

# GEORGIA NEWS

State Publication for Georgia FCCLA Spring 2022



## MCMS FFA and FCCLA Attend Summer Leadership Camp

Submitted by Cara Hall

Last summer, the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapters of Mossy Creek Middle School (MCMS) had the opportunity to attend the Summer Leadership Camp in Covington, Georgia. The State FFA-FCCLA camp is the definition of making memories, meeting new people, and developing leadership skills. MCMS FFA and FCCLA chapters were so excited to get the chance to attend camp last year and none of the students could have anticipated what was in store at camp. Chapter members bonded with other school's chapters which allowed them the opportunity to come out of their comfort zones. Each chapter created a team name with the assigned cabin and competed in fun activities, sports, and games. Members uncovered new strengths, passions within, and learned the true meaning of leadership and sportsmanship.



## Feeding Folkston's Families

Submitted by Jamie Haynes

Charlton County High School FCCLA held a week long food drive in the winter to collect non-perishable food items for local families in need. The class that collect the most items received breakfast biscuits from McDonald's. Over 300 items were collected in 1 week! Officers used the items on a weekly basis to restock a local food pantry in town that families will visit to get food in times of need.



Members of Mossy Creek Middle School FCCLA and FFA stated *"I wouldn't trade the experience with my team for anything!"*.



**GEORGIA**  
STATE ASSOCIATION

## **“Sock”ecessful “Sock”tober** **Submitted by Emily Boatright**

Colquitt County High School hosted their first "Sock"tober the week of October 26-28, 2022. The event was publicized through flyers that were posted around the school and placed in the faculty mailboxes. Students and faculty were encouraged to bring in new socks or monetary donations for three consecutive days. At the end of each day, FCCLA members would tally up the totals collected during the student's Advisement period. The overall totals were announced the following morning on their school wide announcements to encourage more donations. After three days of collecting, CCHS FCCLA collected 82 pairs of socks and raised \$254.97 which was used to purchase new socks.

The Advisement class with the most donations received a Chick-fil-a breakfast courtesy of CCHS FCCLA on Monday, October 31st. The money collected from monetary donations was used to purchase new socks by the FCCLA Officers at our local Walmart, making the overall pairs of socks collected, 164 pairs. FCCLA Officers then sorted the socks and divided them into two donations. Our Chapter was able to donate the socks to an assisted living facility and a rehabilitation facility within Colquitt County. FCCLA's "Sock"tober was surely a "Sock"cess!



## **FACS Helping our Folks** **Submitted by Jayouna Walker**

Weather is a funny thing. We often get to see some magical and amazing occurrences through these natural phenomena. Recently, the Locust Grove community not only got to experience some of amazing weather formations, but they also got to experience the devastation that can be a result of these formations. On January 12th, the greater Atlanta area went under a tornado watch which resulted in several spin-off tornadoes. We would soon learn, that there were three different tornadoes that tore through several of the Locust Grove neighborhoods and surrounding areas, impacting a great number of students and families in their community. Locust Grove FCCLA stepped into action and started a donation collection to help make a difference in these victims' lives. Their members collected clothing, non-perishable food items, toys, water, and small household good for families that needed support.





## 5 Lessons that I have Learned as a State Officer Submitted by Andy Lu

Georgia FCCLA past First Vice President, Andy Lu, has some words to share about what he's learned as a state officer, "Throughout my year as the First Vice President, I have grown exponentially in my leadership, character, and life skills. This growth could not have been done without some important lessons that I have learned. I will be sharing the 5 most important ones that I believe have helped me and will help others".

Lesson 1: Slow Down. This was a lesson that was very quick for me to learn. I have always been a very fast talker my whole life. My brain is always moving much much faster than my mouth. During various interviews and especially my SOC speech, I talk way too fast. After becoming a State Officer, I would get told to slow down every single time I did any public speaking practices. Over time, I learned to think more when talking and to remind myself mentally to slow down. Doing this allows me to articulate my words more clearly and create inflection in my voice. This can also be applied in terms of taking in memories during my term of office. This year has flown by and it does not seem like I have been serving the members of Georgia FCCLA this long.

Lesson 2: Mental Health Matters. This was another lesson that I learned fairly quickly. At June SEC, I was constantly around people 24/7. Since it was in conjunction with CTSO Training, it meant that there was a whole week where I was constantly around people and needed to be professional and engaged. I learned that my energy was quickly drained. Talking with my advisers really helped me realize that I needed space. Whenever I get free time, I should take a step back and decompress. This allows me to get my energy back and be professional and engaged when it mattered the most.

Lesson 3: Do it Right the First Time. I learned this lesson near the start of my term. Whenever we had a post or project, I had a tendency at times to have typos and other mistakes. After we got our work reviewed, if there was a mistake, I had to take more time to go and fix it. To save myself and others time, I learned to always use a spell checker, read my information out loud, and have someone double-check. This has dramatically saved me time as well as the State Staff that review my items. It is important to always read guidelines and form a plan so you do not have to do something twice, versus doing the same thing over and over.

Lesson 4: Be Willing to Take Criticism. This is a lesson that has dramatically shaped who I was. At first, I did not like it when someone would point out a flaw or a mistake that I made. I felt embarrassed and I believed that I could be perfect. Over time, I learned that the criticism was making me better and that I was learning. My mental attitude changed from "I don't want criticism" to "Please tell me how I can do better". The attitude change to taking criticism changed everything and allowed me to become a better State Officer and person.

Lesson 5: Bounce Back. This last lesson is one that I am still learning and working on. Not everything goes as planned and goes my way. It can range from failing a test that I studied hard for to not placing in a certain event. Even though it sucks and is hard, I know that I can always do better next time and bounce back from it. There is always another chance and if there is not, then there is always another opportunity for something different. At first, it might seem terrible, but after some time it won't be as bad and you might be happy that it happened.

## The First Region 1 Rally! Submitted by Savannah Greene

On Monday, September 26th, Chattooga FCCLA hosted the first-ever Region One Rally at Chattooga High school. The Region One Rally replaced the typical region meeting.



The event started at ten o'clock and ended at 1:30. FCCLA members from most of the schools in region 1 attended, causing almost 200 Georgia FCCLA members to be in attendance. Before everyone split off into their groups, we had a guest speaker, Miqan Green, talk to everyone about following your dreams as long as you are in it for a reason and not the recognition. The five groups of about 30 people each correlated one of the letters of FCCLA to know which rotation to go to first. The groups began at one of the following rotations: games, recycle and redesign, goose-chase, community service, and National Programs.

### A Slice of FCCLA! Submitted by Tammi Price

Rome High School's FCCLA chapter had a pizza party for January's monthly meeting. This activity was chosen by our executive board as something that would welcome members back and start the new year off in a fun, celebratory way! After our business portion of the meeting, students moved to the Culinary Arts kitchen in the Rome City Schools College and Career Academy.

Once there, students were able to make a pizza with the toppings of their choice. Toppings included pepperoni, olives, feta cheese, and pineapple! Several students tasted new foods and discovered that they like something they'd never tried before!



Penelope Jones, Chattooga High School Historian, led a workshop about Community Service, and Savannah Greene, our Region One officer, led a seminar about National programs. By the end of the day, each student received at least five tickets from each station. The FCCLA store is where you could spend these tickets to get some awesome Georgia FCCLA merchandise.

FCCLA advisers loved watching students get creative with their flavor combinations and designs. While waiting for the pizzas to bake, members talked about the community service projects coming up this Spring. Chocolate-dipped strawberries, catering luncheons, and creating cards for Rome High teachers are just a few things coming up soon. The meeting hit the spot, all the way around!

## 1st Annual Literacy Festival in Covington Submitted by Felicia Hodges

Student members from the Liberty Middle School chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) recently participated in the first annual Literacy Festival in Covington, GA. Various local companies, organizations, and schools came out to provide fun activities to encourage students of all ages to read more. The Liberty Middle School FCCLA chapter reenacted the children's book "A Bad Case of Stripes" by David Shannon. The FCCLA members created costumes to transform from a flag to a fungus to a bed.

While the FCCLA members had fun reenacting the tale of Camille Cream and her journey to stay true to herself, the audience members found it quite comical. One festival attendee stated that "I enjoyed the performance and it made me want to read the book again".



## Give what you can, take what you need! Submitted by Bryna McKenzie

Chapter members collaborated with our Student Government organization to create a cart filled with basic necessities for the students in our school. The 1st block classes were challenged to bring in items to stock our cart. To kick off our campaign, FCCLA officers provided each teacher with Lysol wipes as a necessity for their classroom. The classes were challenged daily and the class with the most donated items won a breakfast of donuts and juice. Throughout our campaign we were able to collect over 850 items for our cart, which was placed outside our counselor's office for students to be able to access.



## An IncREDible Fundraiser for North Forsyth FCCLA! Submitted by Jessica Klein

Members of North Forsyth High School FCCLA embraced a unique opportunity to experience jelly making using local muscadines grown by an administrator at our school! After the grapes were picked, they washed them, cooked them until they softened, mashed them, and then strained the juice out of them. Next, members prepared the sweetened juice by adding the strained grape juice mixture, sugar, and gelatin. This resulted in a hot mixture of sugary bliss. The last step in the jelly-making procedure was to process their jars of jelly in hot water, and then give them time to cool and become semi-solidified. After that, they created labels and prepared the jars for selling to their school and community. The money they make will fund their chapter as we prepare for Fall Leadership and future competitions."The jelly our members made is truly incredible!" says a member of their chapter.



## Dalton Academy FCCLA Makes Chapter History Submitted by Katherine Brownlee

“Excited! Happy! Elated!” These are three words that came to Brianna Sandavol’s mind when she was awarded with a bronze medal for her participation in the State FCCLA Leadership Conference. “I competed in the Early Childhood Education Event. While preparing for this competition, I had to plan an activity using: learning objectives, instructional strategies and rationale, setting, materials, an activity, modifications and an assessment. I gathered resources and materials that I would need to use in a lesson and presented them.” Brianna Sandavol, Cynthia Esparragoza and Trinity Cervantes competed in the State Leadership Conference in Athens, Ga last weekend. This is the first time the Dalton Academy has had anyone compete in State events. The Dalton Academy opened in the Fall of 2021 and due to COVID-19 restrictions last year, the students were not able to travel and make the competition. Prior to the State competition, Brianna and Cynthia competed in STAR events as well. Brianna competed in the Early Childhood event where she placed first. Cynthia competed in the Job Interview event and placed 2nd. Brianna is a Junior at The Dalton Academy. She is involved in FCCLA, football/basketball cheerleading and a part of the Early Childhood Education Pathway where is a preschool teacher. She is also a part of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) and the Buddy Mentor Program. She said, “My favorite pastime is spending quality time with my friends and family whether it's watching a movie, or simply enjoying each other's company.” “Being a part of The Dalton Academy FCCLA and representing my school at the state level was an incredible honor. The opportunity to connect with individuals from all corners of the state was truly a remarkable experience as well as the knowledge I gained will serve me in my future. After receiving constructive feedback from the regional competition, I worked to improve my project for the state competition. The sense of accomplishment after receiving third place was one like no other, considering the amount of talent in the competition. As a first-year FCCLA member, I was immensely grateful to be recognized and honored for my efforts. This experience overall will remain within my memory for years to come. I will never forget making new friends and bonding with my team over ice cream after Summit. I also want to thank my Early Childhood teacher, Mrs. Starks, for being a significant resource and giving me inspiration and motivation.” The Dalton Academy FCCLA chapter is self-motivated and communicates with both individuals and large groups. These students will gain emotional intelligence as they develop new relationships.



*“These three FCCLA students competed in Athens, GA March 24th for the FCCLA State Leadership Conference and made school history. Brianna Sandavol received a bronze medal for her event and placed top 10 at the State level and Cynthia competed in the Job Interview.”*

## Liberty Middle School Wins Big at the Fall Leadership Rally! Submitted by Felicia Hodges



Student members from the Liberty Middle School chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) recently participated in a motivational

rally held on Wednesday, October 12th at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, Georgia. Over 2,900 students and advisers from schools across Georgia. Over 2,900 students and advisers from schools across Georgia participated in the leadership rally session and competed in events. Along with other advisers and members from across the state, Liberty Middle School's FCCLA Chapter Adviser, Ms. Felicia Hodges, accompanied 21 members to the meeting. The Liberty Middle School FCCLA Knights placed either 1st or 2nd in 4 out of 7 competitions. Congratulations to the following LMS FCCLA members: 7th Grader Lauren Parsons that placed 1st in the chili-cook off, 6th Grader Kai Senter that placed 2nd place in general FCCLA brochure, and 8th Grader Kanya Kossonou that placed 2nd in Peanut Recipe and Theme Speech. Liberty MS FCCLA Chapter had the highest accumulated points for the FCCLA Fall Rally competitions and won the GNF Superior Chapter Award plaque and \$500 for the chapter. "Our chapter is elated to win this award as this is our first time receiving this honor at the Georgia FCCLA Fall Leadership Rally. We plan to use this

money to help with our future projects as well as fund the travel costs to attend the National FCCLA conference in Denver, Colorado July 2023." says Felicia Hodges, chapter advisor. "We would like to give a hearty THANK YOU to our county-level and school-level administrators and support staff for making this trip possible Newton County Schools BOE, NCSS CTAE Director Dr. Tim Schmitt, Liberty Middle School's Principal Malcolm Brown and Liberty Middle School's Bookkeeper Chaka James."

## Johnson High School Student Travels to Japan for the FCCLA Japanese Exchange Program! Submitted by

On December 27, 2022, Jasmin Lopez-Castro, a sophomore student at Johnson High School, began a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Japan, as an FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America) Japanese Exchange student. The Japanese Exchange Program is a scholarship opportunity for FCCLA members to travel to Japan for 4-6 weeks as an exchange student. This scholarship is funded by the Kikkoman Corporation and administered by Youth For Understanding USA (YFU). Based on the premise that international understanding can be achieved through individuals, the Japanese Exchange program emphasizes family living as the core of the overseas learning experience. Family is also the core value of FCCLA.

This is a very competitive program with only 30 students selected throughout the United States. Jasmin will be placed with a host family, attend classes at a Japanese high school, and tour the community to better understand the culture and its traditions. All of these experiences will be a wonderful learning opportunity as she pursues her goal to teach English in Japan after her graduation from Johnson High School and the Early Childhood Education Pathway.

Through various fundraisers, the FCCLA members contributed \$500.00 toward Jasmin's trip expenses. At Jasmin's school, teachers have been saying "we are so proud of Jasmin and her determination to make her dream come true. We await her return and are excited to hear of her adventures".



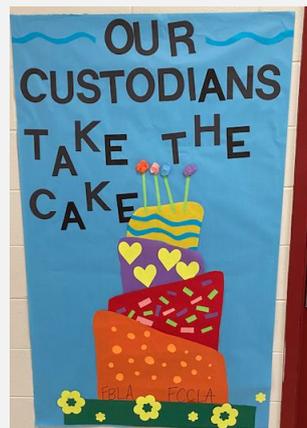
## Dressing for Success! Submitted by Bryna Mckenzie

Pelham High School FCCLA chapter members recognized a need at our school for formal wear for our female students. Our members reached out through social media encouraging our community to go through their closets and donate gently used dresses. We were able to get dresses for not only prom, but also homecoming. Students will come to the closet to "shop" for their dresses. They are encouraged to dry-clean the dresses and return them so that we can continue to bless more students.



## Berrien Middle School Celebrates National Custodian Appreciation Day Submitted by Carly Redding

On October 3rd, officers from Berrien Middle FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America) and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) came together to show appreciation to our school's custodians for National Custodian Appreciation Day. We celebrated our hard-working custodians by creating a door decoration and providing them with yummy cupcakes. School custodians are the quiet heroes of the school and ours definitely "take the cake!"



## Loganville FCCLA Members Participate in the Country Kids Christmas Round Up! Submitted by Ollie Martin

Loganville High School FCCLA members volunteered for the Country Kids Christmas Round Up. Country Kids Round Up is a program that provides Christmas gifts for underprivileged children in the Walton County Schools District. Counselors at each school provides information for students in need. Community members, groups, and organizations sponsor the children and provide gifts. The unwrapped gifts are brought to a central location and volunteers sort the gifts according to school. The schools then deliver the gifts to parents in time for Christmas. FCCLA members helped with gift drop-off, sorting the gifts, and dividing gifts for the different Walton County schools. Loganville FCCLA enjoyed being a part of this very worthwhile community service activity.



## Early Childhood Education III students donate Prop Boxes and Sensory Stories to SISU Integrated Learning Center! Submitted by

As a combination of two E.C.E. III standards, (Types of Play and Challenging Behaviors) the students at R.W. Johnson High School made and donated Play Center Prop Boxes and Sensory Stories to the children at SISU Integrated Learning Center in Gainesville, GA. The boxes encouraged cooperative and imaginative play and were a big hit with the children in their 3–5 year-old classes.



## It's Sweet to be in CTSOs!

Submitted by Andy Lu

On September 28th, Houston County High School FCCLA and DECA partnered up to host a joint CTSO meeting to promote membership and collaboration between both organizations. Both chapter officer teams came together and collaborated to host “It’s Sweet to be in CTSOs”. Together, the officer teams brought many sweet treats as well as created an ice cream bar for the members to enjoy and have something to snack on during the meeting. As members filed into the main cafeteria, the officers passed out agendas and encouraged members to grab membership forms for either CTSO. The sight of the ice cream and all of the delicious brownies excited all of the members. Members were given the opportunity to go through the line and be served by the officers. Afterwards they mingled amongst each other and asked each other which organization they were in. Many were generally shocked because they have not met a member from either organization and genuinely wanted to learn more. The presidents, Maggie Duke for FCCLA and Olivia Stegner for DECA, kicked off the “It’s Sweet to be in CTSOs” meeting by giving greetings and general introductions. They informed members about upcoming events such as Fall Leadership Conference for FCCLA and DECA’s Test Only and Virtual Business Challenge. Afterwards, Andy Lu and Tristen Harrel, talked about their experiences and successes in both FCCLA and DECA. They shared how there are generally no scheduling conflicts between FCCLA and DECA events as well as how they share many similarities. Many of the competitions between the organizations translate very well allowing for students to have a seamless transition when competing.

To end off the meeting, they had some friendly competition between FCCLA and DECA with the Walmart Game. Members got very energized and were very competitive between each other. During this time, both officer teams had a chance to socialize with each other and learn more about the differences and similarities. The members also had the opportunity to talk to the officers and learn more from their experiences. Overall, both the officers and the members had a memorable experience with sweet treats, great information, as well as friendly competition.



*“FCCLA Chapter Officers serving Ice Cream to members.”*

## **ACHS Spreads Holiday Cheer!**

**Submitted by Joellen Stone**

Members of the Appling County chapter of FCCLA participated in the annual Christmas Tree Program for families in need to spread holiday cheer. Each year, the school counselors identify families in need of Christmas trees, and high school CTSOs and clubs meet this need. Students bring in canned foods and the supplies to design and decorate trees. They are put on display during November. They are then packaged and delivered to the families in December. We are very proud to always participate in this worthwhile endeavor.



## **Southeast FCCLA Gives from the Heart!**

**Submitted by Brandy Tramell**

Throughout the year, FCCLA members have the opportunity to be a part of many community and school service events. During November, Southeast FCCLA classes had the opportunity to give one child a few gifts to brighten up their season. In their November monthly meeting, they discussed and planned the basic steps that they needed to take in order to provide this child with a happy experience. They said, "this was a great opportunity for all FCCLA students to give from the heart, and we hope to continue this much needed service."

## **Berrien Middle FCCLA Donates to the Toys for Tots Program!**

**Submitted by**

In December, Berrien Middle FCCLA partnered with the Marine Corps Toys for Tots organization. The basic mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Program is to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas. Our chapter planned to sell hot chocolate during the month of December to raise money to purchase toys. We advertised the event by posting flyers throughout the school the week before the event and posted on our chapter Instagram. We raised about \$200 through our hot chocolate sales and use that money to purchase about 15 toys that would be donated to kids in our community.



## Trion's Busy Month of December! Submitted by Cadee O'Neal

The Trion Chapter of FCCLA has had a busy month! Their chapter hosted a Christmas party for members, created Christmas for two children with Angel Tree, hosted a Winter Ball for the school, and delivered Christmas cards for the nursing home. During this busy holiday season, they decided to get busy themselves!

The chapter Christmas party was held on December 9th from 3:00-5:00. At the party, they played Dirty Santa with a \$10 limit on a gift. Members and officers brought food and had a good time playing Dirty Santa and eating their weight in cookies!

"Every year our Trion FCCLA chapter shops for two Angel Tree children. To provide Christmas for these angels, we have a fundraiser to raise money. Our fundraiser each year is the pie sale! For our Pie Sale, we have apple, pumpkin, pecan, Hershey, and fruit pie. After selling pies to teachers around the school, we planned a day to go shopping! We went shopping together as a chapter on December 1st. Going through each list and finding the perfect present was so much fun! We are happy we were able to help these families during this Christmastime, and we hope they loved their Christmas gifts!" For their Winter Ball, the Trion CTAE groups teamed together to plan and host the dance. The Winter Ball was held on December 10th from 7:00-10:00 PM. Their FCCLA Chapter partnered with FBLA, and charged \$5 per ticket to provide food and decorations for the dance.

Their chapter purchased food and drinks while FBLA was in charge of the playlist, and their CTAE Director purchased decorations. Chapter Officers were strongly encouraged to volunteer at the dance, and teachers around the school volunteered to chaperone. Student volunteers were given three options: set up, clean up or sell tickets at the door. Volunteers for set up came in at 10:00 AM that Saturday, and clean up volunteers came in at 1:00 PM the next day. The dance was a huge success and fundraiser for Trion's chapter and FBLA! To spread a little cheer this holiday season, Mrs. Blankenships FACS classes created Christmas cards for residents at the nursing home. FCCLA Officer Cadee O'Neal and member Lexi Pearson delivered the cards to our local Oakview Health and Rehabilitation Center on December 16th. "Seeing the resident's eyes sparkle after receiving their cards was the best gift we could have gotten this season," says some of the students. Our FCCLA Chapter is happy we were able to spread a little cheer to the ones who need it most!

Our FCCLA Chapter is proud of everything we accomplished during this busy season. "We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas", says their chapter.



## Fall Region 4 Meeting! Submitted by Hope Hopkins

Paul D. West Middle School FCCLA attended the Fall Region 4 Meeting in Villa Rica, Georgia on November 5, 2022. FCCLA received 2nd place in the Poster Contest.



## How Kendal Oglesby Got Involved with Georgia FCCLA? Submitted by Kendal Oglesby

"I never thought I would have a leadership position in Georgia FCCLA," says Kendal Oglesby but here she is a part of the 2022 Region 5 Officer Team! Her interior design teacher Mrs. Churillo needed another competitor for STAR Events and she offered to do it. Little did she know she would make it all the way to State and all the way to Nationals! At state, she was inspired by seeing Alexis Lovett and Isabella Powell walk across the stage to represent Region 5. "I saw all the State Officers in their stunning red dresses and knew I wanted to be a part of something", she says. Who got you involved in FCCLA?



## Feagan Mill Fall Rally Winners! Submitted by Lisa Duke

“Our chapter did a great job with the competitions at Fall Rally at the Georgia National Fair. We placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Male Recruitment Brochure, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Booth Design, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Georgia Organics Spinach contest. Hyunseo Kim did an amazing job with the brochure design. She meticulously wrote every word in the brochure by hand that could be considered its own font. She also spent a great deal of time perfecting the artwork and making sure all elements of the rubric were in place. We are so proud of her work. The booth design team worked so hard putting together all the elements of the booth, getting stories, gathering pictures, and getting information on the families and Families First National Program. They learned so much about all the units of Families First, enjoyed the connection of the families on the booth, and had a great time putting in all the hard work for months leading up to it. We couldn't be prouder of this team, and the amazing booth they were able to put together! For the Georgia Organics competition, we spent 5 weeks in class, Pack time, and FCCLA meetings doing a lot of activities with spinach. We had several cooking labs incorporating spinach, learning to cut spinach, eating spinach etc. Students brought in spinach to hand out to all their classmates at lunch and made spinach dishes at home. Our whole school got involved with the activities in one way or another. Art classes, Ag classes, administrators, faculty members, and all the students at Feagin Mill. We enjoyed all 5 weeks filled with activities and learned so much about spinach, Georgia Organics, and nutrition. We were so glad to learn all we could and have fun in the process! We would like to recognize Arav Patel on his submission in the Peanut Recipe Contest. He did a great job perfecting his recipe for this event and learned so much in the process. Also, a special thanks to Isabelle McClellan for her assistance with the t-shirt design submission. It was a group effort among the students and chapter officers with the t-shirt design, and Isabelle did an amazing job on the accompanying essay. We are so proud of all of the hard work that went into all of these competitions, and know that we learned so much from them all.”



## Always Ready to Give Back! Submitted by Marsha Gibson

During the planning of the chapter's yearly calendar, the FCCLA Club at Westside Comprehensive High School (Augusta, Ga) look for ways to give back to the community. Members try to focus on completing some type of community service each nine-weeks or at least three times a year. The second community service act of the 2022-2023 school year was feeding those staying at the local Ronald McDonald House. Members prepared the food after school, while one member; Nay Kelly, made sure items were individually wrapped and ready for serving at The House. During the planning of preparing and delivering, members knew what they could do and did just that.

Everyone jumped in where they could; either help with purchasing, prepping, delivering, or setting up for dinner. What's known is that community service helps with self-esteem and self-confidence within those giving back. So within the FCCLA Club at Westside Comprehensive the quote was said and it's always "Community Service Always Looks Good On You, So Why Not Help By Servicing Others!"



## Paul D. West Middle School Walks for a Cure! Submitted by Hope Hopkins

On Friday, October 28, 2022, the Paul D. West Middle School Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) held a Breast Cancer Awareness walk-a-thon event. The bulletin board in the Connections hallway was lined with pink ribbons that had names of people who donated to the cause. Members and students walking has either lost a loved one to cancer, have a family member fighting cancer, or know of someone that has previously had cancer. This event, which was held on the Paul D. West Middle School track, was able to give members of FCCLA the opportunity to help raise money for the American Cancer Society.



## How FCCLA Brought Out the Best of Taylor Pritchett! Submitted by Taylor Pritchett

"Everyone has their own individual stories of what made them into the people they are today. It could be teachers, practices, friends, or events; mine is FCCLA. I joined FCCLA during my first year of high school. I remember sitting in the stands of a football game while my friend, who happened to be the president of our FCCLA chapter, invited me to an FCCLA interest meeting. I told her straight away that I would be there, but I was still uncomfortable with joining clubs. I thought about it the following day and decided to show up. Little did I know that making that decision would be one of the best decisions I had ever made. Throughout my time in FCCLA, my advisor, Mrs. Jessica Johnson, always pushed other members and me to talk to new people and participate in competitive events. I was very nervous about the idea of putting myself out there in any given way, but my chapter members stayed by my side while I slowly started to get more comfortable in social settings and trying new things. Since then, I have explored many new activities, such as graphic design, speaking in front of judges, and being comfortable enough to apply as a Region Officer for Georgia FCCLA. I am no longer the quiet, timid, and insouciant person I once was in 2020. I can proudly say that FCCLA is the main reason why I am open, adventurous, and sociable today, and why I will continue to reach new heights tomorrow. I have made many new friends, lifelong skills, and connections through being part of FCCLA. I am very excited to continue my journey with FCCLA as I finish my high school career and throughout my life as a proud alumni."



## Emanuel County Institute FCCLA Bulldog Bath and Body Closet! Submitted by Anna Johnson

ECI FCCLA students Allie Rigdon and Mylie Rose Lane have been hard at work collecting toiletry items for students in need. Allie and Mylie have hosted several drives at their school and in the community to collect these items. Through word of mouth and social media, they have been able to gather the supplies needed to create Bulldog Bath and Body closet at ECI. Students in need, can now go through the school nurse to receive a cosmetic bag filled with needed items, whenever they need them. FCCLA members will continue to collect donated items to keep the closet stocked.



## Anyone Can Drive a Car but it Takes Someone Special to Drive a School Bus! Submitted by Raelee Brown

Mossy Creek Middle school FCCLA chapter made National Bus Driver Appreciation Day a little *Sweeter* for their devoted drivers. "Being on the road with 50+ students in a bus is a challenge within itself. This is something our drivers do every day while maintaining safety for our kids as their top priority. This is certainly not a profession for everyone. One must have extensive training, patience, foresight, commitment, attentiveness, understanding, and a willingness to get up every morning and get the vast majority of Houston County students to school every day safely," says a student that attends Mossy Creek Middle School.

The student goes on to say, "Our FCCLA chapter is very appreciative of our bus drivers, and we took time out to thank each one individually, we placed hand drawn posters out on the bus ramp and gave each one a mini bundt cake. Drivers had their choice between chocolate chip, red velvet, classic vanilla, and chocolate. Red velvet seemed to be the most popular flavor of the morning. The MCMS FCCLA wants our drivers to know they are appreciated every day for all they give to our students."



## Splash Into Leadership! Submitted by Maggie Duke

Students at Houston County High School made a splash into leadership at the first FCCLA chapter meeting to kick-off the school year in August. Nearly 50 students showed up for the meeting where HCHS FCCLA Chapter Officers discussed leadership opportunities and led fun, team building initiatives such as, "Head, Shoulders, Knees, CUP!" that officers learned at DISCOVER Training and guided teams in Water Balloon Tag. These activities got students engaged and excited for future events and opportunities with FCCLA.



# SHS Attends DISCOVER Training in 2022!

Submitted by Tanya Shabir

“Our Stockbridge FCCLA Advisor has been with FCCLA for so many years she never thought we would be starting the new year from scratch. BUT.... here we are! After the chaos of the past couple of years, it is exciting to see our chapter beginning to flourish again”, says Tanya Shabir from Stockbridge High School. SHS is starting out with a Chapter Officer team that is brand new to FCCLA and their Officers couldn't be more enthusiastic for growing their Membership! Since they returned from DISCOVER Training two days ago, their Officers have recruited SEVEN new members. “We can't speak more highly of the knowledge and confidence that DISCOVER Training provided. Hopefully, every chapter will have the opportunity to attend! There is a lot to learn and DO, but we are ready! Here's believing that we all will have the experience of a lifetime this year. Remember- it is the

ULTIMATE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE,” says one of their officers that attended DISCOVER Training. Another officer says, “as a new member of FCCLA, the DISCOVER Training was a great experience for me and my new team members! When we first arrived at the Covington training camp, we didn't think it was going to be helpful to us, as we had already learned a lot from our advisor. As they started to present, we found it to be a nice fundamental learning experience to give us the basics of what FCCLA is about. We now understand the criteria to better our skills that we have learned and are eager to share with our other members!” Georgia FCCLA cannot wait to see what Stockbridge FCCLA has to bring this upcoming year!



## How FCCLA has Helped Me Become a Strong Leader!

Submitted by Alexis Lovett

“When I joined FCCLA two years ago, I had no idea where it would take me and what it would help me to become. I went from being a shy and somewhat-reclusive member to a strong and outgoing leader, who is now serving my second term as a Georgia FCCLA Region 5 Officer! Thanks to this incredible organization, I have developed a love for leading and making a change within my community, unafraid to step outside my comfort zone and shoot for the stars. Without FCCLA, I would not be who I am today!”



## Braxton Yancy's time with FCCLA!

Submitted by Braxton Yancey

Braxton Yancy from Coffee County High School has some stuff to say about FCCLA, “ My name is Braxton yancey I have been in fccla for 4 years now and I could not want any other way to spend it. I joined in 7th grade just bc I thought it was about food because what middle school kid doesn't love food. I went to my first meeting and feel in love, it was the best time I ever had, I met new people that were all about fccla. My teacher asked me to help her out and do a star event; I was scared but said yes. The best thing I ever had in my life was when I got to teach a class and make new connections. I placed in the silver bracket at nationals. I also did a star event in 7th and 8th, but my 8th grade year changed when I ran for region officer. I got it and had the best time of my life meeting all the best people in the world. I am on my second term as a region 8 officer and love every minute. I hope to make it to the state staff later on in the year. If I had to pick one thing that fccla has inspired me to do, it would be to live life to the fullest because you never know when it could end, also to enjoy every moment and memories. Thank you FCCLA from my advisor, friends, and all the people I represent. I could not be where I am in life without you.”



# HCHS FCCLA Students Discover Their Potential!

Submitted by Maggie Duke

On Thursday, August 25th, students from Houston County High School FCCLA chapter discovered their leadership potential at the FCCLA DISCOVER Training held at the Camp John Hope FFA-FCCLA Center in Fort Valley, Georgia. DISCOVER Training stands for Developing Individual School Chapter Officers with Vision, Energy, and Responsibility; the training allows for FCCLA chapter officers to explore their roles as officers and collaborate as a team to develop strategies for executing unique and successful projects to promote membership, engage and recognize chapter members, strengthen the community through service projects, and excel in competitive events. By participating in DISCOVER Training, students learned the importance of being a leader and having a better understanding of what it means to lead within their local chapter. DISCOVER Training provided Chapter Officer attendees from HCHS FCCLA the opportunity to engage in various workshop breakout sessions that covered an array of topics that are central to implementing a successful Chapter Program of Work. Playing a key role in the success and planning for DISCOVER Training were State First Vice President, Andy Lu, and Region 7 Officer, Olivia Morrison. Andy and Olivia created and presented content-specific workshop sessions for DISCOVER Training attendees. Andy's session provided valuable information for students regarding planning an effective chapter meeting while Olivia's session covered important tips for advocating effectively for Family and Consumer Sciences and FCCLA. Houston County High School FCCLA Chapter President, Maggie Duke, said, "I am so glad that I had the opportunity to attend DISCOVER Training this year. This training not only strengthened my leadership skills but also provided valuable resources and time to work with my fellow Chapter Officer Team to plan an incredible year for our FCCLA members."



# My Journey Toward Success through FCCLA Participation!

Submitted by James Young

"FCCLA has become a significant part of my life. I started high school at a school that did not have an FCCLA program. I had a challenging time finding my place and my grades were slipping since I didn't have a purpose for doing well. In the middle of my freshman year, my family moved to Gilmer County. As I had missed signing up for track preferences, my counselor helped me get into the Early Childhood Education and Culinary Arts tracks for my Sophomore year. This is where I was first introduced to the FCCLA program. My advisor, Mrs. Powell, was my Early Childhood Education teacher and she encouraged me to sign up for FCCLA. As I got involved, I met teachers and students who were focused on school and impacting the community we live in. My grades rose and my attitude about myself was better. I realized that I could be part of something bigger than myself and developed a confidence I had lacked before. In the middle of the year, Mrs. Powell encouraged me to participate in a regional competition. I had never thought that I was good enough to participate in things like that, but she assured me that I could do it. I worked with a partner to start an event management project. All was going well and we presented our initial project at the regional competition. We placed second and qualified to go to the state

competition. Unfortunately, after the regional competition, my partner dropped out and I had to pivot to doing my project independently. It would have been easy for me to quit too, but Mrs. Powell came beside me and encouraged me to keep going since we had done so well at regionals. Because I was now organizing the event and competing alone now, I had to rewrite and redevelop my project very quickly because my event was occurring in March. The event was a complete success, but the work did not stop there. I prepared all of my post-event research and documentation and prepared to present my completed project at the Georgia State FCCLA competition. I scored second place in Silver scoring 89 points qualifying my project for presentation at FCCLA National Convention. No one from my school had been to the national convention even though some had previously qualified. After the state competition, I decided I wanted to have a bigger part in the FCCLA program. I interviewed for and was selected to be a regional officer. While I completed this training, I also continued to work on perfecting my presentation. This involved working on my public speaking skills. Mrs. Powell helped me set up practice sessions with other teachers in the school who would critique me on the way I spoke, my body language, and the description of the content of my project. I had a tremendous amount of personal growth through this process. I participated in the FCCLA National Conference over the summer and it was an experience like nothing I had ever been a part of before. I spoke with students from all over the country who were competing in a variety of different competitions. Interacting on a social level with groups of people allowed my confidence in communication to grow. I placed fourth in the nation in my competition, but the lessons I learned were far more valuable than this ranking. Because of my experience with FCCLA over the past year, I have passionately shared my experience and journey with many others at my school. This has resulted in membership growth from sixteen to thirty-four students. I intend to continue to promote growth by sharing my positive experiences with FCCLA."



# Veterans High School FCCLA is Scooping Up Some Amazing Members!

Submitted by Ava Trussell

Veterans High School FCCLA kicked off their school year with an Ice Cream Social to "Scoop up the best members!" Ice Cream socials are a very popular tactic, and are so beneficial to chapters in the membership aspect. "We made this social open to every student in the school, so they could learn about FCCLA," says a officer from their chapter. Last year, VHS FCCLA had over 55 members, and are hoping to get even more this year to complete the 2022 - 2023 membership campaign by Bryna McKenzie. "We decorated with the 3 R's of membership, as well a balloon arch to grab everyone's attention. We would say it worked because we had over 40 people attend! To begin the meeting, we played a crowd favorite, which was "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Cup." It gets very competitive, so the energy is at max within the meeting. Next, we introduced our 2022 - 2023 Officer Team, and opened the Ice Cream Buffet! We had a wide selection of toppings and flavors so all students would find something to enjoy. We gave an introductory PowerPoint about FCCLA, and the amazing benefits of joining our organization. We publicized our event all over our social media, and were even posted on the National FCCLA Pages, highlighting our social event. We cannot wait for an incREDible year with FCCLA," says one of their chapter officers.



## CTSO Recruitment Fair! Submitted by Kim Cary

On August 30, Franklin County High School's FCCLA chapter co-hosted a CTSO Recruitment Fair. Several weeks prior to the event, the FCHS FCCLA officers joined the officers from other CTSOs to plan activities for an after-school social designed to inform potential members of each organization's opportunities. On the day of the event, each CTSO was in charge of an activity. The attendees rotated through the activity stations and ended the social with door prizes and an ice cream treat. After the event, the officers discussed what worked and how to improve it for next year. The FCHS FCCLA officers considered the event to be a success because several new members were added!



## FCCLA is an IncREDible Part of my FACS Class! Submitted by Marlie Mathis

A student from Berrien High School has some things to say about how FCCLA is an IncREDible part of their class, "Integrating FCCLA into FACS classes is so important for our organization. My teacher and adviser, Mrs. Johnson, does the best job of implementing anything related to FCCLA into our class almost every day if not every day! Every Friday is FCCLA Friday at Berrien High. Class on Friday is completely dedicated to FCCLA; whether it is working on something for Honor Roll points, working on a National Program, or working on responsibilities as a Region Officer, Mrs. Johnson is always promoting FCCLA during class by connecting what we are covering in class to a related National Program or STAR Event. "How can we do this at my school?" you might be asking. First, sit down with your adviser and get on the same page about the importance of implementing FCCLA in the classroom. Together, spend some time creating a plan that will work within your school's guidelines to make FCCLA part of the classes. One of the really cool things about FCCLA is that it was created to work hand in hand with the FACS curriculum no matter what the pathway the teacher may teach. Second, reach out to other FCCLA members to see how their schools make FCCLA part of the FACS. In our high school we have FCCLA Fridays. These days are focused on National Programs, STAR Events, leadership development including public speaking as well as team building and communication. Our Ultimate Leadership Experience is all about soft skills! All FACS classes have this as their first standard and focus on developing these skills. So really it's a day spent working on Standard 1! Finally, publicize all these great things going on in the classroom. I love that our Nutrition & Wellness classes all have a project related to the Sports Nutrition STAR Event and in our Fundamentals of Fashion Class we have a Fashion Stylist competition just like Fall Leadership Conference. Our local contest members make all the social media accounts and sometimes even make it in the local newspaper! FCCLA is an incREDible partner to the FACS class!"



## What FCCLA Has Taught Savannah Riley! Submitted by Savannah Riley

"Being in FCCLA the last three years of my high school career has taught me so much. I have learned what being a leader is, the multiple parts of FACS education, and have met amazing people along the way. When I first started out I was very nervous and didn't know much about what I was really getting myself into. I wanted to try my best and put forth as much effort as I could to represent my school chapter and Region 9 as a whole. I love that I was given this wonderful opportunity. I have traveled to many different places across the state and met so many different and wonderful people along the way.



I get to interact with so many students and hear about how FCCLA helped them and I now get to tell people how it helps me. My FCCLA family has given me nothing but love and encouragement along my journey of being a Region Officer. I can't thank my chapter advisers enough for supporting me through serving as an officer. I have taken the time to learn how much I loved this club. It is from making dishes that our culinary class serves as teacher's lunches to working on expanding my knowledge of the Culinary industry and how much it positively impacts people. Overall, FCCLA has taught me how to be myself and take what I have learned to apply it to the real world. When I was a freshman I never would have thought I would have joined a club, let alone become future chapter President and Region liaison. I am very excited to see what the future in FCCLA holds for me," says Savannah Riley from Camden County High School FCCLA.

## Raelee Brown's FCCLA Journey! Submitted by Raelee Brown

"I joined FCCLA in sixth grade. I was very extroverted and loved to get involved in school activities. When my advisor told me about FCCLA, I decided to join, as a way to meet new people and create relationships in school. I started as a chapter officer, but due to COVID most conferences and competitions were online so it was hard to see all that FCCLA had to offer. When 7th grade rolled around, almost everything was back to normal. I served as a chapter officer again, falling more and more in love with our organization. I was able to attend conferences in person and compete in many more competitions. I could see my leadership skills growing everyday. Although I was extroverted, I was never one for public speaking. When I started doing competitions that required speeches or presentations, it became more natural. At the end of seventh grade, I decided to get more involved on a higher level, so I ran for Region officer. When I got the email that I was selected as an officer, I was ecstatic. Over the summer I attended Region Officer training, it was amazing to meet all of the people I would be serving with for the next year. Everyone was so kind and included me, despite being the only person in middle school. At the beginning of my journey, I never thought I would be where I am today. I would have never given a presentation in front of 400 people and taken the initiative to start something. Thanks to FCCLA I have met some of my best friends and role models. It truly helped me in the best way possible and I have been able to learn things that I can use throughout my life. I am so excited for the many years to come with FCCLA and I can't wait to see all of the opportunities I will have and people I will meet. I am looking forward to my future in FCCLA," says Raelee Brown. We can't wait to see what she brings to Georgia FCCLA!



# Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, I Love FCCLA and so should YOU!

Submitted by Emma Pitman

Emma Pitman from Winder-Barrow High School has some words to say for those interested or in FCCLA, “If you have ever made a flower arrangement or visited your local florist you would know that roses are a popular choice for centerpieces. When creating an arrangement you always work from the inside out, starting with what will be in the center. Just like a rose is the base of a flower arrangement your advisor is the beginning of your FCCLA journey. They carry love, light, and inspiration to make your experience amazing. I first began my journey with FCCLA in a middle school FCS classroom. I did not know anything about FCCLA or FCS education, but all it takes is one outstanding advisor, teacher, and mentor to kick-start your leadership story. Over the course, I grew closer with my advisor and became alive for all things FCS. The mixture between home-building skills and career development kept me engaged in learning new things each day. At the end of the semester, I made the choice to join FCCLA. At the beginning of that very next year, I became president of our chapter. I quickly climbed the leadership ranks and built a home in my FCCLA chapter. Violets are added as a special touch to floral arrangements after the base of the roses is laid down. You will build your own leadership journey after your advisor lays a solid foundation, just as violets complement roses in an arrangement. The next thing I know I am branching out to all different aspects of FCCLA. Whether it's conferences, leading chapter meetings, or competing in events I made my time in FCCLA count. I took the time and effort needed to build our FCCLA chapter and pay forward the love that I felt when I joined the club. We planned our own FCCLA week focused on membership and feeling the FCCLA love. At the end of my first year, I felt like I wanted to take my experience to the next level and get even more involved in the organization that I love. That's when I applied to become a regional officer. Through interviews and tests, I was chosen to represent region 2 as a local FCCLA officer. The seeds we planted are the flowers that will make the prettiest arrangements tomorrow, seeds are only as good as the ones who plant them. All of this happened in one year thanks to my amazing adviser's support. If Mrs. Peterson did not take a chance on me I would not be the person I am today. FCCLA truly is a place where students can feel comfortable making mistakes and maturing. Members today can have a story just like me. With the help of advisers, peers, family, and strong chapters students can be incREDible in FCCLA.”



## FCCLA and Aubrey Poole! Submitted by Aubrey Poole

"I've known that I love caring for children since I was five years old. When kindergarten career day rolled around, I dressed up as a babysitter and carried my Bitty Baby around with me all day. I've also known that I've wanted to be a doctor since I was seven. A "cancer doctor" as I referred to it, seeing as I did not yet know what an oncologist was. Somehow it didn't strike me that I could combine both of those passions until I was twelve. Ever since then, I've had my sights set on becoming a pediatric oncologist. Therefore, when I discovered that my high school had a club focused solely on children and the home? I was sold. I immediately went to my Early Childhood Education teacher/FCCLA advisor, (a class I took so that I could better understand the development of young children) and told her that I wanted to join FCCLA. She was thrilled of course, and she gave me the membership form to fill out. I brought in the form and the dues the next day. A week or two passed, and she called me up to her desk during one of our chapter meetings. She'd noticed my affinity with people and public speaking, and she asked me if I'd like to become the Public Relations Officer for our chapter. I accepted of course, and thus began my role in FCCLA leadership.

As my freshman year continued I was a part of every FCCLA activity that I could've been. I ran a booth at our October football pink-out game. I helped host a Trunk-Or-Treat at the local elementary school. I helped run a Math Mania for five surrounding elementary schools. My chapter hosted a Daddy-Daughter dance and a Mommy and Me brunch. I helped run a Color Run for a local elementary school. I competed in Star Events and scored first in the region, first in the state, and fourth in the nation. I formed invaluable relationships and made memories that I wouldn't trade for anything. I first knew that I wanted to take my FCCLA involvement to the next level during the general assembly at the State Convention when I saw the previous year's Region Officers walk across the stage. A week later, when I announced to my advisors my intention, one of them laughed and told me that they saw it on my face during the assembly. So I filled out my application, did my interviews, had several stress meltdowns with my mother, and shared my reaction to finding out I made the team with my advisor, Mrs. Daphne Richardson. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Region Officer. I've met so many different,

interesting people, and had so many challenging, unique experiences. Sometimes my responsibilities feel like a lot, or I feel like I'm not doing a good job in my position. That's where my team comes in. My other Region Nine officers are better than I could've ever hoped for. I believe we truly embody what defines a team. I know that without them, I would not be reflecting so positively on my experiences. The lessons that I've learned and the experiences that I've had because of FCCLA will help me in my future. Whether it be enhancing my public speaking skills, learning how to work with those different than me, or just becoming a better person, I am incredIBly thankful for everything that FCCLA has done for me."



## What got you Involved in FCCLA? Submitted by Jasyria Moody

"Since sixth grade, I have been drawn to the family aspect of FCCLA. When I tell my FCCLA story I always mention the fact that I started out as that one member who only came to the meetings for the food and didn't actively participate in the organization. I can remember being an unaffiliated member who didn't have a clue about what this journey entailed. I knew that the community service projects were something I was excited to participate in but I didn't realize my full potential and what leadership skills were within me. By my sophomore year of high school, I realized the importance of FCCLA and it inspired me to channel the value I bring to a group. Yes, that is a long time but with the help of my former adviser, Mrs. White, I finally learned what FCCLA truly was. Before my sophomore year, I didn't know that FCCLA was a STUDENT led organization. I always waited for an adult to tell me what I needed to do. It wasn't that I was nervous to be at the forefront it was that I didn't know what was within me. After bouncing several community service ideas off of a few members, Mrs. White said, "Jasyria, you'll be our Vice President of Community Service since you had such great ideas." With those words, I was completely clueless about what was expected of me. But I can honestly say that those words are what jumped off my involvement in FCCLA.



took on that leadership role and everything began to grow from there. I was again inspired by Mrs. White to begin competing and with that, I led my Chapter and Region to victory in Region and State Level three Teach and Train STAR events. I've never seen my work ethic be as strong as it became while doing that project. I began to become aware of the skills that would not only help me do well in STAR events but also in life as I pursue my future career. Being able to participate in something outside of my

comfort zone and larger than myself is exactly what I needed in order to become aware of my personal strengths. So with that being said, I guess you can say what got me involved in FCCLA was the community service aspect or even The Fabulous Mrs. Anna White, however, what's keeping me involved in FCCLA is the guidance I've received so far through my wonderful advisers Mrs. Jill Massee and Mrs. Julie Vinup as well knowing that through my leadership, another student that may be unaffiliated and going to the meetings for the pizza and ice cream is being inspired to join, open themselves up to meeting new people, competing in events, or even upholding a position themselves."