

Jackson EMC awards \$87K in grants

LAWRENCEVILLE — Eight organizations serving Gwinnett County have been awarded \$87,500 in grants by the Jackson EMC Foundation, a charity funded by the members of the cooperative through their contributions to Operation Round Up.

The following awards were given:

- Annandale: The nonprofit community in Suwanee serving adults with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injuries was awarded \$15,000 to provide equipment, supplies and funds to implement arts, academics, vocational and recreation programs offered through the Patricia M. Brown Center for Programs.
- GRN Community Service Board: The Gwinnett provider of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services was awarded \$15,000 to provide basic necessities such as cleaning services, personal items and \$4 medications for clients with behavioral or substance abuse problems who have no other resources.
- Gwinnett Children's Shelter: The Lawrenceville shelter was awarded \$15,000 to help support its PACTS program of weekly parenting classes that seeks to decrease family violence by helping parents develop and improve their parenting skills and helping teens better understand parenting issues and family dynamics.
- Salvation Army: The Lawrenceville corps was awarded \$15,000 for its food pantry and the Family Emergency Services program, which prevents homelessness and stabilizes families by providing financial assistance to pay rent, purchase clothing or buy prescription medicine.
- Meet the Need Ministry: The Gwinnett nonprofit that clothes, houses, feeds and transports men who find themselves homeless, hungry, addicted to drugs or alcohol or who just need a helping hand, was awarded \$10,000 to help cover rental expenses for six homes located in Gwinnett and Barrow counties that house the men as they work toward recovery and self-sufficiency.
- Good Samaritan Ministries: The Buford organization was awarded \$7,500 to help fund the residential inmate recovery program, which provides inmates three months of self-study, classes and work therapy, followed by nine months of employment either inside or outside the ministry, to help them become productive members of society by working on drug and alcohol issues, and building discipline and self-esteem.
- American Heart Association: The Northeast Georgia Chapter was awarded \$5,000 to purchase CPR Anytime for Family and Friends kits that contain everything needed to learn basic CPR skills. Kits will be distributed to community organizations in Gwinnett County.

- Four Corners Primary Care Center: The Lawrenceville center, which provides basic primary care to an underserved, uninsured population of Gwinnett County, was awarded \$5,000 to help offer community-based chronic disease education sessions in nursing homes, senior centers and through emergency assistance providers.

Gwinnett CVB announces tourism grants

DULUTH — The Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau recently announced that the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center and the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District have been awarded GCVB tourism grants.

The GCVB grant program, now in its 10th year, allots dollars for tourism product development, with a focus on drawing in overnight visitors to Gwinnett County, as well as marketing Gwinnett as a destination.

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center received \$3,500 to help create its promotional video project. The project is an effort to promote the LEED-certified center as an eco-tourism destination and as an environmentally friendly option for conferences and special events.

The Gwinnett Place CID received \$1,500 to assist with publication of a CID-area merchants and visitors map. The map is now in its second printing.

For more information about the GCVB grant program or to receive a 2011 grant application, e-mail landers@gcvb.org or call 770-814-6044.