

GREAT STORIES

GEORGIA
4-H



AmeriCorps

Christmas Volunteer Opportunity

Amy Ahonen, Jackson County

December 2021



Amy, Jackson County 4-H VISTA member, helped plan and organize the annual senior citizen Christmas party. She advertised for kids to bring in a sweet treat to share with the senior citizens and also aided the students in making cards and gifts for the seniors. About fifty-five of our seniors attended the event and it was a huge success. Twelve 4-H members volunteered at the event. Participants can now include it in their District Project Achievement portfolios, which support youth knowledge, community engagement, and work preparedness related to resume development.

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Communication Support

Jinnifer Caldwell, Gwinnett County

December 2021



To fulfill the AmeriCorps Vista role of building capacity in communities, Jinnifer Caldwell, UGA Extension Gwinnett County 4-H VISTA, reached out to 35 homeschool cooperatives that serve 3500 Gwinnett County families. Gwinnett County is excited to see how this recruitment of collaborators supports the expansion of the Gwinnett County 4-H Program to reach new beneficiaries.

Jinnifer is focused on delivering 4-H educational programs at 4-H Council Meetings that aim to enhance youth engagement via science, technology, and language arts lessons and activities. Jinnifer has created marketing materials for Tech Hike, Books for Africa, and the Game Day activity. Marketing tools were used in the monthly newsletters to promote out-of-school opportunities. Jinnifer also distributed the Friends magazine and DPA flyer to a new collaborator at the Gwinnett Online Campus. She also worked to develop a DPA youth training and created a video teaser for upcoming meetings to showcase the local program to current and new beneficiaries.

Based on her former and current volunteer accomplishments Jinnifer was selected to be on the UGA Extension Gwinnett Marketing Committee by the County Extension Coordinator. To support her preparedness for this role she created a marketing plan and developed a spreadsheet with marketing opportunities. She also completed two AmeriCorps VISTA training, the Community Outreach Module and Connecting Schools to Community Resource Training.

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Houston County 4-H Increases Capacity

Jessica Collins, Gwinnett County

December 2021



The VISTA in Houston County worked on a volunteer interest form to recruit more volunteers for the 4-H program. Jessica, the VISTA member, also talked to parents about potential future volunteer opportunities. The Performing Arts Play was an opportunity to recruit parents. Jessica, onboarded two new volunteers to be shotgun coaches. Jessica plans to increase capacity by recruiting and managing new volunteers in Houston County.

There are two restaurants booked for the "4-H Eat and Grow Night" a fund development initiative created and managed by Jessica. The program will provide continued revenue throughout the year for the 4-H Program. Jessica's second goal is to increase capacity through fundraising to support staff's reach by offsetting costs for programs and the ability to carry out additional programs. The first, "4-H Eat and Grow" restaurant will give 10% to 4-H from the hours of 5-8 pm and the second will give 15% for an all-day event.

Finally, Jessica's third major objective is to increase the reach of new participants to provide educational opportunities to Houston County. Jessica enrolled thirty-four new 4-H students, which included thirty-two youth from an in-school club and two homeschool participants.

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Fund and In-Kind Development

Amy Ahonen, Jackson County

December 2021



Amy, Jackson County 4-H VISTA member, coordinated two fundraisers to support the Jackson County Community. The first fundraiser aimed at gathering in-kind donations for the Sparrow nest. The Sparrow Nest is a Homeless Shelter. Donations included toiletries, socks, and other items to support comfort for the homeless. \$100 of in-kind donations were provided by families. Staff and volunteers were amazed by the number of donations to support the Homeless Shelter.

The second fund development opportunity aimed to offset the cost of camp for participants. Due to price increase for food, transportation, and salary increases statewide 4-H camping prices increased. 4-H strives to keep camp prices low, so more families can send their children to a residential camp. Therefore, Amy implemented a candle fundraiser to offset the cost of camp for participants. As a result of a 2-month fundraiser, the county raised \$982.