

# GREAT STORIES

GEORGIA

4-H



AmeriCorps

## Hydration Challenge Kamren Yaughn, Summer Associate Summer 2022



Peach County is a small county with just over 28,000 citizens. Unfortunately, most of these people either live at or below the poverty line. Due to this, when any type of donation drive is in place, not many donations are collected. Citizens are struggling to put food on their table, or have just enough to buy for their own families and not others. During the summer, it is even harder for donation drives as students do not receive lunch from schools. Peach County 4-H was struggling to collect any type of goods, despite VISTA efforts. Melissa Dalinsky saw the program struggling and decided to help. Melissa is involved in Head Start programs around the middle Georgia area. She, along with other co-workers, began their food drive at 2 separate Head Start locations to support the efforts of Peach County 4-H. Thanks to Melissa, the cities of Fort Valley and Warner Robins collected 33.9lbs of non-perishable food items. Melissa also was able to collect hygiene items. Hygiene items donated included 15 toothbrushes, 20 bars of soap, 5 makeup wipe packs, 6 floss kits, 18 lotion bottles, 8 toothpaste tubes, 3 body wash bottles, 27 shampoo bottles, and 18 conditioner bottles. The Grace House, located in Fort Valley, graciously accepted all donations to be used in winter supplies bags. The Peach County VISTA was also able to meet with co-workers and establish contact to hold donation drives in the future. These numbers may be small in the eyes of others, but for our small town, the donations meant the world to many families in need.

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## Putting Plans in Place

Jessica Collins

Summer 2022



### Fund Development

The Houston County VISTA worked with the office staff of Houston and Peach County with Winner Workshop. Jessica, a VISTA member, Assisted with the room setup, food pick up and distribution, and clean up. Fifty people attended the 4-H Winner Workshop. During her service time, she started a homeschool club and in July the club enrolled several new members. Jessica is working with the UGA Extension Houston County staff in preparation for the August pollinator's lesson, which will occur at the 4-H Homeschool Club. The VISTA is also working on a PowerPoint for new teacher sponsors to be able to present to the schools. Jessica met with the volunteer for the 4-H Homeschool Club to plan out the next several months. The VISTA also attended the Canva training as UGA Extension moves to use the online tool for marketing efforts statewide.

### Community Support

Jessica met with the Family Connections Coordinator to work on plans for the Back to School Bash that was planned for July. She helped by attending committee meetings, recruiting volunteers for the day's needs, packing the backpacks with school supplies, and then helping to pass out backpacks.

### Fund Development

The 4-H Eat and Grow was at a local restaurant in June and brought in \$50 for Houston County 4-H. The VISTA booked a new restaurant for the ongoing Eat and Grow Nights for August. Additionally, she updated the Houston County 4-H sponsors list in preparation for sending sponsorship letters to raise support for Houston County 4-H.

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## Hydration Challenge

Kamren Vaughn, Summer Associate

Summer 2022



Peach County Cloverleaf 4-Hers attended Cloverleaf summer camp at the Burton 4-H center, located on Tybee Island. A total of 121 youth from Lanier, Macon, Marion, Peach, Schley, Taylor, Thomas, and Wilcox counties spent five days on the beach together learning about marsh ecosystems, beach ecology, reptiles, and so much more! Despite all of the fun educational activities, Peach County wanted to encourage healthy living for all campers. Thanks to the VISTA efforts, Peach County hosted an incentive to campers for drinking water throughout the camp week. Starting on June 14th during lunchtime, the Peach County AmeriCorps VISTA with support from adult leaders managed the ice cooler. Campers had a choice between 4 different water flavorings. Each time a camper chose to fill their water bottle and add flavoring, the camper would receive a sticker. Once the camper received 3 different stickers, they could choose a prize! Prizes included color-changing pencils and wristbands. All 121 youth participated, with over half receiving at least two stickers. At the end of camp, 17 campers earned a prize thus reaching the water drinking goal.