

# Georgia News



STATE ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2019

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## Making Every Second Count The Time of My Life

By: Ava Atkism

6 years. 72 months. 313 weeks. 2,191 days. 52,560 hours. 3,153,600 minutes. 189,216,000 seconds.

I've devoted six very short years to an organization that not only changed my life, but many others as well. My sixth grade year, Natasha Bedingfield's song Unwritten came on my Pandora one morning in my FACS class. She said, "Today is where your book begins, the rest is still unwritten," and that was the day I joined FCCLA. Little did I know I would have so many opportunities and gain many life skills from joining a club at school.

Sixth grade me was so happy when I learned the creed and could say it without looking at the screen at the Fall Leadership Rally and the State Leadership Conference. Sixth grade me cried tears of joy when I made it to compete at state in Teach and Train. Sixth grade me cried when I didn't make it to Nationals, but that didn't stop me.

When we won first place in Knowledge Bowl that was a moment I will nev-



er forget. I didn't compete in STAR Events my last two years in middle school because they got rid of the organization there and at the feeder high school, but I didn't let that stop me. I still found ways to be a leader in not only my school, but

also in my community.

Freshman year I went to a different high school to continue my love for FCCLA. It wasn't really a big deal here at Monroe Area High School, but I made a promise to myself that it would be a bigger deal before I graduated. Sports Nutrition was a new STAR Event my first year back and I knew that I wanted to compete in it. I'm a student athlete and I come from a family full of former college athletes, so I knew that this could be a great way for me to not only express my love for sports, but my love for competing, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Freshman and sophomore year flew by so fast, but they were full of memories from FCCLA. I made it to nationals both years which meant I was afforded the opportunity to travel to San Diego, California and Nashville, Tennessee. I always look forward to nationals because you get to reconnect with your friends from state and create new bonds that can be life changing. Junior year I took another break and did not compete, but my schools chapter continued to grow and prosper. Here I am, senior year, getting ready to compete in my last STAR Event, create my last speech, and compete one last time. I am a chapter officer and I am here to lead this chapter onto bigger and better things before my time is up. Freshman year me has never been so proud. Every year our chapter grew bigger and bigger. We



have had more people compete in STAR Events, and we've created more leaders in our community than I had ever imagined. I sit here and reminisce on the many memories that FCCLA has blessed me with and my heart is overjoyed.

Red symbolizes strength, courage, and determination. White symbolizes sincerity of purpose and integrity of action. The red rose symbolizes a desire for beauty in everyday living. I will be a red rose and I will bleed red and white forever, and I will work towards new horizons. Georgia FCCLA these past 6 years have been nothing but life changing and I will forever be grateful that I was apart of such a great organization. They say "Time flies by when you're having fun" so take advantage of all of the opportunities FCCLA has in store for you, because these years will fly by faster than you think. The Black Eyed Peas said, "now I've had the time of my life. No, I never felt like this before. Yes I swear it's the truth and I owe it all to you", and thanks to FCCLA I have definitely had the time of my life!

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### Taking the Lead with FCCLA

*Morgan Sager,  
Vice President of  
Competitive Events*

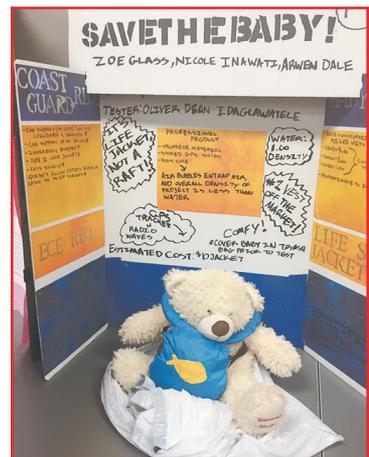
My participation in FCCLA has helped me take the lead in my community by organizing a donation for the Ronald McDonald House for the 2019 GATFACS Conference. For this conference, we had a total donation of approximately 1500 individually wrapped snacks, 5 bags of beverage tabs, and 70 laundry detergents from Toombs county High School FCCLA and Beta Club. Also, I have helped in my community by volunteering for the Teen Maze for 2 years in a row. Teen Maze is a peer outreach program where a group of volunteers act out a play for our local eighth graders and show them the importance of how drugs, alcohol, and bad decisions could possibly end your life or someone else at just one high school party. Furthermore, I take pride in knowing that I can make a difference through a local outreach project that I created called "Mother Therese's Closet". We have a ready supply of clothes and supplies for students in need at our schools and in our community. Through these community service projects, I have helped a great number of people and even saved lives. Not only can I help my community, but so can you!

### FCCLA Members Collaborate on Infant Life Jacket Design

By: Linda Brimmer, PhD

Members from the PRHS FCCLA chapter and Peachtree Ridge Engineering students collaborated in February on the creation of a Coast Guard Approved Infant Life Jacket. Engineering students used the ECE Computerized babies as a model for the design. Sand, rice, and other unique products were used to mimic the size and weight of an infant.

ECE students gave many suggestions regarding their needs for the life jacket. Colors seen in both a swimming pool and lake water was on the top of the list for the vest, in addition to a GPS locator and comfort. Students used sur-



"Bearly" floatable, this life jacket was too heavy.

veys to determine which group had the best design.

### Foster Children's Christmas Party

By: Tamara Roberts

FCCLA members volunteered at the Screven County Foster Children's Christmas Party. Our members served food, played games, painted ornaments and passed out presents to the children



FCCLA members volunteering at the Foster Children's Christmas Party.

Georgia FCCLA  
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Lawrenceville, GA 30043

# What FCCLA Has Taught Me

Sabrina Rutledge,  
Region 7 Officer



FCCLA has brought me so many life skills and has helped to shape me into who I am today! I have learned to believe in myself these past two years since I took the first step and joined FCCLA. Now, it's making such an impact on my everyday life!

Confidence is something that FCCLA has helped me grow tremendously. I remember always being the shy kid in my class, and I never wanted to speak in front of others; but now I am someone who speaks up first and stands tall as a leader. My public speaking skills are also something that I am continuing to grow in since I've joined this organization. From speeches to scripts, and STAR events to presentations, FCCLA has given me the proud voice I've always wanted!

Thanks to FCCLA, I'm continuing to build these life skills that will help me face my future. I'll continue to use them throughout life, like when I have a job interview or when I have a presentation at school. Not only has this organization helped me change positively, but it's also impacting many other students across America to build life skills and change us into confident leaders!

## We face the future with warm courage and high hope



Sumitra Dhakal,  
First Vice President

"We face the future with warm courage and high hope". When I said this line for the first time as a seventh grader, I did not know what it meant or the impact it would in my life. I was simply reading from the piece of paper that my advisor had handed me as I walked in the classroom. However, as I began attending more meetings, started participating in service projects and executed my STAR Events, I realized what facing the future with warm courage and high hope.

I was supported by my advisor and friends to plan my competitive event around something that I could relate to and so I chose a topic that is near and dear to my heart... something that I had endured through and something I knew many of my friends were going through. I decided to raise awareness about Indirect Bullying. It was through this project that I learned the importance of talking about the things that scare us and that facing our fears makes us stronger.

It was then that I understood that facing the future with warm courage and high hope did not mean that I had to have set plans for my future. I did not mean that I need to know what I needed to study, what I wanted to become, at what age I wanted to get married or how many children I wanted to have.

I realized that to face the future with warm courage and high hope means to look at our past and understand what scared us and what made us vulnerable. It means to take the lessons we have learned from our past and share that experience, no matter how scary or difficult, with the world, because unless we face our fears, our fears will control our lives. It means understanding that we do not have to do anything on our own because we have people who love and care for us.

Because of the opportunities and support system FCCLA provided me, I know what it means to face the future with warm courage and high hope, and I am confident that I can do that with the help and support of those around me.

## FCCLA Winter Social

By: Robyn Benton

FCCLA members at Oglethorpe County Middle School took some time out to celebrate all of their hard work during the first semester. They ended the semester with an FCCLA Winter Social. The social included a pizza party, games, and ice skating. What a way to start the holidays!



Ice Skating Fun!  
What a lineup!

# Tigerpalooza at Commerce

By: Channing Martin

Last Spring, the Commerce High School FCCLA chapter coordinated Tigerpalooza, a week of events intended to raise money and awareness for the March of Dimes. They sold t-shirts, held a homeroom collection contest and promoted services that March of Dimes provides for families with premature babies. The chapter raised \$850 and is excited about Tigerpalooza coming up this Spring!



Teachers and students at CHS present a check to the March of Dimes for funds raised through Tigerpalooza.

# Make CANCER Disappear

By: Kenslee Brock

Lee County High School completed an amazing fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society earlier this year during our LIVE TO GIVE 7 Mindsets campaign in November. We chose to focus on cancer because statistics state 1 in 3 people will be affected by cancer at some point in their lifetime. Lee county has had several cases of childhood cancer so we felt it was a concern that our community could relate to and would want to support.

The 3-week fundraiser was ALOT of work but was totally worth it!

We hung LLS posters around the school, made a banner that said Make CANCER Disappear, created a WALL of HOPE to hang blood drops on, decorated luminary bags in honor of loved



Members help make cancer disappear.

ones affected by cancer, hosted a week of dress for "change" themed days, made tons of announcements and finished with a 50/50 raffle at our football playoff game.

Over a 3-week period students, staff, and community members

donated \$1,500 to help raise cancer awareness and to fund important new research for cures. We had 3 top fundraising classes receive special banners, earned a \$75 Amazon gift card, and won a free pizza party. We look forward to making this an annual event and hope to raise even more money next year!

We highly recommend other FCCLA Chapters join in our efforts by hosting a similar fundraiser at their school. The LLS provided us with the supplies we

needed to get started but there are other cancer foundations that accept donations as well. If you would like further information or have any questions, please feel free to contact our Lee County Chapter Advisor Mrs. Thompson at thompsonva@lee.k12.ga.us.

## Toombs County FCCLA received first place in the Knowledge Bowl

By: Trevor Sconyers

Although the 2018 Fall Leadership Rally was canceled, it didn't stop the Toombs County High School FCCLA chapter from becoming champions. After going through four challenging rounds of competition, Toombs County FCCLA received first place in the Georgia FCCLA FACS/FCCLA Knowledge Bowl. "The best part about knowledge bowl is never knowing the outcome. You're not able to estimate the greatness of the other team," says Makenzie Sager, FCCLA member. TCHS's Vice President of National Programs and knowledge bowl competitor, Trevor Sconyers, said, "My favorite part was making our comeback. Last year, TCHS FCCLA placed last in knowledge bowl and lost out in the first round, so the first place win this year was the best feeling."



Knowledge Bowl competitors Trevor Sconyers, Addison Hall, Makenzie Sager, and Chelsea Creamer, studying for the big competition

Visit us at [www.gafccla.com](http://www.gafccla.com) or [www.fcclainc.org](http://www.fcclainc.org)

# Parents' Morning Out

By: Bry Meeler

Back in December, OCHS FCCLA had an exciting fundraiser, Parents' Morning Out. This was a childcare opportunity for our community. Families were invited to drop off their students Saturday morning at OCHS. From there parents could go holiday shopping, wrap gifts, clean, nap, etc. Winter themed activities were planned for the children. FCCLA members had a great time decorating the school for the event! They even dressed up! Everyone had a great time! We plan on having this be a yearly event.



Chapter members were in the holiday spirit at Parents' Morning Out.

# My Journey in FCCLA



**Subhadra Dhakal**  
Region 5 Officer

Four years ago if someone had walked up to me and told me that I would get to serve in the Georgia FCCLA State Executive Council, I would and laughed and thought the person was crazy. How could I, a mere shy member, be able to stand on stage in front of thousands of other members with the best leaders of Georgia. No way would I ever be able to do that. But, what do you know, here I am in my senior year of high school serving in the State Council for the third (and last) year. What I believed to be a dream I was incapable of fulfilling has become a reality. I took the first step when I was in 8th grade and joined FCCLA and was left in awe of everything this organization had to offer. My advisor all but forced me to do a STAR Event and I decided to talk about a topic that had affected me "Indirect bullying." Through this, I was slowly able to build my self-confidence because I was able to meet so many different people, first from my region, than state and then from the whole nation. I was able to interact with people who had similar stories to mine

and learn about their journey in FCCLA and how it has impacted their lives. I did not even realize when these people became my second family. I believe this was the moment that I learned that the officer I admired was just like me. I was not a mere member, but someone with a voice and the tools necessary to advocate for my beliefs. Just like me, there are so many other members who believe they do not have a voice or are not good enough to run for their local, region, state or national officer position. I became an officer because I am a member and every single student across the nation has the ability to find their own voice through FCCLA because they took the first step; they joined the best CTSO. FCCLA has taken me from a timid girl who doubted herself on every step of the way, who did not know how to speak proper English, and hid away public speaking to someone who is confidently able to advocate for what I believe in and has given me the ability to effectively communicate and build networks and it can do the same for you.

# LEAP Christmas Party

By: Iris Perla-Iglesias

New Manchester High School FCCLA volunteered for the second year at the county LEAP Program Christmas Party this past December. The LEAP program is a special needs preschool program that serves children ages 3-5 in our county. The volunteers had the opportunity to assist students in various games and craft activities. Some of the stations included making reindeer food, ice fishing, and a sensory room. The students enjoyed getting to work with the children that they see only daily in the LEAP classroom that is housed at our school. This was the first of many community service opportunities that our chapter participates in.



FCCLA student interacted with children to pretend play in Santa's sleigh.

# What's Your WORD?

By: Sheryl Parks

One Word can create clarity, power, passion and life-change. The members of Bleckley County FCCLA have been setting personal goals by choosing one word! At the January meeting, members took part in a challenge to set personal goals for the year 2019. Setting personal goal is one component of the FCCLA National Program Power of One.

For the first step of the challenge, members were given an opportunity to select one word that would be a motivation for members to turn the impossible into possible in their lives during the year of 2019. For example, words like "organization," "grateful," and "confidence," were chosen by members as their one word.

The word goal would help members focus on an area of their lives in which they want to grow and improve. Members also established three action steps to work toward in order to achieve their goal. Later in the month of January members met together to create one-word bracelets to show others their intent for setting personal goals.

To ensure future success, Bleckley FCCLA plans to hold members accountable in their March Meeting where members will be required to complete a word goal update.

## Region 4 Officer Visits HCHS

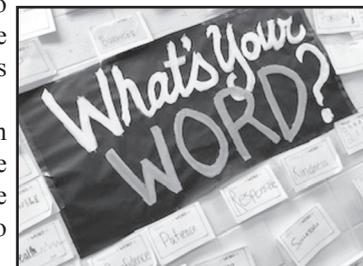
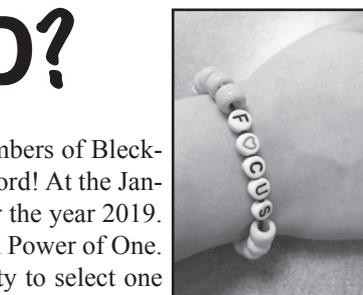
By: Tristen Farmer

Since Georgia FCCLA has so many members and is continuously growing, Georgia FCCLA has divided the state into multiple regions who each have a representative on the Executive Council. Region 4 Representative, Madison Bookheimer, visited Haralson County High School's charter FCCLA chapter on January 17, 2019, and she made an excellent first impression on its new members!

Madison dressed very professionally, including the "official" red blazer, and she was well prepared for the presentation. She explained the FCCLA dress code, code of conduct, and the FC-

CLA Creed. Madison stood tall and smiled as she told the new members about her struggles to find her voice while standing tall during her past STAR Events experiences. She was informative about FCCLA's non-profit mission and purposes. Not only did Madison give an amazing speech without breaking a sweat, but she also encouraged the new members to participate in a few activities that would help them find their voice and expand upon their creative minds.

After the closing ceremony, Ms. Bookheimer expressed her excitement in seeing the things members will accomplish in the



One word bulletin board (bottom) and one word bracelet (top)



Madison Bookheimer leads HCHS FCCLA members in FUN, engaging activities!

near future. She then thanked the HCHS adviser, Mrs. Ward, for having allowed her to visit and congratulated the newly initiated members before leaving to return home. These Georgia FCCLA Region 4 members were very happy to meet Ms. Bookheimer and look forward to seeing her again!

# Run Run Fast As You Can!!!!

By: Vicki Bray

Our FCCLA students had a ball celebrating Christmas with gingerbread activities. We practiced our measuring standards in nutrition classes and made gingerbread cookies. Most students had never tasted ginger cookies and got very creative piping their frosting to enhance the cookies. Then we also made some awesome gingerbread houses.

Unfortunately, due to time restraints and resources we couldn't use real gingerbread but substituted graham crackers instead to create the houses. But the students did make their own royal icing and learned how to make easy piping bag using zip lock bag for the construction and decorating.

Then they could get as creative as they liked bringing any type candies to decorate. Some of the houses were very original and creative. They are already coming up with ideas for next year's houses.



Johnson County High School FCCLA making gingerbread cookies.

# Community Service That Keeps Going

By: Charles Turner

This year, Lincoln County High School FCCLA and FACS students planned a safe trick or treat for school system employees and their children and grandchildren. Students planned games for students to play while trick or treating through the school. Teachers and other school groups were recruited to give our candy at their classrooms, which many decorated with a Halloween theme. Many other teachers donated candy to pass out by FCCLA members. Some teachers even donated prizes to be used with the games.

A Google Form was created and sent to school employees to fill out to either volunteer to help with the event or to list how many children they would be bringing. Because members had decided to open the event up to the community, flyers were prepared and posted at locations throughout

town. It was also posted on social media. Preparations were made according to the number of students who signed up to attend. Activities were planned and a shopping list was made of items needed for games and prizes for the games. Members also planned Halloween themed snacks to serve to the children at the end of the event.

This was done with a classroom assignment where students had to present ideas for games, decorations and snacks that were Halloween themed. The snacks were to be served in the FACS classroom and this was scheduled as the last stop for the event. Students planned shopping lists for the items needed for the snacks and prepared the snacks on the day of the event during their FCS class time. We took the canned goods that were donated as admission and stored them in the



Lincoln County FCCLA members with the food boxes they made for the custodians.



Lincoln County FCCLA members with the cinnamon rolls for the cafeteria staff.

FCS classroom to use for a service project for the custodians. Students sorted the donated cans by type of food and then divided them between 8 boxes, one for each custodian. Our chapter also purchased turkeys and hams to put with the boxes and present-

ed them to the custodians before Christmas break. We decided to take this a few steps further.

There were lots of individual snacks left from the Halloween activity, so we made treat bags for each of our teachers, administrators, and support staff and

placed them in their mailboxes in the front office. Our members decided this wasn't enough, so we made a dozen homemade cinnamon rolls for each of the cafeteria staff and gave them to them to take home for their family.

## Move4Thirty Program to Promote Health and Fitness

By: Taylor Stockel

Communities are not born, they are built. Our chapter is determined to "offer members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life." We recognize the vitality of health and fitness as directly correlated to our success. While pondering the immediate hesitation people feel when they hear the word exercise, we asked ourselves why?

Apalachee FCCLA is determined to create a community where students feel welcome, supported, and driven. We created the Move4Thirty program to promote health and fitness within our school. By extending the opportunity to exercise once a week, students are learning healthy habits and gaining a community of supporters. Many are interested in leading a healthy lifestyle but don't know where to start. Students and teachers alike joined forces to learn and share their knowledge. Our members have found great success in this activity. We encourage other chapters to #Move4Thirty and inspire greatness in your school too.



Chapter adviser, Catherine Huskey, lead a nature walk.



**Zubaida Adres** If you asked any member, adviser or alumni of FCCLA, if they have created life long friendships through being in the organization, their response would be yes. FCCLA has connected me to some of the most amazing people through competing in STAR Events, being on officer teams, and meeting people at both state and national levels.

Event help us to grow as leaders, presenters and individuals, our friendship grew along the way as well. Tabby and I now serve on our chapters officer team together and we are like two peas in a pod!

Through serving on both the North Oconee High School FCCLA officer team and Georgia FCCLA State Executive Council, some amazing people have come into my life that I would not have known otherwise. Being on an officer team helps to build greater connections with each other outside of school. Through taking responsibility in the organization, I have gotten to create lasting friendships with other officers (especially people in different grades who you may not have had the chance to know before)!

Lastly, I can't forget about all of the new people you get to meet at both state and national levels through events like Fall, State and National Leadership Conferences! While packing up your bags and traveling, you get to meet so many people with sim-

## Christmas stockings filled with essentials and goodies

Written by: Alex Ellis

Our members wanted to do something to help others in need around the holidays. We decided to help make Christmas a little more memorable for some people who may not feel the joy of being around family at Christmas time. We provided Christmas stockings filled with essentials and goodies to the residents of Magnolia House Hospice and Highland Cir-

cle Assisted Living in our local community (Conyers). Thanks to the help of our wonderful members, we were able to donate forty full stockings so each resident received one!



Stocking donations for Christmas!

ilar interests, goals and hobbies as you. For example at the 2018 National Leadership Conference, I met two chapter officers from

California, CALIFORNIA! It's crazy to me how we can live on opposite sides of the country and still become friends who talk

to each other on a daily basis. Through social media and texting

See Zubaida Adres, Page 5



# Guffin & Eleam, Inc.

## Complete Insurance Services

# LGHS Cluster Tailgate

By: Ruthie Collins

LGHS FCCLA Chapter partnered with the LGHS HOSA Chapter to participate in the “LGHS Cluster Tailgate” night. Student organizations hosted booths at the event where people can participate in different activities before the football game. All our clusters elementary and middle schools participate in this event as well as the high school students.

We sold baked goods to raise money to fight childhood cancer. Members of both FCCLA and HOSA donated baked goods for our booth. We collected over



LGHS FCCLA members with LGHS HOSA members selling baked goods.

\$250 dollars and donated it to the “Cure Childhood Cancer” organization. It was a great way to help those in our community who are struggling with childhood cancer.

# Mossy Creek Middle School FCCLA visited the district’s Department of Transportation



FCCLA Officers and Members at Houston County Bus Barn.

By: Olivia Morrison

Mossy Creek Middle School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) members visited the district’s Department of Transportation during the first semester. Our FCCLA members wanted to show their appreciation toward our school bus drivers. FCCLA officers presented the Director of Transportation, Mr. Tom Walmer, and others with a custom designed, heartwarming card and yummy donuts.

Prior to this project, our FCCLA officers and members didn’t know what bus drivers do other than bring students to and from school. After doing some research, we soon realized that they do much more. Not only do bus drivers

drive the students, they also have a huge responsibility of keeping them safe. That may sound easy, but it’s harder than you think. Driving is already not the easiest thing but having the responsibility of so many students while driving is a whole new level of difficulty. There are a lot of things to be thankful for in our community, and our bus drivers is certainly one of those things.

Ms. Sherry Sheppard, adviser of the Mossy Creek Middle School FCCLA, says, “I think we should be appreciative of bus drivers not just on Bus Driver Appreciation Day in October, but each and every day.”

So as you continue your day today think about the bus drivers and be grateful for them.

# Stockings for Soldiers.

By: Ashlyn Wilson

During the last week of November, students took home stocking kits to sew for the Stockings for Troops sponsored by Soldiers’ Angels. We could sew as many as we wanted and had the options of different things to choose from such as: reindeers, snowmen, gingerbread men and Santa’s. Once we got enough to fill, students went to the store and bought goodies to put in the stockings. These goodies included cards, pencils and word search books, different games, gloves, socks, chopsticks and little snacks for them as well. We mailed 65 filled stockings. Once we put these together, they were sent off in time for the holidays for the service men and women. We received a nice thank you from the Soldiers’ Angels organization.

# What I learned from FCCLA



Amory Dowdy, Region 1 Officer

As the year came to an end, it was a time of reflection on everything that happened in 2018. I struggled a lot, but I also grew a lot. I feel like I learned a lot about myself and what I want. I put myself out there and did a lot of things that were way out of my comfort zone and they all improved me in many ways. Being a Region Officer is one of those things. I’m a very anxious person and I never would have been able to do a lot of the things I can do now if it wasn’t for FCCLA. I can speak in front of people (mostly) and talk to people one-on-one that I’ve never met. All in all, I’m a better me now.

That said, I can’t just stop growing because I’ve grown. Life is full of continuous change and continuous growth. Everything you do will help you grow in some way, but the most influential things are the things you push yourself to do. This upcoming year and in the years to come, I will strive to grow even more; FCCLA and everyone I’ve met through the amazing organization will help me along the journey.

## Zubaida Adres, from Page 5

we are able to communicate daily and our friendship is all because of FCCLA!

To sum it up, one thing FCCLA focuses on is creating those lasting bonds and memories for all of its members. FCCLA is an organization that can bring many people (who are all on many different walks of life) together!

# Jeff Davis High FCCLA and Toys That Teach



Flying high in FCCLA

Written by: Cindy Corbitt

Jeff Davis High FCCLA chapter recently brainstormed ideas for Toys That Teach, the State

Event that encourages children to gain a new skill from a homemade toy. Paper airplanes seem to be something that all the FCCLA members could make easily, but lots of the group were out of practice since it’s been years making a paper airplane. Some chapter members googled paper airplanes to get ideas for folding. Students seemed to enjoy helping one another build their plane.

The next instruction was to list life goals, career goals, and individual strengths and weaknesses on the paper plane. Share the ideas with the “family” which is a group of students seated at your

table each day in class. Some shared their goals with the whole group. By the end of the lesson, members were allowed to fly their planes. Some planes flew far and high across the classroom and others went straight to the floor!

That was a great talking point to discuss what helps us soar and those life situations that pull us down, keep us from flying. A toy that teaches could be a paper airplane. This activity could be used with elementary and middle school students too. One chapter member plans to build on this activity and use this at State competition in Toys That Teach.

# Santa came to Atkinson Plaza

By: Rosa Sanchez

Santa came to Atkinson Plaza on Dec. 8 for children and families to participate in family fun. FCCLA members created activities to do with small children after having their picture made with Santa Claus.

Some of the activities included: Hot chocolate and cookies with Mrs. Claus, creating several keepsake ornaments, face painting, and making special gifts for mom or grandma. Kids could also have pictures made with The Grinch, Max the dog, Cindy Lou Who, Elsa and Anna, Thing One and Thing Two. Students enjoyed



FCCLA members set up activity stations.

working with the children as well as adults. There were several adults who stopped for pictures with Santa and The Grinch was a big hit.

**LIVE**

*For 25*



By: *Wahome Muriuki*  
Hello everyone, I am Wahome Muriuki and having the opportunity

for their Live for 25 membership goal and who have reached it I would like to say great job! It is so fascinating seeing all of you at conferences and hearing from you on social media. I gotten to learn so much this year from FCCLA.

Starting from the beginning of the school year I have been able to work with some incredible officers but interacting and hearing stories from the awesome members in Georgia has been amaz-

to serve as the Vice President of Membership for Georgia FCCLA has been a complete life changing event. I have been able to meet so many amazing members. All of the chapters who are striving

ing. Seeing how much one organization has impacted their lives is eye opening for me. I have heard stories about how being the kid who got bullied in school has led them to be the president of their chapter. Also, I've heard how joining FCCLA allowed them to connect with their family from using the National Program Families First. One of my favorite stories was from a middle schooler a couple of months ago at a chapter visit. They told me they never had the opportunity to travel out of their county until they went to the National Leadership Conference in Tennessee. The day they saw

the fireworks show it was the best day of their life. It meant so much to them that they got to experience it and it was because they decided to join FCCLA that very year. There are so many reasons why FCCLA is so great to me but it's mostly because how much it impacts others more.

Also, I learned about truly being a leader and what it takes to impact the lives of others in a positive way. Being a leader doesn't just mean being the one in charge. It is about being unselfish and devoted to helping everyone in the group. This can be in a sport's team, student section, club, and

of course a FCCLA chapter. It's about being the one that even though you worked extremely hard to finish making your STAR event you keep going to help others in your chapter get work done. Venturing out to find a community service project for your chapter that will impact your community. Even reaching out to one of your friends in the hallway to join FCCLA just because you know how much you can grow through this organization. Having the courage to put others before you it what it takes to be a leader and I challenge all of YOU to strive to be like that.

# The Joy of Sox

By: *Olivia Herrmann*

Starr's Mill High School FCCLA found the "Joy of Sox" in December. The chapter partnered with the Joy of Sox organization to collect donations of new socks for the homeless. The sock drive ran for two weeks. In the end, Starr's Mill collected 255 pairs of socks for the homeless!



Photo Caption: The Joy of Sox

## FCCLA community service project

By: *Elizabeth Peyton*

This year for one of our community service projects, our FCCLA had a competition between our Black and Gold day classes to raise money for a family we had sponsored for Christmas. Every day we sent around a bucket that we put any kind of money in for the kids to donate to the family. The buckets were decorated and said Black and Gold day on them so we could determine who had the most money at the end.



Kacee and Riley were ready to collect money!

We sent these buckets around every day, for three weeks, giving the FCCLA members a great number of opportunities to donate. After three weeks, both Black and Gold day classes raised over five hundred dollars to support this family. Mrs. Davis told her classes that whichever

day raised the most money they would get to have pizza. Gold day classes ended up raising the most money and received pizza throughout the day. With all the money FCCLA raised, we were able to buy the family things that were important and helpful for the holidays.

## FCCLA Allows Me to Impact the World



**Keylee Phillips, Region 9 Officer**

Ever since I could remember, I always knew that I wanted to impact the world in some way. I never would've thought that FCCLA would allow me to do that. Shortly after becoming a member of FCCLA during my freshman year, I quickly came to the realization that I wanted to hold a higher position within this organization.

Being able to serve as the Region 9 Officer for Georgia FCCLA has been life changing, and I am deeply saddened that my time is quickly coming to an end. I will never forget that day I found out that I was elected to become the Region 9 Officer, I cried happy tears. As I reflect on that day, I realize

how I didn't understand the endless amount of opportunities waiting ahead.

The many memories that I've shared with members, chapters and the SEC Council are unforgettable. From my very first State Leadership Conference in 2016 to serving as a Georgia voting delegate at the 2018 National Leadership Council to early State Executive Council meeting mornings, I wouldn't trade these memories for anything.

As the Region 9 Officer I've learned perseverance, determination, and to love others as my own family. FCCLA has taught me countless things through the past few years, but the most important thing I've learned, is to be myself no matter what. By being yourself, you exhibit your full potential and you can develop skills you never knew you had. FCCLA has allowed me to find myself and become the leader I always wanted to be.

I am beyond appreciative for the opportunities that I have been given this year and I want to encourage members to take opportunities once they are given and always put forth your best effort.

## Spalding High School FCCLA Celebrate Christmas with the Special Needs Class

By *Marly Armstrong*

On December 20, Spalding High School FCCLA in Griffin, Georgia, collaborated with the Student Council at Futral Road Elementary School to celebrate Christmas with the Special Needs class by providing a Christmas Party. SHS FCCLA planned the crafts, activities, and purchased gifts that would be given to these wonderful kids. Each child was partnered with one or two FCCLA members to hang out with him or her for the time of the party.

When our FCCLA group arrived, they got to work setting up the ornament craft with the help of the elementary school student

council members. Then the guests of honor arrived!

Our FCCLA members all sat with the children and helped them decorate their ornaments and treasure boxes. Soon, it was time for presents! Santa came in on his "sleigh" to deliver all the gifts we had brought. When the kids saw Santa, it was an amazing sight! There have never been bigger smiles on kids' faces! They were read "Twas the Night



SHS FCCLA members!

Before Christmas" and given a snack. Each child was able to sit on Santa's lap and open gifts. Being there for the kids was worth every minute!

## Winter Wear for Our Warm and Toasty drive

By: *Hanna Ferguson*

Locust Grove Middle School had a competition with another middle school to see who could collect the most winter wear for our Warm and Toasty drive. Students were asked to donate NEW hats, coats, scarves, and gloves to be given to needy people in our community. Our efforts were spearheaded by the Beta Club, and LGMS FCCLA pitched in the help. We created 14 fleece scarves by cutting fleece fabric into long strips and then cutting fringes on the ends. We chose a black print with white paw prints on it since we are the Wildcats. We hope these scarves bring a lot of joy to their recipients. We did not win the competition, but we enjoyed teaming up to help others in need. We hope to do it again next year.



Members of LGMS FCCLA pose with the 14 scarves they made to donate.

# Christmas Angels

*By: Alexis Smith*  
 In December, Southeast High School FCCLA students collected items to donate to Salvation Army Christmas Angel project. Students gathered toys, clothing, school items, and other necessities for two young children. We were able to fill multiple bags to help give these kids a great Christmas.



Christmas Angel Gifts



## Members Only Lunch for 65 FCCLA Members



Chapter FCCLA members and officers helped serve at the lunch.

*By: Hannah Thompson*  
 Throughout this school year, our chapter of FCCLA has seen tremendous growth in our membership. From our first year as a **Bruin Bash**

*By: Morgan Cardin*  
 Our FCCLA chapter set up booths at our school's Bruin Bash. Bruin Bash is an after school event where the students work booths and games for children in our community. Carnival type games, sport centered games, food and end of the night fireworks made up Bruin Bash. This event brings families together to have a fun family night. Donations were collected and the donations served as a fundraiser for our chapter

chapter to now, we've seen many faces come and go. As a response to this, our chapter decided to do something special for our members to make sure they feel welcomed and appreciated. We took the initiative and hosted a members only lunch for our 65 members. Officers took shifts at their lunches and made sure that every member received their plate and an itinerary for our FCCLA week events and meetings. Members appreciated the gesture and showed excitement for FCCLA Week! The officers and our adviser are just glad that we have so many great members and opportunities to be leaders.



Photo Caption: Members with the booth at the Bruin Bash.

## Community Service Project to Benefit Students Classified as Homeless

*By: Lynn Booth*  
 During the month of November and December, Madison County High FCCLA planned and carried out a community service project to benefit students classified as homeless at Madison County High School. After interviewing the school district's homeless representative, Loren Metts, MCHS currently has 30 students that are considered homeless. MCHS FCCLA chose to support these students with Christmas gifts. Officers created a wish list for both the male and female students. This list was sent out to all student organizations and instructors/staff at MCHS. All 30 students were claimed to receive a gift from MCHS' different groups. MCHS FCCLA received items for the gifts prior to a club meeting that was held on December 4.

During this meeting, members organized items that were donated and packed gift bags for the students. Gifts were then transported to the guidance office staff. Guidance office staff shared the gifts with students so that their privacy was not violated. At the conclusion of this project, several members and officers commented on how awesome this project was and how great it was to help those in need.



Three officers delivered the meal after it was prepared at the high school.

*By: Caitlin Mitchell*  
 FCCLA and FCS focus on both the value of family and the value of a healthy meal. Although, some families may not be able to provide a meal due to financial issues or even time management

## Chapel Hill Bus Drivers Honored



Visit us at [www.gafccla.com](http://www.gafccla.com) or [www.fcclainc.org](http://www.fcclainc.org)

## Schley County FCCLA Fundraisers

*By: Jennifer Driver*  
 The Schley County High School chapter of FCCLA has been hard at work this year to raise money to fund club projects, increase membership and help students attend activities hosted by Georgia FCCLA. This year Schley County High School FCCLA participated in two fundraisers raising over \$1,000 sell-

ing Halloween candy grams and over \$600 selling raffle tickets for a smart tv. Club members have also earned \$400 thus far working concessions at various sporting events. With the funds raised Schley County FCCLA has been able to hold a tailgate party for new members, purchase Christmas gifts to show member appreciation, and register members for



Schley County FCCLA members pose for a group picture after the tailgate party to welcome new members.



Madison County High FCCLA took a quick picture with their bags after the finished packing them.

## FCS National Dine-In Day

issues. In honor of FCS National Dine-In Day, North Oconee High School FCCLA wanted to help reduce this issue within our community so that families can sit down together and enjoy a meal.

On December 3rd, the NOHS FCCLA officer team prepared and delivered a meal for the 20 residents of the Athens Area Homeless Shelter. Our VP of Leadership, Zubaida Adres and VP of Community

Service, Nando Bodie teamed up in October to organize this joint community service project for our chapter. They found a recipe, figured our costs, dates and times, and created a sign up sheet for volunteers. On the day of the community service project, our officers stayed after school and dived right into cooking the meal. They prepared a cheeseburger casserole with a garden salad and chocolate chip cookies! When delivered to the Athens Area Homeless Shelter, our officer team was welcomed with warm smiles from the women and families of the shelter.

Not only were we able to serve our community, but we also got to promote FCS and FCCLA along the way!

## Leadership Skills Earned at FCCLA



Morgan Nix, Region 8 Officer

When you serve as a Region Officer, you gain many leadership skills. You are also provided with many opportunities to grow as a leader. My favorite leadership growth experience was Chapter Visits. Traveling to Irwin County High School, Fitzgerald High School, and Berrien High school with Miquan was challenging and so much fun! It was an opportunity to see all the ways other chapters implement National Programs and promote FCCLA. We encouraged members to Believe in Themselves and push to reach their leadership potential. On my own I went to Berrien Middle School where I shared how to be an active member. During these visits we discussed how to be more effective students and FCCLA members, benefits of STAR events, and motivated them to be involved as much as they could. We were able to teach these students leadership skills that we have learned as well.

As I shared through chapter visits, I learned to Believe in Myself and my abilities as a leader. I am now more comfortable talking in front of people I don't know, I can think on the spot, and I am able to communicate better with others.

## The Family and Consumer Science students and FCCLA members of Liberty Middle School start a school garden.

By: Tristian Houston

The teacher/adviser Felicia W. Hodges wants to spread the word that the Family and Consumer Science course of today is not equal to the Home Economics course of the past many adults remember taking when they were in school. Unfortunately, there are several people who have the idea that FACS class is primarily a cooking class. However, Mrs. Hodges' belief system is to expose, explore and expect the best out of life. She strives to impress upon her students that everything that happens in life is a result of the choices that we all make. Therefore, one should recognize that there is a big world outside and every student has a right to explore and expect the best from it.

To that end, LMS FACS/FCCLA members decided to address that too many teens are not eating the school lunches and they are certainly not eating their needed amounts of fruits and vegetables. We wanted to provide students with an alternative to eating junk food and enjoy a well-balanced diet. As of now teens are unaware of the long lasting side effects of not eating well. Therefore late spring 2018, we ordered gardening materials to prepare a school garden. After assembling the greenhouse, we then went to Atlanta Community Food Garden to learn the fundamentals of gardening. The



Liberty Middle trying fresh new veggies.

program directors came to Liberty MS to help us establish our garden. After growing various fruits and vegetables, we used the produce to prepare vegetable side dishes. After the side dishes were made, we prepared focus groups to see which recipes were favored. We partnered with our school cafeteria to gain insight on the nutritional value of the dishes and are in communication to get some of the recipes on the school menu.

## Perry Career Academy brings Babb Middle School to Snow Mountain

By: Sharron Van

The Perry Career Academy High School Chapter brought Middle School Chapter, Babb Middle School, to Snow Mountain to try to strengthen bonds, not just between their own chapters, but also between both chapters. Between snowball fights, caroling, tobogganing, and train rides; both chapters got along and embraced one another.



Members and officers of Perry Career Academy having fun and taking playful pictures.



## JCHS FCCLA 3rd Annual Canned Food Drive

By: Azaria Branch

During the month of December, JCHS FCCLA held our 3rd Annual Canned Food Drive. FCCLA members collected 516 cans during the day drive. Members then donated those cans to the Jenkins County Family Enrichment Center so that they could be distributed to those in need in our community.



FCCLA members transporting canned goods to the FEC.

## Charlton County FCCLA Canned Food Drive

By: Jamie Haynes

During the month of December 2018, Charlton County FCCLA held a school-wide canned food drive. A total of 696 items were collected and donated to the local Department of Family and Children Services.



Charlton County FCCLA collected 696 cans for our local DFCS!

## Swainsboro FCCLA collects donations for Ronald McDonald House

By: Imani Harmon and Camree Tillman

Swainsboro High School's FCCLA, Family Career Community Leaders of America, collected donations for Ronald McDonald House Charities throughout the Christmas holiday season. Students donated washing detergent and individually wrapped snacks as well as can tops. The class collecting the most items were rewarded a pizza party at the end of the campaign.



SHS FCCLA Collects Donations

Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences convention in Savannah. Swainsboro High School was very generous in donating to this cause.

## Jones County High School and FCCLA Tooth Fairy

By: Morgan Buice

Hi, my name is Morgan Buice. I am a senior at Jones County High School and FCCLA member. This year, our chapter worked on a project called Tooth Fairy. I was excited because we had the opportunity to go to the PreK and teach children fun facts about brushing their teeth. We taught them about foods and drinks that can damage their teeth and the choices that will keep them healthy and strong.

I have been in FCCLA for three years. We have done other projects like cooking for Ronald McDonald House, fundraising for juvenile diabetes research, and making hand sanitizer to protect our classmates and teachers during flu season. Going to the PreK was definitely my favorite project.

We also were invited to have a Tooth Fairy booth at the city wide Fall Festival. While the children were loading up on sweets, we offered an alternative by having a game and giving away toothbrushes and stickers. The parents were surprised and appreciative of us giving their children a toothbrush and reminding their adorably costumed kids to brush away the sugar.

The smiles we received at the school and the fall festival made it worth the time we invested in creating the pumpkin game and putting together lesson plans and activities. Helping in your community is important! I am so glad I had the opportunity to hopefully make an impact on someone.



Using FCCLA skills to present and teach a Pre-K class.

