



## Three groups in Hall County to benefit from JEMC Foundation grants

JEFFERSON - The Jackson EMC (JEMC) Foundation Board of Directors recently awarded \$86,738 in grants, including \$82,400 to organizations serving area residents. Grants to three Gainesville-based groups are among them:

\*\$10,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hall County for its Be GREAT: Graduate program, which helps youth who are at risk for dropping out of school to remain engaged in school and learning, and develop the academic, emotional and social skills necessary for success.

\*\$5,000 to Quilts for Kids – Northeast Georgia, a non-profit organization that uses volunteers to sew comforting quilts that are distributed to children at the Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Gateway Domestic Violence Shelter and Family Promise of Hall County, for the purchase of fabric.

\*\$2,500 to Gainesville/Hall Community Food Pantry to purchase food from the Atlanta Community Food Bank and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank.

Other grants and recipients included in this latest round are:

\*\$15,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta's Lawrenceville Unit for its Homework Help/Afterschool Program, which uses staff and volunteers to provide club members with homework help, specialized tutoring and high-yield learning activities.

\*\$15,000 to the YMCA Piedmont Brad Akins Branch for its Summer Day Camp to enable 16 children and 14 teens from economically disadvantaged families to attend an 11-week day camp that provides a safe environment and nurturing quality programs for youths that might otherwise be "latchkey" kids during their schools' summer break.

\*\$14,400 to Meet the Need Ministry, Inc., a Barrow County non-profit organization that clothes, houses, feeds and transports men who find themselves homeless, hungry, addicted to drugs or alcohol, or just need a helping hand, to help cover rental expenses for a group home located in Gwinnett County that houses the men as they work toward recovery and self-sufficiency.

\*\$10,000 to the American Red Cross – East Georgia Chapter to train disaster response volunteers and provide disaster relief, including food, shelter and clothing, to families in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties who have lost their home to a fire or natural disaster.

\*\$6,000 to the Pilot Club of Winder to help implement Project Lifesaver International, a locating system using personalized tracking bracelets that allow adults with dementia or brain injuries and children with disorders such as autism or Down Syndrome who wander away and become lost to be located by the Sheriff's Office.



\$2,500 to Jefferson First Baptist Food Pantry to purchase food from the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia.

\$2,000 to Camp to Belong Georgia, a free summer camp that reunites brothers and sisters living separately in foster care or other out-of-home care to strengthen relationships, increase self-esteem, create healthier attitudes and childhood memories.

The Jackson EMC Foundation has put more than \$8.4 million back into local communities since it was founded in 2005, funding 829 grants to organizations and 285 grants to individuals. Cooperative members participating in Operation Round Up have their monthly electric bills rounded up to the next dollar amount, with the "spare change" going to the Foundation.

Any individual or charitable organization in the ten counties served by Jackson EMC (Clarke, Banks, Barrow, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe) may apply for a Foundation grant by completing an application, available online at <http://www.jacksonemc.com/foundation-guidelines> or at local Jackson EMC offices. Applicants do not need to be a member of Jackson EMC.

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