

GREAT STORIES

GEORGIA

4-H



AmeriCorps

Gratitude for Service

Toni Hunlen

January 2022



Toni has served as an AmeriCorps VISTA for two years and entered the new year beginning to wrap up his service. Two years' worth of performance as a volunteer was a lot to reflect on, but it was a great journey for Toni. He's gained so much serving around UGA Extension professionals within the office and from around the state. He understand his service contributed to the creation of tools, trainings, and marketing to support a statewide sustainable program. Toni will miss being a part of the development that goes towards Volunteerism within Georgia 4-H, but he's aware of the many opportunities to continue serving outside the role of a VISTA.

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Making an Impact

Jessica Collins

January 2022



The VISTA for Houston County has focused on recruiting more restaurants for the 4-H Eat and Grow night. Jessica has also filled the months of March and April with restaurants for the 4-H Eat and Grow night with 15% of the night's proceeds going back to 4-H. Both of the new restaurant partners have stated that they would like to be community partners with Houston County 4-H. Camps prices have increased; however, Jessica aims to address this increase by offsetting the camp cost for campers. She developed a new fundraiser; fill the bus campaign.

In addition to fundraising, Jessica spoke at different 4-H club meetings with parents about the great benefit of volunteering and the need that Houston 4-H has for volunteers. Jessica has onboarded three new volunteers as a result of her efforts. Due to the VISTA members' success in reorganizing the Houston County 4-H volunteer management and recruitment system she was asked to teach at a multi-county staff meeting. She taught over five 4-H staff members about the new volunteer enrollment application process.

Jessica has started contacting previous school partners to restart 4-H to reach new beneficiaries. She began by contacting the title 1 school in the county. The plan is to onboard additional school partners by the 2022-2023 school year.