

GREAT STORIES

GEORGIA

4-H



AmeriCorps

Aligning Fund Development with Established Plans

Jinnifer Caldwell

Fall 2022



Jinnifer Caldwell a Gwinnett County 4-H AmeriCorps Vista has supported the Gwinnett County 4-H program by designing a fundraising campaign to align with the National 4-H week. Annually, National 4-H runs the Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign during National 4-H Week. This campaign asks customers to provide a donation to 4-H. Jinnifer supported the Gwinnett County 4-H program by coordinating plans to be onsite at local Tractor Supply locations in Buford and Grayson Georgia throughout the week promoting 4-H and raising funds for program impact.

While the tractor Supply is an established fundraiser Jinnifer coordinated efforts to expand the fundraiser to additional donors. Jinnifer connected with a local nonprofit to collect 150 used cookbooks covering all types of food preparation, holidays, and a variety of diets and health concerns. 4-H families and volunteers hosted an onsite cookbook sale at Tractor Supply in addition to the ongoing Clover Campaign. 4-H asked customers to donate to the Gwinnett 4-H Youth Program to receive a cookbook of their choice.

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In-Kind Donations

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Barbara Larson, Gwinnett County 4-H Program Assistant coordinates several 4-H experiences including 4-H Clubs for youth. 4-H Clubs are programs that meet after school and aim to teach youth problem-solving skills and critical thinking and broaden youth members' knowledge on a given topic. The Gwinnett County 4-H offers these programs at no cost to ensure access to all; however, additional materials were needed to support engagement. Jennifer's partnership with a local thrift store led to a donation of clipboards and calculators for the 4-H Forestry Judging team to use at the state competition and practices. Students were previously sharing supplies, but now each youth has their supplies to be successful at no cost.

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Professional Development through Experience

Jessica Collins

Fall 2022



For October, the VISTA helped with the Georgia National Fair in Perry Georgia. The VISTA was able to help the Clover Cafe (a statewide 4-H fundraiser), which sells food to fair customers. Jessica gained additional fund development skills by volunteering at the Clover Cafe and raising funds for Georgia 4-H and Houston County 4-H. The Georgia National Fair is a major community and state event. Jessica celebrated the Fair with local youth members by volunteering at the 4-H Day at the Fair. The VISTA also attended a few in-school meetings held by 4-H staff for professional development. Attending the in-school club meetings taught Jessica the best practices for managing 4-H meetings. Also, in October Jessica hosted the monthly 4-H Eat and Grow Nights raising \$150.00 for the local program.

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The Houston County 4-H VISTA, Jessica Collins, took on new tasks in September. She began work on creating a lesson-in-a-box plan for the 4-H Homeschool Club in partnership with the Houston County 4-H AmeriCorps State Member Jarius. The AmeriCorps members taught Jessica's lesson plan at the September 4-H Homeschool club, which focused on the digestive system, the lungs, the heart, and the skin. The newly designed lesson-in-a-box was fun and messy, and the kids loved the activities. In October, Jessica coordinated the Homeschool club meeting logistics focusing on establishing an educational partnership with a local Veterinary hospital. 13 students participated in the field trip at Critter Fixers Veterinary Hospital. The Critter Fixers staff were an amazing host for the homeschooled students. The lesson-on-a-box and new partnership are two resources that can support Houston County 4-H showcasing another success for the VISTA.