at Dacula High School

Crabb is the son of Kristin and Nicholas Crabb of Dacula.

### GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Vice president of the Georgia Association of Student Councils, member of the Gwinnett Student Leadership Team and Dacula Student Leadership Team, and volunteer with the school's food pantry. He is also a member of Mu Alpha Theta (math honor society), Health Occupation Sciences of America (HOSA) and National Honor Society.

### FAVORITE CHARACTER-SHAPING EVENT:

An annual competition between local high schools to collect the most pounds of nonperishable food donations per student known as "Food Fight." "I've helped [with this event for] the previous three years," said Crabb. "I like helping with this event because I see it directly impacting Dacula, and I know it's helping my peers."



### ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING:

“ I have had the opportunity to be exposed to many different environments and situations that have contributed heavily to my character and the choices I make. The time I spend volunteering [often] benefits my community directly - and that's important to me. ”

## Jack Thomas, Junior at Flowery Branch High School

Thomas is the son of Alison and Paul Thomas of Buford.

### GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Member of the National Honor Society, Flowery Branch Student Council, Mu Alpha Theta, Spanish Honor Society and the Technology Student Association. He is also an Eagle Scout and senior patrol leader in Boy Scout Troop 597.

### MOST IMPACTFUL PROJECT:

His Eagle Scout project. Thomas planned a patio building project for his church. This involved organizing volunteers, holding multiple workdays, and overcoming various challenges, such as a broken water pipe at the location of the construction site. "This project re-emphasized the importance of perseverance," said Thomas. "The lessons I constantly learn from volunteering encourage me to continue giving back."



### ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING:

“ I have a strong commitment to community volunteering. It's important because it helps you appreciate what your community gives to you. And, when you give back, I find that you always learn more about perseverance and commitment. ”

## Kennedy Turner, Junior at North Gwinnett High School

Turner is the daughter of Donyale and Juan Drago Turner of Suwanee.

### GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Member of the Gwinnett Student Leadership Team, North Gwinnett Student Leadership Team, Beta Club, National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society and the Lunch Bunch Team, a group that meets with special needs students for weekly social interactions. She is the 2020 Girls Gwinnett County dive champion, a member of the Georgia Diving Club and volunteer at Furkids, Rainbow Village, Metro Gymnastics and local nursing homes.

### MOST IMPACTFUL GROUP:

“ I love helping the special needs community [as a member of the Lunch Bunch team]... Not only do we play games together, but we also spend time teaching the students valuable life skills like public speaking and etiquette. I know it'll make a difference for years to come.”



### ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING:

“ I love helping the special needs community. They are genuinely some of my greatest friends and make me happy when we're able to spend time together. ”

## Erick Villanueva, Junior at East Hall High School

Villanueva is the son of Esperanza Olguin of Gainesville.

### GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, East Hall Student Council, and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). He is vice president of service for East Hall HOPE (Hispanic Organization Promoting Education) Club, a graduate of Youth Leadership Hall, translator for elementary school parents in school conferences and was named a Georgia BEST student by the Georgia Department of Labor. He is also a volunteer with the Hall County Humane Society, INK, Good News at Noon and Path Project.

### FAVORITE GROUP:

“I've been a member of HOPE for two years. This group aims to increase the graduation rate among Hispanic students. [It] brings out the best of East Hall High School... HOPE has given me a place to be seen and be heard while helping out my friends and the students who don't have anyone else to help them make decisions about things like applications for college and scholarships.”



### ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING:

“ One of my core values is helping others. When you reach out to help someone, you create this bond that strengthens your community. People need to know someone is there for them – to inspire them and champion them so they can be the best for the generations following behind them. ”

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

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

### \$100,000 IN GRANTS

in emergency funding grants to organizations responding to the impacts of COVID-19 and \$10,000 in grant funds to a virtual academic enrichment program during its April meeting.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$20,000** | **Atlanta Community Food Bank**, in Gwinnett, to purchase food.

**\$20,000** | **North Gwinnett Cooperative** to purchase food and provide assistance with medications for Gwinnett county residents.

**\$10,000** | **American Red Cross** for biomedical services needed for blood collection in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe counties.

**\$10,000** | **Athens Community Council on Aging** to provide 2,000 meals to serve 400 senior citizens in Clarke County.



Organizations like iServe Ministries, based in Jackson County, received emergency funding grants to continue meeting essential needs for those in our community.

**\$10,000** | **Good News Clinics** to provide medications and diabetic testing supplies to uninsured residents in Hall County.

**\$10,000** | **iServe Ministries** to purchase food for needy families in Jackson and Madison counties.

**\$10,000** | **St. Vincent de Paul Society-Winder** to help provide rent, mortgage and food assistance in Barrow County.

**\$10,000** | **United Way of Hall County** to help provide rent, mortgage, food and basic needs to Hall County low-income residents.

**\$10,000** | **University of North Georgia Foundation**, a three-year academic enrichment program held at the University of North Georgia's Gainesville campus to help at-risk middle and high school Hall County students prepare for college and careers by concentrating on the basic areas of reading, writing and mathematics, along with science for third-year students. The program will move to a virtual format for 2020.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING LATEST GRANT AWARDS AND HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION).

## MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

### Pecan Chicken Salad



#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 lb. cooked, shredded chicken breasts
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 cup grapes-halved (or 1 cup dried cranberries)
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

#### DIRECTIONS:

Mix all ingredients together.

Refrigerate for one hour before serving.

Serve with crackers or use for sandwiches.

FEATURED  
RECIPES RECEIVE

\$200

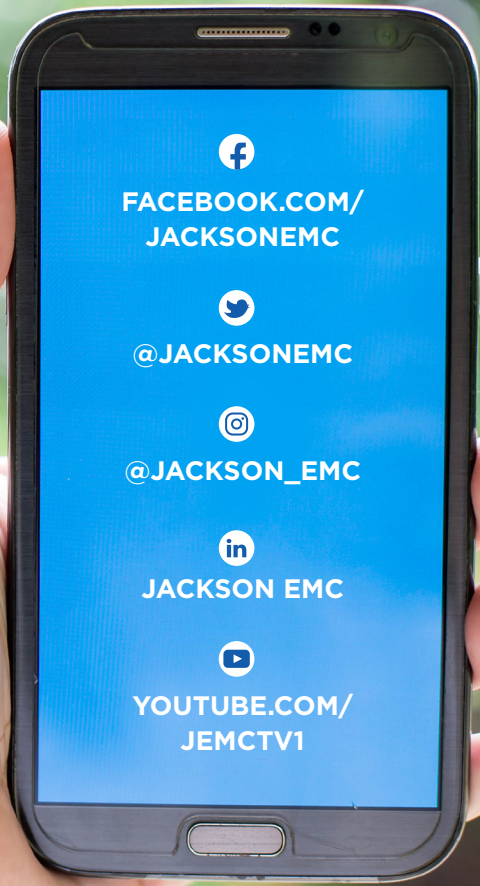
PRIZE  
PACKAGE

“ This is really great as an appetizer. And, it's even better the second day! ”

— GAIL WILLIAMS, BUFORD

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 [WWW.JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES](http://WWW.JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES).

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**COMMUNITY IMPACT: GAINESVILLE-HALL COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY**

**Each month, we feature an organization that recently received a grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation. These grants are made possible by members who participate in Jackson EMC's Operation Round Up® program, which rounds each month's electric bill up to the next whole dollar amount.**

Funds raised through Operation Round Up are used to address charitable needs and provide financial assistance throughout our 10-county service area. One hundred percent of members' contributions go toward improving the lives of others in our community.


The Jackson EMC Foundation recently awarded a \$2,500 grant to the Gainesville-Hall Community Food Pantry, to purchase food from the Atlanta Community Food Bank and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank for distribution to Hall County individuals and families who are low income and in need of food assistance.

The Gainesville-Hall Community Food Pantry was founded in 1973 for the purpose of assisting those in need of food. According to Feeding America, a national hunger relief organization, one in seven people in America struggle with hunger. The food pantry, a volunteer-based organization, is one of the oldest in the area and consistently makes an effort to decrease this statistic.

"In 2019, we gave away more than 58,000 pounds of food. While local food drives provide some goods, most of the food we distribute is purchased from the Atlanta Community Food Bank and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank," Reba Page, director of the Gainesville-Hall Community Food Pantry explained. "Without funding, we would not be able to buy that food to distribute to our clients."

With the help from grants like the one funded by the Jackson EMC Foundation, the food pantry is able to provide food to more than 10,000 people a year.

"Our clients are always so thankful and appreciative – and that's what I want Jackson EMC members to know. We're thankful for the members who donate to Operation Round Up to help build a community that continues to give back to those who need help," Page said.

 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE GAINESVILLE-HALL COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY, INCLUDING WAYS TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT REBA PAGE AT **678-316-1161**



**YOUR POWER.  
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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[jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com)



Contact **811** before you dig.

# DIG SAFELY BY FIRST CONTACTING GEORGIA 811

Whether you're planning a DIY project to install a new mailbox or a fire pit - or tackling a bigger landscaping project - contacting Georgia 811 is your first step.

By contacting Georgia 811 before any outdoor digging project begins, you'll start a process to ensure utility lines are safely marked to prevent damage to underground equipment or potentially cause personal injuries.

- 1** Submit your request to dig at least two days in advance by calling 811 or visit Georgia811.com.
- 2** Wait while Georgia 811, which is a free service, contacts local utilities about your request. Utilities have 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) to mark their underground facilities at your location.
- 3** Each utility will mark their underground equipment with flags. Each flag color represents a type of utility. Red flags, for example, mark where underground power lines are located.
- 4** Once each utility has marked your location, you can dig carefully in a buffer zone that's at least 18 inches on either side of the outer edge of the marked underground utility.



FOR MORE  
INFORMATION, VISIT  
[JACKSONEMC.COM/DIG](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/DIG).