

Georgia News



STATE ASSOCIATION

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Lincoln County High School has penny wars for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

by Lexi Conner

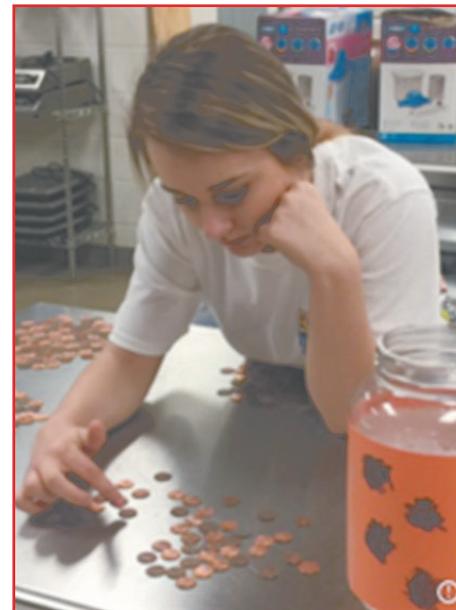
Penny Wars for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital FCCLA has family as its central focus and helping St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a way that our local FCCLA chapter can help families of children being treated for cancer and other diseases.

Penny Wars had everyone in our school involved in raising money for this hospital. We started with 4 buckets, one for each of the classes, Freshman, Sophomore, Juniors and Seniors. FCCLA members would push a cart around during all lunch periods to collect money.

Each grade brought in pennies to put in their buckets, and gain points. The fun part was that you could bring nickels, dimes, quarters, and bills to put in the other classes buckets, that caused their points to be reduced. The more the pennies the higher your points were. The competition got heated and donations of silver change and bills were being made to other classes.

Students were bringing in coffee cans filled with change just so their class could win the Penny War.

We raised over \$300 in just a week that



was donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

This brought our student body together and helped to make a difference in the lives

of families who are fighting cancer. Juniors was the winning class and they were rewarded with a cupcake party.

!nspired
by **FCCLA**

Northside Middle School is geared up for Pennies for Puppies

by Makayla Floyd

Northside Middle School FCCLA has been busy with their chapter service project. Several members wanted to continue on with our previous chapter service to the Houston County Humane Society. There are many animals that currently live at the shelter. The best part about this shelter is it is a NO Kill shelter. It is a clean, warm and safe place for these animals while they wait for their new adopted families.

NMS members made 80 bone shaped penny collection banks out of recycle water bottles. Each homeroom teacher received a bone shaped bank. Every homeroom collected pennies for puppies as a contest to win a popcorn party. The collection days were every Friday for 3 months. Overall, the support from our Northside Middle School family was wonderful. We raised, collected and rolled \$238.00 worth of pennies. This donation amount is a grand improvement over our last year donation of \$25.00 to the Houston County Humane Society.

Our FCCLA members continue to work in the surrounding community as well as make the Northside Middle School realize that we are a family as a whole and can make a difference in the community with a 76% donation increase.



Collecting Pennies



Making Bone Penny Banks from recycled water bottles



More Pennies

PRST MKT
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PAID
Macon, GA
Permit NO. 440

Georgia FCCLA
283 Swanson Drive Suite #204
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Visit us at www.gafccla.com or www.fcclainc.org

Fav FCCLA moment this year? OR what is great about being in FCCLA

The Potential that Defines Us



by Shelby Strickland

We each can recall the most impactful moments in FCCLA, from the moment

at State Leadership Conference when we were on stage receiving a medal for our STAR Event we tirelessly worked on to sitting in the seats as energizing and empowering leaders and speakers talk before us at conferences to the long and early bus rides on the way to Region STAR Events.

It's the moment we realize we can be a leader and we realized that FCCLA helped to create that defining moment. These moments and much more we hope to create make each and every moment being in FCCLA worthwhile. It is those moments that collectively make this organization truly what it is.

It's an organization that seeks to innovate the potential in leaders at all times. It seeks to do so, by the light of the ideas of this

organization, our purposes and mission statement.

Although, this is something we cannot see at first. It's our potential – to grow, innovate, and channel our inner leader. It sneaks up on you when you least expect it and causes a transformation that has the effect of leaving a lasting imprint in your life and the lives of others.

It defines the very essence of who we are and who we wish to be and this is captivated through each session, conference, opportunity, and moment with our remarkable advisers.

If you were to ask someone what's great about being in FCCLA, you might get a thousand different answers, and it is because everyone's journey through FCCLA is unique and that's the great part about FCCLA. Although our journey may be unique we are united by a common thread, to grow in a multitude of ways and be part of the Ultimate Leadership Experience.

State Secretary
Shelby Strickland

The Importance of Career and Student Technical Organizations



By Emily Emmons

I am very excited to start to participate in the Outstanding Teen Pageants through

the Miss America Pageant system. I plan to use this adventure into the world of pageants to advocate for Career and Technical Student organizations. I have chosen The Importance of Career and Student Technical Organizations as my platform. I want people to know Career and Student Technical organizations encourage students to stay in school and graduate. In fact, 94.8% of CTAE concentrators graduated from high school in 2015-16. That is a higher rate than all of Georgia students combined. Currently in high school, CTAE students earned 26,522 industry credentials and 27,512 students participated in post-secondary options to earn college credit. These numbers are increasing each year because of the efforts in Technical Education.

2017 marks the 100th year since the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act of 1917. The United States Congress created this legislation that promoted the vocational agriculture to train people "who have entered upon or who are preparing to enter upon the work of the farm," and provided federal funds for this purpose. Many of our land grant universities were dedicated to the purpose of educating the public. Many pieces of legislation are proposed and supported over the years to promote Technical Education Enhancement like the Carl Perkins Career and Education Act. And yet our technical programs do battle every year for funding and support in many of our local schools. Teachers must do what they can to attract students to their programs. Many technical education programs are in danger every year as budgets are debated on the local level.

CTSO's have advocates at the state legislature that encourage CTAE programs by communicating with legislators, government leaders, chamber of commerce,

economic development professionals, and business and industry partners. As a state officer in a Career and technical Student Organization, FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America), I have been working on promoting the benefits of CTSO membership.

I believe that It is important for students to know about these programs in our local schools and participate in CTSO's. Students learn skills for life through character development, creative and critical thinking and interpersonal communication, practical knowledge and career preparation. I believe that it is also important for funding to be in place to assist these programs in our local schools. Every student should be encouraged to participate in the activities offered through competitions, community service, and leadership training. I plan to use the pageant platform to advocate for CTSO's. I would encourage students to stay in school, finish their education and find their passion in CTAE.

Your Georgia FCCLA National Liaison's favorite memories



Hello everyone my name is Takia Murray and I currently serve as your Georgia FCCLA National Liaison. I have been a member of FCCLA for four years and served on the State Executive Council for two years. This year I am a senior at Long County High School, so this will be my last year as an FCCLA member and officer. As I reflect back on all my years in FCCLA I think about all the

friendships, memories, and experiences I have gained along the way.

My favorite memory is the first time that I was elected to the State Executive Council. I was so excited to take a big step and begin a new journey in my life. I have made some of the best memories with my state officer teams and members. I am so thankful for being given the opportunity to help lead our Georgia FCCLA members for two terms.

Being in FCCLA has helped me to grow as a leader and a person. It has also taught me many skills and experiences that I can take into the next chapter of my life and future careers. After highschool I plan to attend college, major in Biology, and become a Pre-Med student. I would also like to minor in Early Childhood Education. After college I hope to work in pediatrics and then maybe one day become an FCCLA advisor. The experiences and opportunities that I have gained through FCCLA are moments that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Why FCCLA is important to me

by Mia Halleyburton

Entering high school I was timid and frightened of the new world around me. I spent the whole school year focusing on academics, and I was left wanting something more out of my high school experience. The following year as I walked first period Food, Nutrition, and Wellness class, with my adviser Ms. Caitlin Mitchell, I had no clue my life would change so much.

I joined FCCLA and quickly became super involved. I attended all the events we had, volunteered for our community service events, and assisted with fundraisers, such as face painting at football games. I was even able to travel out to Dallas, Texas for the National Cluster Meeting, in 2015.

After all the fun I had been having with FCCLA that year, I was quick to answer yes when Ms. Mitchell asked me to run for State Executive Council. Ever since then I've been having the time of my life serving GA FCCLA for the past two years. FCCLA is important to me because the organization has made me into a better leader, public speaker, and allowed me to have more fun in high school than I ever thought I could.

Because of FCCLA I've created memories that I'll cherish forever, and developed lifelong friendships with in my chapter and SEC.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS

Liberty Middle School

Family, Career, Community Leaders of America



by Felicia Hodges

COVINGTON, GA, December 19, 2017– FCCLA members were spreading joy to others the holiday season through the 104.7 The Fish Christmas Wish program. On December 19, a small group of FCCLA members decided to attend one of the 104.7 The Fish on-site station events to grant a Christmas Wish for a needy family.

President Tristian Houston said that participating in the program says that it feels good to be able to be in FCCLA that helps him develop strong leadership skills in the community. Adviser Felicia Hodges said that she is so proud of the students willing to sacrifice a day from their holiday break to give to others. Parent Michelle Garber explained that every child deserves to have a special Christmas, and she was happy to help make that come true.

"I really enjoyed looking through the tablets to find families to grant their wishes," added FCCLA member Gabriella Green. "I just really wish we could've granted all of them!"###

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Felicia Wright Hodges, FCCLA Advisor at 678.625.6617 or email at Hodges.felicia@newton.k12.ga.us.



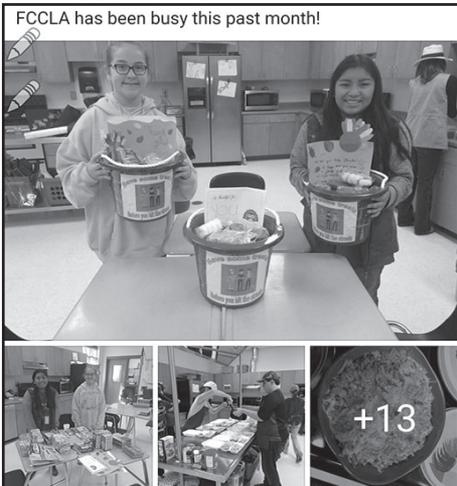
Getting FCCLA Faces on Facebook

by Robyn Benton

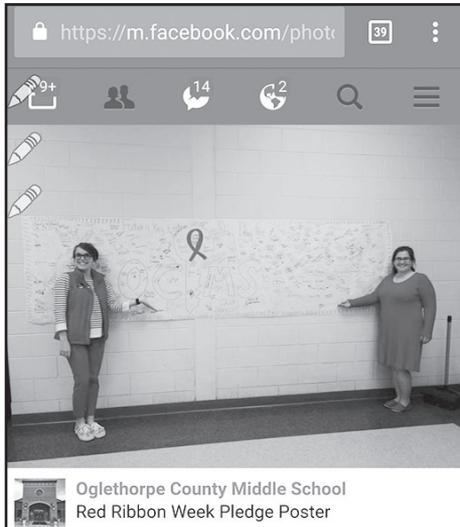
rbenton@oglethorpe.k12.ga.us

The Oglethorpe County Middle School FCCLA has been trying to promote and publicize their

FCCLA activities by getting their “faces on facebook.” The OCMS facebook page boasts of the numerous FCCLA events and efforts this year including community service efforts, Red Ribbon Week activities, and much more.



Community Service Efforts



Red Ribbon Week Banner Signing and Red Out

Getting involved at GATFACS



Winter weather accessories to support the Atlanta Women's Center

by Robyn Benton

The Oglethorpe County Middle School got involved in two GATFACS initiatives at the

GATFACS winter in-service. First, they donated a Star Wars themed basket for the silent auction that offers scholarships for students who attend National Leadership Conference. And second, they collected scarves, hats, and gloves for the GATFACS community service effort to benefit the Atlanta Women's Center.



A Thirst for Star Wars - themed basket for silent auction

Teen Chef: Decatur High school student creates captivating cuisine

Teen Chef: Decatur High School student creates captivating cuisine

by Derek Smith
dsmith@championnews.com

Some creative art with clay or a paint brush. Aidan Forgy creates a more edible medium.

The 17-year-old Decatur High School (DHS) junior is his first year in the school's culinary arts program, and he's just now getting his hands in the kitchen.

"I really just happened this year that I realized I was above average at cooking," Forgy said. "I've always really liked it and I was good at it throughout the year, but then my sophomore year, I got into the kitchen and I realized I was really good at it."

"I don't like the taste of the kitchen that much, but when you're making a good meal, it's really satisfying."

Forgy has been working on food presentation in class, but he's been decorating plates in Decatur for three months while shadowing the sous chef at Revival—a farm-to-table restaurant focusing on Southern cuisine.

Revival is owned by Kevin Gillespie, who was featured in the sixth season of the reality television series Top Chef in 2009, where he finished as a runner-up.

The DHS culinary program has a relationship with Revival and Forgy was given his opportunity after shadowing his first night in early September.

"It was a lot," Forgy said of his first night at Revival, where the staff put him to work with a trainer and allowed him to prove himself.

After a few months, Forgy now says he's coming into his own in the Revival kitchen.

"It helps once you've been there for a while and you kinda have your own system to keep track of everything."

Of all the dishes he's prepared at Revival, Forgy said his favorite is a delicate squash salad.

Decatur High School junior Aidan Forgy prepares an omelet in the school's culinary arts department Dec. 25.

Visit www.championnews.com for local, real DeKalb County news.

Decatur High School junior Aidan Forgy prepares an omelet in the kitchen of the school's culinary art department

Service Projects

by Barbara Cromley

The Southeast Bulloch Middle School FCCLA has participated in several service projects this school year. During School Bus Drivers week, the drivers were greeted by FCCLA members and given a goodie bag and an acrostic of characteristics of bus drivers to thank them for all they do for our schools.

We recently held a coat drive for those who needed a coat. FCCLA members collected jackets and coats and made announcements each day for students to bring in gently used jackets that were too small. After all the jackets were collected and washed, the counselors helped give out jackets to students who needed them the most. The rest were given to a non profit organization.



Tucker Middle School FCCLA

Getting your Peer to Volunteer

by Tamiya, TMS FCCLA President

One lone FCCLA member, Inez, an incredibly intelligent 7th grader, took on the task of provoking students of Tucker Middle School (TMS) to start volunteering in the community by providing opportunities for them to do something nice, “just because.” One major responsibility of TMS is participating in community service activities throughout the school year as an International Baccalaureate (IB) school, where in students will get community service hours for their participation. Inez wanted to challenge her classmates to do community service activities from their hearts—not for anything in return.



Inez with TMS Principal Dr. Kathy Cunningham and her FCCLA Advisor Mrs. Christine Mayfield

Inez and her mother conducted fundraisers to purchase materials for two major projects that she conducted at TMS after school. After presenting to students on her team and inviting all faculty/staff and students to participate in each project, Inez was successful. The first activity was making beautiful soft baby blankets for mothers and babies in a homeless shelter for the same. The next project was making door wreaths for residents of an assisted living facility in the Tucker community.

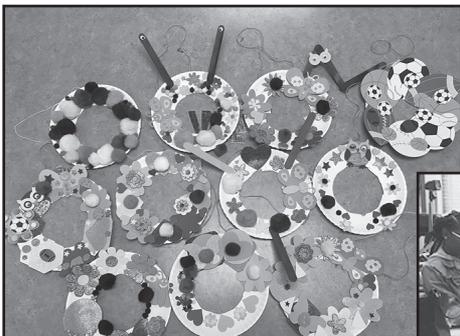


TMS staff members making blankets

TMS students, faculty, staff, students from Tucker High as well as another student club at TMS, Blossom Bells participated and had a wonderful time. The energy and excitement in the room were contagious. The ability to do something nice for others was realized in these events. Inez single-handedly ignited the “spirit of volunteerism” at TMS. Her hope is that others will continue as she will to make this widespread at TMS and the community.



Students making baby blankets



Some of the beautiful wreaths made by the group



TMS students and guest listen to wreath instructions

Groves High School attends Disney Leadership Strategies Seminar

by Octavius Strobert

On January 19, the Groves High School chapter of FCCLA attended a Leadership Strategies Seminar held in Walt Disney World. Members of our chapter participated in a three hour course in EPCOT that encouraged each individual to develop their own personal leadership style and discuss how their style could be used to benefit our chapter. The three main types of leaders we learned about were: visionary, servant, and entrepreneurial.

We also learned about how valuable communication is to our organization. We also were able to relate some of Disney's key components in guest satisfaction to the satisfaction of the members in our organization. At the end of our seminar, we were able to have a meet and greet session with a Disney Imagineer.

Once we completed our course, we were able to enjoy EPCOT and the next day, we went to Magic Kingdom. We are now working on ways to implement our new knowledge to make the Groves High School FCCLA the best!



Some of our members during a communication activity



Our FCCLA chapter members posing with Walt Disney and Mickey in front of Cinderella's Castle

How FCCLA has helped me

by Jessica King

FCCLA has been a big part of my high school career. I joined this club my sophomore year and it was the best decision I have made. We learned about this organization, its history and all the many great things it has to offer. I started to get involved during the fundraiser events like the Halloween Bash where I passed out candy to the teachers kids and the Krispy Kreme fundraiser which helped raise money for our chapter.

I continued to be involved in these activities throughout my junior year and my senior year I decided to be an officer of the club. This was a great opportunity for me to learn new things and get rid of my fears. I am terrified of public speaking. I am also a shy individual so it's hard for me to make a lot of friends. I wanted to work on these issues before I enter college so FCCLA was the right place to start since I have been a member for three years.

So far it has been going great. I attended my first Fall Rally and that was the first time I have ever been to the Perry Fair and I had a great time in the meeting and with my friends. I also got the chance to attend the Fall Leadership Conference in Covington. That was such an experience and my first time ever at a camp. Now I'm preparing for STAR Events which has a little something to do with public speaking.

Overall FCCLA has helped me SO MUCH! I'm making lots of new friends, encountering in lots of traveling and activities. I also had great advisers to guide me and help fulfill my dreams. My last goal is to place in STAR Events. I know that my time being apart of this organization will help me grow to be a smart responsible young women.



Fall Leadership Conference (more pics on page 5)

My Future Matters

by Madison Hollis

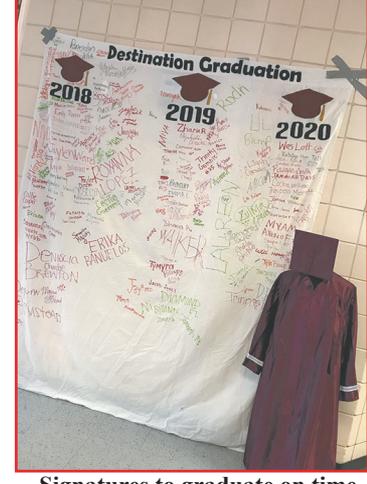
Coffee FCCLA members created a pledge for their classmates to sign to motivate them to stay in school. The idea continued from their studying about careers and working on their plans after high school. Some of their classmates had dropped out of school already. Students seem to give up sometimes when they don't think anyone supports them. Students created the pledge as a vision so that each person that signs will see the end goal of graduating. As FCCLA members have studied careers this year, they learned that finishing high school and gaining a diploma can be worth more when it comes to their salary and their future.



Students signing pledge under their graduation Year



Signing pledge to graduate on time



Signatures to graduate on time

Houston County High School Has a Capital Experience in Our Nation's Capital

by Marcus Milton

Family and Consumer Sciences students from across the nation attended the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Cluster Meeting in Washington, D.C. this November. Students became "Inspired by FCCLA" by attending conference sessions and leadership workshops, exploring the history of our Nation's Capital, and competing in competitions against schools from across the nation.

This conference provided an opportunity for FCCLA members and advisers to come together to expand leadership skills, sharpen talents, and explore opportunities in Family and Consumer Sciences. FCCLA members are always striving to make a lasting impression within their families, schools, and communities, and National Cluster Meeting was the perfect opportunity to help students strengthen their leadership skills and become a positive advocate for FCCLA and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Prior to the conference, four HCHS FCCLA members, Dedan McFadden, Henry Pham, Illiana Esquivel, and Emory Jolley, explored leadership further by participating in FCCLA Capitol Leadership. Capitol Leadership gave these FCCLA members the opportunity to learn about government and advocacy and al-

lowed them to take their skills to Capitol Hill where they met with legislators to promote FCCLA, FACS, and CTAE.

HCHS FCCLA pushed their leadership further by taking initiative in competitive event opportunities offered at National Cluster Meeting. The Houston County High School FCCLA LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Team competed in the qualifying rounds at National Cluster Meeting and have advanced to the final LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl rounds which will take place at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Atlanta this summer. The HCHS FCCLA LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl competitors were: Emory Jolley, Matthew Manion, Vinit Patel, Elizabeth Deal, and Nikita Shetty.

National Cluster Meeting attendees came home from D.C. ready to inspire other FCCLA members to get involved and grow their leadership through opportunities within the organization. Furthermore, HCHS FCCLA members are looking for opportunities to practice advocacy for FCCLA and FACS here within the local community. HCHS FCCLA's Vice President of Membership, Wahome Muriuki, remarked, "I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to travel to D.C. and attend the National Cluster Meeting with FCCLA.

This conference was inspiring because I learned about leadership in a city that influenced our Nation by being built by courageous leaders. This conference educated me on how to proactively speak out for FCCLA and take the skills that the organization has provided me to make a difference in my community. Being in D.C. with FCCLA taught me that one small act of leadership can truly impact the world."

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA has over 150,000 members and over 6,500 chapters from 50 state associations, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The organization has involved more than ten million youth since its founding in 1945.

FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience is unique among youth organizations because it is the only career and technical in-school student organization with the family as its central focus. Participation in national programs and chapter activities helps members become strong leaders in their families, careers, and communities.



My Year in Georgia FCCLA



By Julia Peake

This year I've been able to travel across our state and country, advocating for FCCLA and doing what I love. And here's the best thing- I was able to do it alongside 20 State Executive Council members and thousands of students who are just as passionate as I am. Can you not see what an incredible thing that is? These students- the

members- YOU- are anywhere from 11 to 18 years old, yet they have the passion and drive to dedicate many long hours merely because they love what they're doing. They've learned so many skills through this organization and put them to the test in some of the scariest ways possible. These students have stood up in front of crowds of judges, other students, even legislators and congressmen- advocating for what they love, and I know there is no one I admire more than those members.

Georgia FCCLA is not our conferences. It is not Fall Rally or STAR Events or community service. It is the members who make up our state association. It is the members who stay up all night practicing for STAR Events. It is the members, who instead of going to a football game or basketball game, go to state conferences and chapter meetings. It is the members who take the risk of competing or running for office. The members who fail and try again. The members who help

in their communities, who wear their red jacket with pride, who have the courage to speak in front of these teachers, these judges, these community leaders. These members who have given up so much time, and gained so much courage and life skills, and they are Georgia FCCLA.

My naive ambition to become "successful" was what pushed me to join FCCLA, but this year I have realized FCCLA provides more than just my definition of "success". FCCLA provides a creative outlet, ways to give back to your community, a place to harness your competitive spirit, and a place to be yourself. There is a reason we are the only student organization with family as it's central focus- FCCLA provides a family for anyone and everyone. As this year comes to a close, I leave you with this- We are the leaders of tomorrow. As we go into the 2018 State Leadership Conference and beyond, don't forget that your greatest is yet to come.

Serving as the State Historian



by Kristin Hankins

Serving as the State Historian for Georgia FCCLA has been one of the greatest experiences of my life! I am so glad I got to meet and get to know all of the people I'm on council with and get to know them better! I am so bad at trying to decide my favorite memory, but if I had to choose one it would be traveling to D.C. for Capitol Leadership and National Cluster meeting with Mrs. Traci and two of my fellow officers. Once arriving, we went to opening session for Capitol Leadership where we met people from all across the U.S.- even Alaska! We learned how to better advocate for FCCLA and Family and Consumer Sciences and went to Capitol Hill the next day and advocated! It was a great experience and I learned so much while I was there and met so many new people I would not have met otherwise!

Preview the View

by Kristina Hesson

Mountain View FCCLA loves to stay busy in the community and has done so with several community service projects this year. In the month of October we participated in trunk-or-treat, which is an event put on by MV student council. Each club picked a movie and decorated the trunk of the car to the theme and the club members dressed up as characters from the movie. We then invited the kids from our cluster schools to come out and trick-or-treat in a safe environment before a home football game. Every participant brought a canned good that we donated to a local food pantry. We had tons of fun as trolls!

In October, we also volunteered at our cluster elementary school's fall festival. We had a blast making cotton candy, playing games, and jumping in the moon walk with the kids!

In November, we did our Cansgiving Drive, in which all of our members collected and donated 10 canned goods to donate to our school's food pantry. We also participated in Operation Christmas Child and collected over 30 boxes to send to less fortunate children overseas.

In December, we had a CTSO holiday social in which we listened to Christmas music, ate yummy holiday snacks, and made holiday cards for kids that had to spend Christmas at Scottish Rite hospital.

We are looking forward to our teacher appreciation community service project coming up in February. We will be making chocolate covered strawberries for our teachers that we love "berry" much!

Northwest Whitfield High School FCCLA

by Morgan Cardin

Our chapter, Northwest Whitfield High School, helped a local nursing home. Some nursing home residents don't have family or friends and do not receive anything for Christmas. We wanted to help. Some chapter members gathered to buy stockings and stocking stuffers at a local store. Items such as, ornaments, tissues, socks, self-care items, puzzle books and cards were purchased to put inside the stockings. Our members formed an assembly line to assemble the stockings. We then delivered the stockings at the nursing home's Christmas party and handed out stockings to each resident. The residents were so happy to receive something for Christmas. We were glad to be able to help make a difference in the resident's lives.



Making Stockings



Peachtree Ridge High School

by Kathryn Shinliver

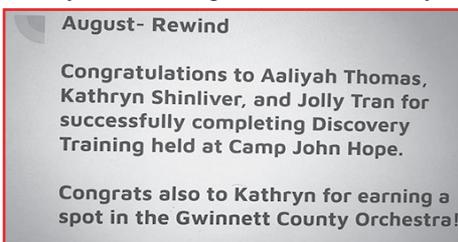
Our Chapter always wants to make our members feel important in our club. We don't want them to feel like just a name on a roster, but a member who is important and special. We try to get to know each of our members and ask them about their days whenever we see them.

One way that we recognize our members is incorporating them in our presentation at our monthly meetings. When we know that something special happened to one of our members, we want to congratulate them by incorporating them in our slideshow. When one of our members made it into the county orchestra, we put a little snippet in



our powerpoint and let the other members know their accomplishments.

When our members don't want us to incorporate them into our presentation, the officers like to give them a little gift. It's usually an FCCLA pen with some candy.



This was one of our slides to congratulate some of our members of what they did during the past month



Delivering Stockings



Some of the stockings delivered

Lee County Fall Leadership Conference pictures (story on page 4)



Oconee County High School FCCLA

by Kaitlyn Jackson

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) has had a fantastic year filled with laughter, fun, and new friends. FCCLA has gone to Perry Faire, held a haunted house, painted faces at football games, had a bleacher clean-up, held socials- including a halloween party, and more this year.

These activities have brought students and members together and to get to know one another more. Isabel Saunders, who has been a member since the beginning of the school year says: "My favorite part about FCCLA is getting to see all of my friends, and getting to do cool stuff like miss school and go on field trips."

Meryl Jones, who has also been a member since the beginning of the school year states, "The Perry Faire field trip" when asked what her favorite activity in the club has been.

There are 52 current members in FCCLA and the club is always looking for more. They're still accepting newcomers and anyone else who would like to join in on the fun.

Overall, FCCLA has had a great year and will continue to with upcoming events and activities, such as club meetings that are coming up soon, just fill out a membership form and come on in!



FCCLA Halloween Party

Spreading Holiday Cheer

by Catherine Huskey

Apalachee FCCLA chapter members spent two afternoons in November and December spreading holiday cheer.

During November, students led a drive to distribute and collect boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Fifty-five boxes were collected this year and given to our school athletic trainer to deliver to the organization. Students also visited two local assisted living facilities in the afternoon in December. On each day, students took supplies they collected to decorate the residents' doors throughout each facility.

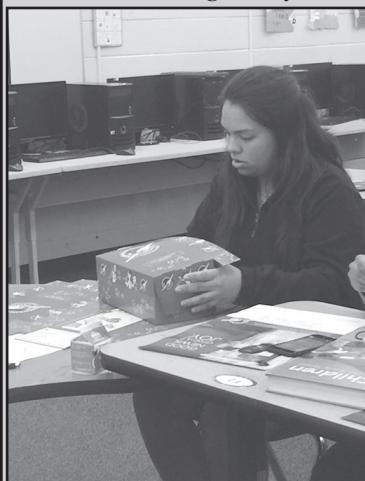
This service opportunity gave members a chance to interact with residents and employees of the facility and bring joy to these individuals. Members really enjoy this service project each December and outreach continues to grow each year. This year, students were able to serve at two local facilities.



Students decorate doors at a local assisted living facility



Students collect Operation Christmas Child boxes during lunches at school in November



Students assemble Operation Christmas Child boxes to distribute to the student body

Perry Career Academy - Servant Leadership

by Tiara Green

Perry Career Academy and Babb FCCLA serves the families at Calvary Refuge Center on the National Day of Service. We received a call that the Calvary Refuge needed help, even though it was a holiday we gathered some community volunteers and a chapter member to serve.

Calvary Refuge, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides emergency and transitional housing and food for homeless individuals and families in need. Through the continued effort of their staff, our volunteers, financial and other donations, and generous grants provided by federal, state, and county agencies, the Calvary Refuge Center has aided the homeless for nearly 30 years.

Through their Transitional



Perry Career Center and Babb FCCLA along with Community Volunteers

and Emergency Housing programs, Calvary Refuge Center has helped thousands of homeless adults and children in need. The average American family is just a few paychecks away from homelessness. Located in Forest Park, GA they are always in need of volunteers, food and financial assistance. For more information send an email to info@calvaryrefuge.org.

Taking Down Tobacco Grand Prize Winner

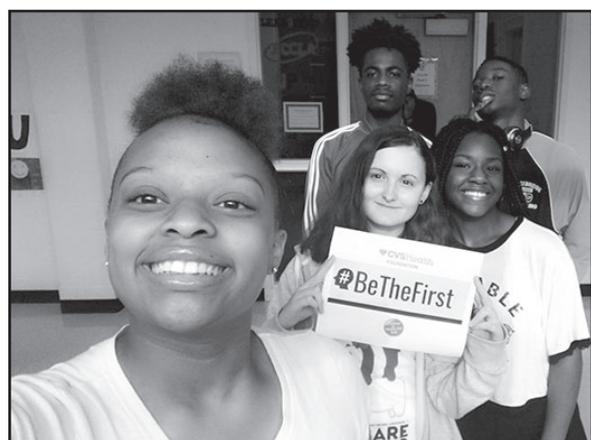
by Leigh Jackson, Adviser

January 18, 2018 was a wonderful day here in Stockbridge.

Not only did we have a beautiful snow on the ground, we also learned that we were

one of three Grand Prize Winners from Taking Down Tobacco, a national initiative for FCCLA. As one of the first 100 Chapters to train and report back, we were awarded \$100 and an entry into the Grand Prize Drawing.

We are delighted to partner with Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), and have engaged FCCLA members in trainings that will help them understand the dangers of tobacco use and how their voices can help their peers

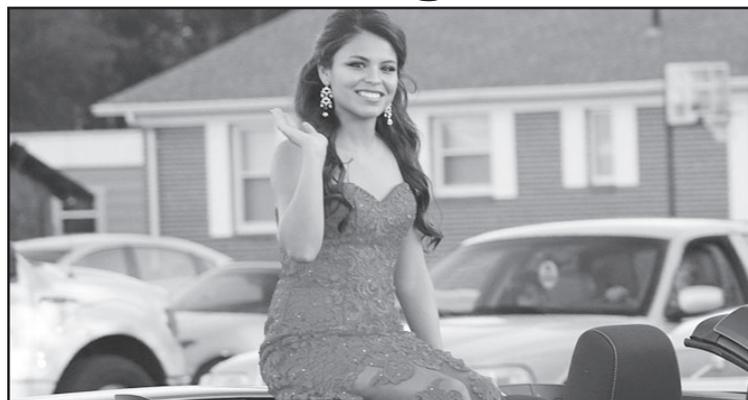


#BetheFirst tobacco-free generation.

At the time of this article, our Chapter has trained over 75 students and are launching additional "Train the Trainer" sessions in hopes to take the entire student body of SHS through the material to motivate them to become the first tobacco free generation..

We would like to encourage other Chapters to look into the great opportunity for activism right there in your own school!

Homecoming Court



by Sydney Butler

Appling County FCCLA is so proud to announce that Maria Garcia was chosen for the 2017 Homecoming Court. Maria serves her Appling County FCCLA chapter as treasurer, while playing in the Pirate Brigade Marching Band and maintaining a 3.5 GPA. We love you and are so proud of you!

Visit us at www.gafccla.com

Country Christmas

by Meredith Hughes

Berrien High FCCLA joined other CTSOs to make Christmas special for Berrien County Foster Children. There are approximately 65 children from Berrien County in Foster Care. As a result of the high number it is hard to get enough resources to provide the children with items at Christmas.

Joining with FFA, FBLA, SKillsUSA, 4-H and HOSA, our chapter provided and filled stockings for each child that came to the celebration. The goal of the night was to provide items needed by the children and to provide dinner in a festive atmosphere for the families. Many of these families experience stress around the holidays and we hoped to give them a night of fun with no responsibilities.

In addition to dinner and the stockings each child received gifts provided by local businesses and a visit from Santa! FCCLA members dressed as elves to help with evening. Each CTSO had a game or activity planned for the children attending. One parent expressed her gratitude this way. "Thank you so much for giving us a night of fun where we could just be a family!" Chapter members were touched by the children and families. They hope to do this again next year.



Even DFCS Caseworkers' children were able to participate. No pictures of foster children were allowed.



FCCLA Members Morgan Nix & Kaitlyn Ray help Santa with gifts

Christmas Child Toy Drive

by Rebekah LaFontaine

Every year our FCCLA chapter helps with the Christmas Child Toy drive. This year we were able to be the host for all of the toys donated from our school. Christmas Child is a very special part of Greenbrier. Our teachers have the option to host a child for their individual classes. The children's information is anonymously given to the classes and they buy gifts the children request. We had no idea how many schools actually participate in the toy drive until our chapter delivered all the toys to the warehouse. When they opened the door their warehouse floor was covered in bags filled with toys, clothes, and any other items requested by the children. The whole process was very humbling. Most people take their gifts for granted and do not realize how much a Christmas gift really means to someone and their family.



Christmas Child Warehouse



Delivering the Toys

BHS FCCLA Sacks Hunger in Buford

by Alexis Durkin and Kara Morand

Buford High School FCCLA participated in Sacks for Kids at Buford First United Methodist Church. Sacks for Kids is a program that gives children and families a sack lunch every Saturday morning.

Sacks contain a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, cookies, canned soup, bag of popcorn, juice box, and other non-perishable food items.

FCCLA students decorated lunch bags, made sandwiches, packed all the food items, and distributed the meals for children in the community who needed them. Our FCCLA students have participated at Sacks for Kids three times this year.



Students make peanut butter sandwiches to pack along with other food

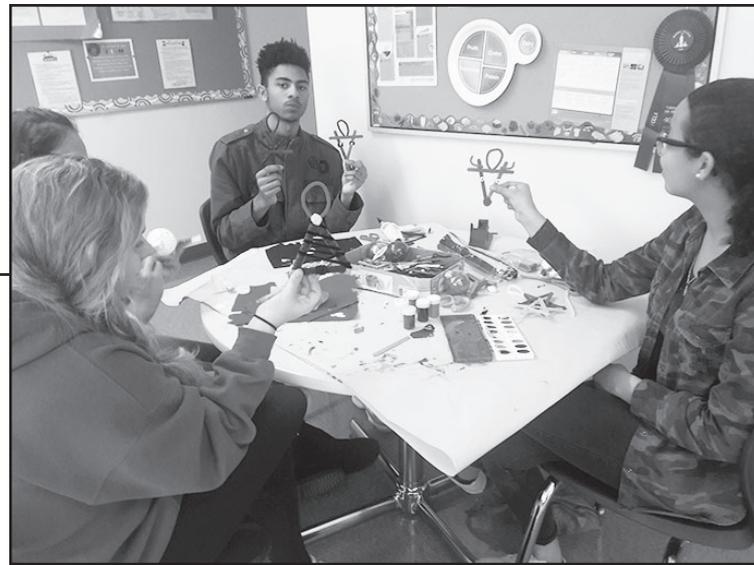


Students form an assembly line to the lunch bags



Students advertise the free lunch

Chamblee Charter High School volunteered at the center of Golden living and had a wonderful experience helping out in the activities .



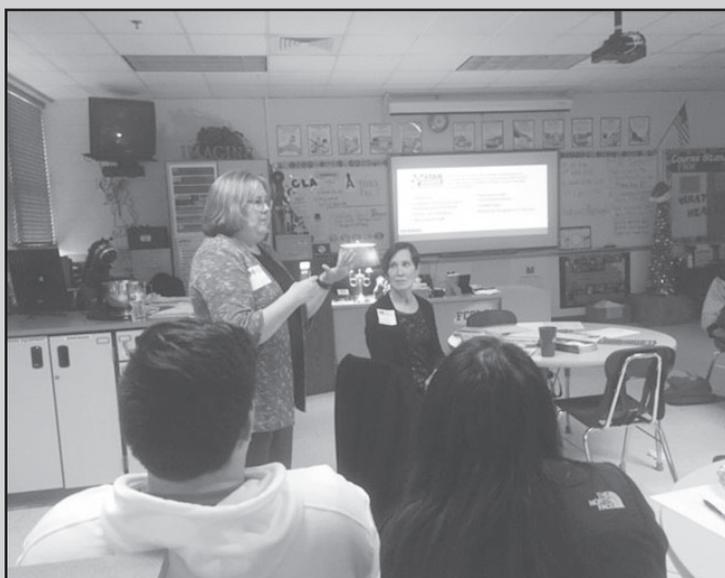
Marietta High School Learns about Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

by Anne Carroll

On Thursday, December 7th, Marietta High School FCCLA hosted a representative from Georgia Cares to speak on the topic of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking.

Retired FACS teacher and FCCLA advisor Leslie Brook spoke to members of the MHS chapter about the scope of the issue, warning signs that someone may be a victim of DMST, and the services offered by the Georgia Cares organization.

The chapter will be sponsoring a collection drive of personal care products during the month of January to be given to DMST victims through Georgia Cares.



Leslie Brook presents on the topic of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking



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