

THE POWER OF MANY HELPING OTHERS



OPERATION ROUND UP

JACKSON
ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATIONSM

A MESSAGE FROM RANDALL PUGH

President & CEO of Jackson EMC

The generosity of Jackson EMC members continues to overwhelm us. **Since we launched Operation Round Up in 2005, we have consistently received 90 percent participation from our members.** That is one of the highest rates of participation among the 200 EMCs nationwide that offer the program.

Most members who participate contribute about \$6 in a year. Some members, however, have gone so far in their support as returning their margin refund checks to Operation Round Up as a donation. In the case of one industrial customer, this totaled more than \$300.

To make sure that our members' donations are put to the best possible use, we established the Jackson EMC Foundation. Through the Foundation, Operation Round Up donations are channeled back into the communities within the counties we serve to

support worthy programs of charitable organizations and to help individuals cope with hardship. Operation Round Up is truly a neighbor-helping-neighbor force, since all funds are used to benefit people living in our area.

During the reporting period detailed in this Annual Report, the Foundation awarded grants that helped community members in all stages of life, from newborn to elderly; from those just starting out, to those trying to start over. It would not have been possible without the generous donations from our EMC members. Month after month, the contributions our members make through Operation Round Up combine to make positive transformations, enabling them to touch the lives of many.



A MESSAGE FROM GWEN HILL

Jackson EMC Foundation Board Chairman

It has been an honor to serve as chairman of the Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors. After serving for three years, my term as Chairman has now come to its end, though I look forward to continuing to serve on the Foundation board. As I travel to different organizations to present grant checks that Jackson EMC members have made possible and see the good works that the Foundation has supported, I am so proud to be a part of this effort along with you.

Donating a few cents a month may seem like a small thing. Jackson EMC members probably don't even think about it when they pay their electric bills. But those pennies, added to those of their fellow members, amount to a fund so significant that it has the power lift the entire community. Because each Operation Round Up grant is awarded for a specific purpose or use, grants large and small make a big impact in the lives of others.

From June 2007 to May 2008, the Jackson EMC Foundation awarded grants to 95 charitable organizations and 49 individuals. Every time I've attended a Foundation check presentation, the grant

recipients asked me to thank Jackson EMC members for making it possible.

Operation Round Up is very personal. Whether grants are made to individuals or to organizations, the results are the same - people are helped. While grants to individuals certainly put a specific face to the help Operation Round Up provides, the grants we make to organizations support a wide variety of projects and programs that also end up improving the lives of individuals in our community.

When individuals thrive, communities thrive. Together, through Operation Round Up and the Jackson EMC Foundation, we are building stronger communities, one person at a time. As Foundation Chairman, I've had the opportunity to see this happening every month. So that you may see how Operation Round Up is helping our neighbors and our communities, we've collected a few of their stories on the following pages. I hope that after reading them, you feel as proud of this effort as I do.



A MEDICAL HOME FOR THE UNINSURED

Kimberly Adams, Executive Director of Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett, rattled off the center's mission without pausing for a breath: "To demonstrate the love of Christ in word and deed by providing quality, affordable health care services to those in need."

Those in need are the working-poor of Gwinnett and surrounding counties - people who can't afford employer-offered health insurance, but earn too much to qualify for government assistance. **A \$15,000 grant to Good Samaritan's Giving Well medical services program** allowed the Center to hire Danielle Jackson, a full-time physician's assistant, and increase their capacity to serve patients by 36 percent so far in 2008.

Nereida Vargas has been bringing her daughter, Lisseta to Good Samaritan since shortly after Danielle was hired. "At the health clinic, I saw different doctors and had to wait a long time, even if I had an appointment," says Nereida. "Here it is quicker and we always see Danielle. She is sweet and doesn't need a translator."

"This is exactly what I wanted to be doing," said Danielle, who graduated from Emory University in December. "I wanted to serve where there was a need, where people don't have a whole lot of options."

"Patients receive quality care similar to that found in a private-physician office," said Kimberly. "We give our patients continuity of care with a physician who is familiar with their medical and personal history. That's pretty unique for this population."

Although over half of Good Samaritan's clientele have a chronic disease such as diabetes or hypertension, many of the patients Danielle treats have only sought doctors for urgent care in the past.

"Now they come in for well care, instead of just going to a clinic for a problem," Danielle said. "We can catch health issues early and help prevent the need for urgent care."



BUILDING SKILLS TO BETTER LIVES

"I lived here for 10 years and never spoke English," said master musician Oscar Castaneda. It was neither required nor understood in the community where he lived and worked. Now he wants to work in Georgia's movie and entertainment industry, but he needs English language skills. Tina Aguirre wants to open a travel agency. Through the Winder-Barrow Coalition for Adult and Continuing Education and its partner organization Lanier Technical College, Oscar and Tina are learning English. Oscar is also studying civics, and Tina is earning a GED and improving her work force skills.

They are just two of hundreds of people in Barrow County seeking to improve their lives and employment prospects through adult education. **Operation Round Up funds provided a \$15,000 grant to Winder-Barrow Coalition for Adult and Continuing Education** to purchase 16 new computers for use by students in the GED, ESL and Georgia Work Ready Certification programs at the Lanier Tech campus in Winder.

"Computers are an integral part of the programs," said Sherri Perry, executive director of the coalition. The coalition is a partner in the Work Ready program, an initiative from Governor Perdue that tests workers' skills in reading, applied mathematics and locating information. The coalition's old computers did not reliably run the software for the certification program.

"The new computers are much more reliable, and they are open to the public to take the Work Ready skills test," said Work Ready proctor Sally Brown. "Work Ready testing is for everybody in the workforce, from high school to retirement. It's a good self-assessment tool. It helps people see where they need more training."



EDUCATING TOMORROW'S ENERGY PIONEERS

An \$11,000 Operation Round Up grant revitalized the Electric Vehicle Education Program (EVEP), an educational innovation that lets middle- and high school students learn physics, environmental science and teamwork skills while having fun building an electric-powered go-cart. The grant provided funds for a master teaching vehicle to train teachers new to the program, and helped purchase vehicle kits for three schools.

Winder-Barrow High School science teacher Brandon Mitchell introduced EVEP to his 9th grade physical science students with a hands-on opportunity to drive the vehicle around the school track.

"This car is exactly what I needed to motivate and interest students in science," Brandon said. "The EVEP fits perfectly into the physical science curriculum, and students are motivated to learn the content because it has an immediate purpose in their lives."

After the test-drive teaser, the vehicle was disassembled so that the students can rebuild it, learning about machines, electricity, motion and force, energy and other physics principles in the process.

Students involved in Brandon's after-school environmental club are eligible to participate in the EVEP Rally at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College next March. EVEP teams from schools in Georgia and other states compete in three road challenges and three academic forums.

"It's a real-life competition," said EVEP Co-President Teddie Lohmeier. "If you don't do it right, the cart is not going to work."

"The EVEP lets the kids build life skills, like knowing how to use a wrench," Mr. Mitchell said. "This program broadens their horizons and builds leadership skills, even if they're too busy having fun to realize it."



HELPING INDIVIDUALS IN NEED

Last fall, Melissa Koscinski of Crawford got caught in a severe storm. A strong gust of wind drove rain into her ear and shorted out the hearing aid that was custom fitted to accommodate congenital abnormalities of her ear canal.

"I was prepared to be deaf for the rest of my life," Melissa said. **"I didn't have \$3,500 to have a new hearing aid made."**

Fortunately, her hearing specialist told Melissa about Jackson EMC's Operation Round Up grants for individuals in need. **Melissa filled out an application and sent it in. Two months later, her request was approved.**

The months in silence between the loss of her old hearing aid and the custom creation of her new one were difficult for Melissa. She couldn't communicate with her family and felt insecure.

"It felt like my life was out of place," she said. "It felt scary, too, not being able to hear what was going on around me."

Now that she can hear again, Melissa is learning to play the piano so that she can play hymns at church.

"I'm very grateful and thankful to the members of Jackson EMC," Melissa said. "I really appreciate that they would go out of their way to help people like me. I didn't think I would be able to hear again, ever. Without my new hearing aid, I don't know what would happen to me."



LASTING TIES AND SEEDLING LEADERS

What does a week mean in the life of a child? If it's a week at Camp Koinonia, it means a great deal. **Thanks to a \$15,000 grant from Operation Round Up donors**, 80 Banks County underprivileged children referred by Family Connection enjoyed the life-changing experience.

"The whole camp is about building relationships," said Brian James, pastor of Level Grove Baptist Church, who organizes the camp each year with help from numerous North Georgia churches. Campers focus on relationships with each other, with their teen- and college-aged camp counselors, with adults and with God.

Children attending Camp Koinonia encompass the range of life situations. Some are athletes; some have physical limitations. Some have affluent families; some come from foster homes. Some are veteran campers; some have never slept under the stars.

"When you blend them all together you can't tell the difference between them at the end of the week," said camp co-organizer Gail Whitlock.

One group of campers - the "Stones" - does stand apart. These are 7th and 8th grade veteran campers who have elected to enter the leadership training program. For these kids, the role models they see at camp are the role models they want to be.

Stones do not play; they serve and assist the other campers.

"The Stones do the grunt work, but the list of kids who want to be Stones is this long," said Gail, holding her hands apart from shoulder to hip. "They know that they are learning to be leaders in all aspects of their lives."

RESTORING ABILITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

For people who suffer vision or physical impairments, independent living may seem impossible. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) specializes in providing people with disabilities the tools and skills they need to live as independently as possible and regain their quality of life.

"It always starts with a phone call," said Robert McGarry, executive director of DRC. "They'll say, 'You don't understand what it's like.' It really shocks people when they learn that all of us in the office have disabilities. Peer support is one of the greatest services we provide."

DRC serves people in 13 North Georgia counties, including Hall, Banks, Lumpkin, and Franklin. **An Operation Round Up grant for \$14,820** allowed DRC to purchase adaptive software and equipment for the Computer Assistive Technology Training Program (CATT).

Mike Reno, a recent CATT program graduate, used adaptive equipment and the computing skills he learned from DRC trainer David Pilcher help him manage his used book business. With a one-hand keyboard, Mike uses the Internet to research the cost of books, Microsoft Word to make labels, Excel to make a budget and Outlook to e-mail thank-you notes to people who donate books.

"My greatest reward from the computers is that I can work faster," Mike said. Before his training, he knew how to "look up screen-savers and go on-line."

"One of the biggest reasons we set up the CATT (computer assistive technology) room is so that people can come in and try the technology to see if it really is helpful for them," Robert said. "Some people say, 'I can't do that anymore because I have a disability.' We show them that with an adaptive device, they can still do this."



SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Soon, Brandee Lawton will own the fourth home in the Madison County Habitat for Humanity's planned 10-acre neighborhood. When she moves into her new home, she will already know her neighbors. She helped them build their homes.

"I'm required to put in 150 hours of sweat equity," Brandee said. "I've got 80 to 90 hours from working on the two houses next door, and I've already exceeded the family and friends requirement. My family and a lot of people from work have helped with my house."

MCHFH President Patty Coulter said that many families have skills or support members in some area of construction, but even those who can't swing a hammer can contribute.

Brandee earns non-construction hours by taking classes in finance, budgeting, insurance, home maintenance and repair, and working on MCHFH fund-raising events.

"This is not a give-away program," said Development Committee chairperson Louise Wicker. "We want people with the attitude, 'I want to do better' - by paying bills on time and making responsible decisions. Habitat builds on partnerships. We rely on partner families to do the work to make it happen."

When work is completed on her house, Brandee will have a mortgage and be required to make timely payments. Brandee's mortgage payments will help finance the next Habitat home in her neighborhood. Because volunteers provide labor and many materials are donated, the cost of a Habitat home is roughly half of a comparable for-profit house.

A \$15,000 Operation Round Up grant from Jackson EMC donors provided funds to purchase roofing, sheathing, and energy efficient insulated windows and doors for Brandee's home.



YOUNG AT HEART

"It's been a struggle for both of us," said Lori Brooks, speaking of her 81-year-old dad, Lee Cooper. Lee was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease 10 years ago. "Some days are good, some days he's really confused. It was hard to watch him give up his independence."

Fortunately, Lori found Young at Heart, a care and respite program for Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. Program director Joan Falcone has over 20 years of experience working with Alzheimer's patients and their families.

Young at Heart is a free program offered twice weekly at Dahlonaga Baptist Church, with monthly support meetings for caregivers. Joan also organizes community education seminars with Alzheimer's experts and stays up to date on the latest information in Alzheimer patient care and medication by attending Atlanta-area seminars.

A \$6,000 Operation Round Up grant to Young at Heart provided necessary funds for program supplies, refreshments and outings for clients, and transportation to educational seminars for program volunteers.

"They think of this as their social club, but every activity in the program has a purpose," Joan said. "I think that when clients come into the program, they stay in that stage of the disease a little longer because the activities get the blood circulating, the brain working and gives them purpose."

"It makes me feel better to know that my dad is somewhere where he's safe and having a good time," Lori said. "The activities keep him from sitting around and getting stiff and they keep his mind stimulated. Coming here makes him feel young at heart, just like the program says!"

TRANSPORTING VETS TO MEDICAL CARE

Like many of the 22,000 U.S. veterans who live in Northeast Georgia, Bill Daniel needs to make frequent visits to Veteran's Affairs (VA) medical centers. And like many veterans, he is unable to drive. An Operation Round Up grant of \$13,500 helped Disabled American Veterans Chapter 92 purchase a new multi-passenger van to provide transportation for vets like Bill from their front door to the VA clinic in Athens, and to central pick-up locations for transportation to VA medical centers in Decatur and Augusta.

"The service is for veterans who have no other way to get to medical care," said Bud Hartman, DAV Chapter 92 Jr. Vice-Commander. "If a veteran can't drive, even a mile is just too far."

"Our vision is to serve the needs of the veterans," said DAV Chapter 92 Commander Steve Warner. "Their medical procedures and operations are not on a schedule. The van will run when vets need it."

Bill, who lives in Winterville, said that before the van service was offered, it was difficult to find transportation for his frequent medical appointments.

"This is a huge improvement in my life," he said. "I'm not scrambling around trying to arrange a ride anymore."

"Now we have this unique service," Kim Hoge, Chief, Voluntary Service for the VA's Voluntary Transportation Network, said. "As long as we have enough volunteer drivers, we can pick up individuals at their front door and transport them to primary care. When their appointments are finished, we can deliver them right back home. It's treating our nation's heroes with the care they have earned."



JACKSON EMC FOUNDATION, INC.

Jefferson, Georgia

Financial statements as of May 31, 2008 and 2007 and Report of Independent Accountants*

McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Company, LLP

*detailed financial report available at www.jacksonemc.com/Operation-Round-Up.roundup.0.html

Statement of Activities

For the years ended May 31

	2008	2007
Support		
Contributions	\$1,037,056	\$1,013,266
Interest	9,538	8,160
	1,046,594	1,021,426
Program Service Expenses		
Community Assistance	923,025	773,275
Family and Individual Assistance	143,688	90,025
	1,066,713	863,300
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(20,119)	158,126
Net Assets, Beginning	306,340	148,214
Net Assets, Ending	\$ 286,221	\$ 306,340

JACKSON EMC FOUNDATION, INC.

SCHEDULE OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2008

Aids Athens, Inc.	\$ 5,000	Home Development Resources, Inc.	\$ 3,500
Ark of Jackson County, Inc.	12,000	Hope Clinic, Inc.	15,000
Athens Justice Project	5,000	Hope House of Dahlonge, Inc.	10,000
Athens Tutorial Program	5,000	I Am, Inc.	14,075
Barnabas Ministries	13,024	Jackson County Certified Literate Program	15,000
Barrow County Family Connection	9,000	Jackson County Education Committee	7,475
Bigger Vision of Athens, Inc.	3,420	Jackson County Family Connection Council	15,000
Boys and Girls Club of Athens	5,000	L.A.M.P. Ministries	7,500
Boys and Girls Club of Barrow County	5,000	Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry	10,000
Boys and Girls Club of Hall County	6,500	Lumpkin County Family Connection	15,000
Boys and Girls Club of Jackson Co.	15,000	Madison County Health Department	5,000
Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta	5,000	Madison County Habitat for Humanity	15,000
Camp Koinonia	15,000	Madison County Pregnancy Center	10,000
Camp Kudzu, Inc.	5,000	Mentor Program-Madison County	3,000
CASA-Enotah	3,000	Music Time Learning Center, Inc.	6,000
CASA-Piedmont, Inc.	8,145	Northeast Georgia Council, Boy Scouts	4,850
CASA Program (Hall-Dawson)	7,400	Next Stop Foundation	15,000
Christian Outreach Ministry, Inc.	15,000	NOA's Ark, Inc.	10,000
Clarke County Mentor Program	15,000	Norcross Cooperative Ministry	10,000
Community Helping Place	15,000	Nuci Phillips Memorial Foundation	2,500
Creative Enterprises	7,500	Peace Place, Inc.	15,000
Diamond in the Rough Development Program	12,000	Piedmont Rape Crisis Center	9,000
Disability Resource Center, Inc.	14,821	Piedmont Regional Library System	15,000
Disabled American Veterans	13,500	Prevent Child Abuse-Athens, Inc.	5,000
Empowered Youth Programs, Inc.	15,000	Prevent Child Abuse-Gainesville, Inc.	15,000
EV Education Program	11,000	Project ADAM Community Assistance	10,500
Extra Special People, Inc.	15,000	Project Safe, Inc.	13,801
Family Connection Partnership	5,000	Rainbow Children's Home, Inc.	5,000
Family Promise of Gwinnett County, Inc.	15,000	Reins of Life, Inc.	2,500
For Her Glory Fund	7,500	Safe Kids Gainesville-Hall County	1,000
Foster Children's Foundation, Inc.	15,000	Salvation Army of Athens	10,000
Gainesville Action Ministries, Inc.	10,000	Salvation Army of Gainesville	10,000
Gainesville Area Citizen Advocacy	7,800	Salvation Army of Lawrenceville	10,000
Gainesville Care Center	5,000	Sonrise Camp, Inc.	7,350
Georgia Children's Chorus	10,000	Spectrum Autism Support Group, Inc.	15,000
Georgia Options, Inc.	10,000	Success by 6 of United Way of Northeast Georgia	7,200
Girl Scouts of Northeast Georgia	14,880	Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc.	15,000
Good News Clinic	7,500	Tiny Stitches, Inc.	15,000
Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett	15,000	West Jackson Lions Club	1,804
Good Samaritan Ministries	13,600	Winder Barrow Coalition for Adult & Continuing Education	15,000
Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services	15,000	Winder Barrow Community Theatre	5,000
Gwinnett Community Clinic, Inc.	5,000	YMCA of Athens	7,500
Gwinnett Council for the Arts	7,500	YMCA of Metro Atlanta	12,380
Gwinnett Housing Resource Partnership	15,000	YMCA of Winder Barrow	15,000
Gwinnett Sexual Assault Center	10,000	Young at Heart	6,000
Habitat for Humanity of Hall County	15,000		
Healing Place of Athens	10,000		
Hebron Community Health Center	10,000		
			<u>\$ 923,025</u>



The Jackson EMC
Foundation receives its
funding through
Operation Round Up®