

# THE PEACH PRESS



The Official Publication for the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals



## Important Reminders

NAE4-HYDP Conference  
Early Bird Registration  
*June 1-October 31, 2021*

NAE4-HYDP Conference  
Regular Registration  
*November 1-15, 2021*

NAE4-HYDP Conference  
in Memphis, TN  
*November 15-18, 2021*

## 2021 Post Conference Edition

This year's GAE4-HYDP Annual Conference was held at Rock Eagle 4-H Center on May 4-5, 2021. The theme was *Embracing Challenges*. The conference consisted of seminars, posters, showcases, and awards recognition. This *Peach Press* edition highlights some portions of the meeting and showcases the National and State Awards from the conference.



## Conference Planning Committee

Decorations: Rebecca Thomas

Printed Materials: Lili Hester and Cheryl Poppell

Silent and Live Auction: Rebekah Greene and Allie Griner

Hospitality: Jeffery Burke and Gracie Kuyrkendall

Seminars and Posters: Wanda McLocklin

Newsletter: Megan Powell

Awards: Kris Peavy and Lynn Davis

First-Timer's Orientation: Machelie Gill

Entertainment: Brennan Jackson

# Funds Raised

The live auction, silent auction, and raffle  
raised **over \$2,300!**

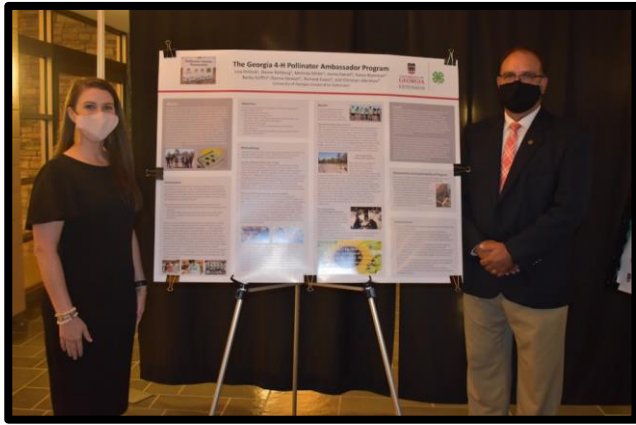
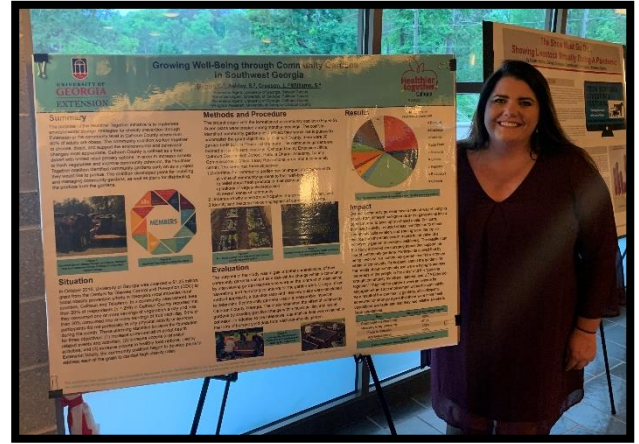


*Thank you for your support of GAE4-HYDP!*



# Posters and Sessions

First Place Poster Winner:  
Christina Garner, Stewart County  
*Growing Well-Being through Community Gardens in  
Southwest Georgia*



Total:  
13 Super Seminars  
5 Program Showcases  
18 Posters

# 2021-2022 Board of Directors



## First Timer Experiences

"Although technically I did attend last year's Zoom conference, I consider this year's conference to be my first time attending. It was a great two days getting to meet several professionals from across the state in person after emailing for the last year. It was also special to get to see my mother leading our organization in action! The sessions, workshops, committee meetings, and socials were a wonderful way to build camaraderie with my colleagues and learn more about the opportunities within GAE4-HYDP. I'm looking forward to the next one!"

Gracie Kuyrkendall, State 4-H Events Coordinator



"I had a great time at the GAE4-HA conference. I did learn a lot about the different opportunities hosted by GAE4-HA, the many awards that are offered to the agents. I enjoyed hearing how we all help with giving back to the 4-H'ers with State Congress and scholarships. The classes were fun and I did learn a few new things. As a Program Assistant I wish there were more opportunities for the Program Assistants to achieve since we all work together."

Kathie Gilroy, Paulding County 4-H Program Assistant



# Photos



Special thanks to Lili Hester for capturing great pictures throughout our conference!

# National Communicator Awards

## Feature Story: Cindy Meadows

This story highlighted a 3 day educational event focusing on the Tri State Crop Scouting and Precision Ag School to learn techniques used in the Southeast.



## News Story: Kasey Hall

This creation featured the new State Project Achievement competition and followed a graduating Jasper County Senior 4-H'ers preparation for this virtual contest and her first place win.

## Educational Piece-Individual: Brittany Teets

The 4-H Agent created this interactive escape room. She created the images with riddles and puzzles to solve using Canva and the curriculum taught during the lesson on Electricity.



## Educational Piece-Team: Megan Powell, Ashley Carroll, Joe Wiggins

"Oobleck: Solid or Liquid?" is a peer reviewed, comprehensive lesson plan designed for fifth grade students with a focus on states of matter and physical and chemical changes.

# National Communicator Awards

## Educational Package-Individual: Sonya Jones

The Cloverbud lesson :“Be a Clean Superhero: Fight Against Germs” focuses on health/healthy living via fun, experiential activities learning about germs & how to protect our bodies from them.

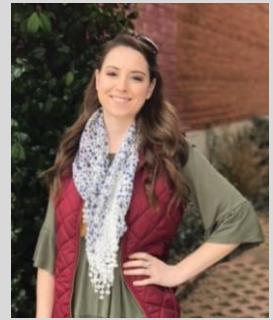


## Educational Package-Team: Laurie Murrah-Hanson

The Fulton Fresh kids market combines access to fresh fruits and vegetables with healthy living and STEM activities and videos for youth in K-12th grade.

## Periodical Publication-Team: Natalie Bennett

The Quarterly Report was created to increase communication between the county 4-H program and members of the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners.



## Exhibit: April Edwards

Jackson County 4-H developed an exhibit to promote "Cultivating Healthy Habits" to community leaders and stake holders.

## Video Program: Brennan Jackson

This video was part of the Jones County 4-H “Ag in the Living Room” Summer Program series implemented in order to provide farm tours virtually during the pandemic.





# National Communicator Awards

## Promotional Package-Individual: Kasey Bozeman

This promotional package is a series of images sharing about each Zoom into Science session, encouraging 4-H youth and families to register for the virtual event.



## Promotional Package-Team: Brittany Teets

Adulting 101 is designed for teens to teach life skills not taught in the classroom such as paying bills, cooking and cleaning, having health insurance and maintaining a saving account.

## Promotional Piece-Individual: Christina Garner

A disconnect in communication between Extension and local stakeholders can be detrimental to a program. To keep key stakeholders informed for continued support, funding and transparency, an Extension Update publication was produced.



## Promotional Piece-Team: Jaqueline Nunn

The Putnam County 4-H staff planned, created, and produced an animation video to promote 4-H as an opportunity for youth with a variety of interests today.



# National Communicator Awards



Published Photo: Dorothea Graham

The poster was used to promote the 4-H Marines Resource Summer Camp for a week-long adventure.

Media Presentation: Kasey Bozeman

Georgia 4-H staff faculty and staff provide lesson plans for County 4-H programs to use with in-school 4-H program delivery. The authors transitioned a traditional in-school 4-H lesson about constructive and destructive forces to a voice-over PowerPoint presentation.



*Congratulations!*  
*to all of our*  
*National Communicator*  
*Award winners!*

# National Specialty Awards

## 4-H Military Partnership Award: Shawnie Sahadeo

By effectively using creativity, determination, and communication, this applicant strengthened partnerships and programming in the midst of a pandemic to positively impact 4-H programming at NSB Kings Bay.



## Citizenship in 4-H Youth Development Award: Kasey Bozeman

Through a partnership with National 4-H Council and Microsoft, Georgia 4-H was the Lead State Advisor on the 4-H Tech Changemakers project.

## Denise Miller National 4-H Innovator Award: Keri Hobbs

Georgia 4-H creatively designed a process to enable youth to engage in Project Achievement competitions! This new development created and launched the framework for Georgia 4-H's virtual ability for competitions.



## Diversity and Inclusion Award: Amanda Marable

Georgia 4-H has a strong framework for staff development. Extension Conference 2020 offered an opportunity to be forward focused with sessions that met the needs of faculty.

# National Specialty Awards

## Excellence in 4-H Club Support Award: Sonya Jones

Pulaski Proud: a 7 State Virtual Exchange for states with Pulaski Counties helped youth and adults alike come together during a pandemic to continue positive youth development and strengthen local programs.



## Excellence in Educational Technology Award: Keri Hobbs

Georgia 4-H creatively designed a process to enable youth to engage and compete in Project Achievement, even amid a global pandemic! This new development created the framework for virtual in-school club meetings.

## Excellence in 4-H Volunteerism Award: April Edwards

Jackson County 4-H recognizes the importance of volunteers providing mentorship to the children and adolescents they serve. Jackson County 4-H turned their attention towards improving volunteer resources, registration, and relationships.



## Excellence in After School Programming Award: Dorothea Graham

Save My Life Club focus on in-depth, hands on education for youth in grades 6th-8th, through afterschool clubs, covering important information on survival.



# National Specialty Awards

## Excellence in Ag Literacy Programming Award: Lisa Pollock

National 4-H Council and Corteva Agriscience awarded the Grady County 4-H a grant for 4-H youth to educate about pollinators' importance and install a pollinator teaching garden.



## Excellence in Animal Science Programming Award: Susannah Lanier

This virtual Southeast and Northeast District 4-H Poultry Judging contest provided 47 youth from 10 counties the opportunity to show their skills and knowledge during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Excellence in Camping Award: Cheryl Poppell

Virtual 4-H Camp was a completely virtual camping opportunity created by a team of Georgia 4-H agents to meet the social and educational needs of youth during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Excellence in Communication and Expressive Arts Award: Brittany Teets

The Covid-19 Art Contest was created to allow youth, PK – 12th grade, in Rockdale County to express their feelings about COVID-19 through art. A total of 100 students participated.

# National Specialty Awards

## Excellence in Geospatial Programs Award: Andrew Warner

4-H Precision Agriculture School was a three-day course focused on precision agriculture and geospatial technologies.



## Excellence in Healthy Living Programming Award: Laurie Murrah-Hanson

The Fulton Fresh kids market combines access to fresh fruits and vegetables with healthy living and STEM activities and videos.

## Excellence in Natural Resources/ Environmental Education Award: Lisa Pollock

One out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators. Grady County 4-H youth brought awareness to the important roles that pollinators have in ecosystems.



## Excellence in Peer Professional Development Award: Megan Powell

The Georgia 4-H Communities of Practice Network was developed to foster collaboration and synergy for county 4-H programs similar in size/situation to provide support during the pandemic.

# National Specialty Awards

## Jim Kahler Excellence in STEM Award: Alexandria Griner

The Tech Changemakers program utilized teens as teachers to provide training on digital literacy skills to assist adults in utilizing technological resources.



## Excellence in Teamwork Award: Laurie Murrah-Hanson

The Fulton Fresh kids market combines access to fresh fruits and vegetables with healthy living and STEM activities and videos.

## Excellence in Urban 4-H Programming Award: Laurie Murrah-Hanson

The Fulton Fresh kids market combines access to fresh fruits and vegetables with healthy living and STEM activities and videos.



## Excellence in Workforce Development Programming Award: Kasey Bozeman

The Georgia 4-H Zoom into Science webinar series allowed youth to directly engage with natural science experts in their respective fields using a virtual platform.



# National Specialty Awards

## Greg Yost Memorial Youth in Leadership Award: Alexandria Griner

The Tech Changemakers program utilized teens as teachers to provide training on digital literacy skills to assist adults in utilizing technological resources.



## Search For Excellence in Teen Programming Award: Lisa Pollock

Using a youth-adult partnership model approach, Grady County 4-H implemented a pollinator education program, serving more than 20,000 youth and adults through direct and indirect programming efforts.



## Susan Barkman Award for Research and Evaluation Award: Crystal Perry

The purpose of the Extension Youth Development Professionals Experiences Implementing Inclusive Programs basic, qualitative study was to explore the experiences of eight 4-H Youth Development Professionals serving youth with disabilities.



## NAE4-HYDP First Time Attendee Award: Megan Powell

Megan Powell has served as the 4-H Agent in Lanier County and Evans County. Megan's personal involvement in 4-H and dedication have allowed her to excel as a 4-H professional.

# National Service Awards

## Achievement in Service Award

### Ashley Witcher

Ashley Witcher is the County Extension Coordinator and 4-H Agent in Cherokee County. In an emerging urban county with a population of over 263,000 people, she focuses on educating youth who have a limited knowledge in agriculture and its impact on their daily lives.



### Jason Estep

Jason Estep provides direction and vision to Georgia 4-H's youth civic engagement, global awareness, and leadership programs including Leadership in Action, 4-H Day at the Capitol, and Step Up and Lead.

### Megan Powell

Megan Powell has served as the 4-H Agent in Lanier County and Evans County. Her personal involvement with 4-H and dedication have allowed her to excel as a 4-H professional.

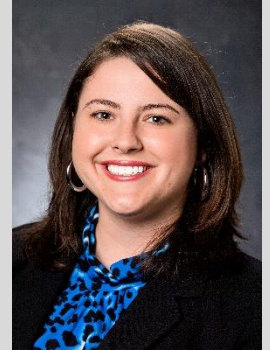


# National Service Awards

## Distinguished Service Award

### Abbie Salmon

Abbie is the Floyd County 4-H Agent and has been in her role for 7 years. She provides oversight to the county 4-H program with over 500 youth enrolled in over 42 active clubs. Her special areas of focus include workforce preparation and communication.



### Laurie Murrah-Hanson

Laurie Murrah-Hanson has served as the 4-H agent in Fulton County since 2016. Since then she has overseen significant growth of the Fulton County 4-H program. Laurie is a UGA Triple Dawg.

### Debra Cox

Debra Cox has worked with Mitchell County youth to provide programming in leadership, citizenship, science education and social emotional learning. She bleeds green for 4-H.



### Laura Goss

Laura Goss has worked for UGA Extension for 8 years. She has been the Lowndes County 4-H Agent and now serves as the Military 4-H Partnership Camp Coordinator. She holds a BS in Human Development from the University of Georgia.





# National Service Awards

## Meritorious Service Award

Lee Anna Deal

Lee Anna Deal is the 4-H Program Development Coordinator serving 39 counties in UGA Extension's southeast District. In this role, she provides training and programmatic support to the 4-H faculty & staff in the counties in Southeastern Georgia. She previously served as a 4-H Agent for 15 years.



## 25 Years of Service

Rebecca Thomas

Rebecca Thomas has served as the County Extension Coordinator and Agent in Chattooga County where she addressed community needs in all three Extension program areas: Agricultural and natural Resources, Family and consumer Sciences and 4-H Youth Development.



*Congratulations!*

*to all of our*

*National Service & Specialty Award  
winners!*

# State Awards

## Outstanding Program Assistant



Savannah Masters

Northwest Winner

nominated by  
Kelly Zern

Savannah began as a volunteer with 4-H, but quickly became a valuable Program Assistant in 2019. She lives in Newnan with her husband and 2 daughters.



Andi Drescher

Southeast Winner

nominated by  
Abby Smith

Andi is the 4-H Program Assistant in Effingham County. She is a dedicated and hardworking employee who has a heart for providing great opportunities for the young people in her county. She enjoys working with students during club meetings and afterschool clubs and is always a positive influence. Effingham County is lucky to have Andi!



Jordan Jones

Southwest Winner  
**State Winner**

nominated by  
Katrina  
Laurel-Searcy

Jordan is a senior at Abraham Baldwin College studying Social and Community Development. She is the Standards Chairwoman for Alpha Sigma Alpha at ABAC. She loves her dog Petey.

# State Awards Outstanding Support by an ANR/FACS Agent



Bill Starr – Southwest Winner  
nominated by Crystal Perry

Bill Starr's Extension career includes serving as a 4-H agent, ANR agent and CEC in several Southwest District Counties.

Becky Griffin– State Staff Winner  
nominated by Kasey Bozeman

Becky is the UGA Extension Community and School Garden Coordinator. In her role, she tirelessly supports 4-H youth development programming through many avenues, including the Great Georgia Pollinator Census and 4-H Pollinator Ambassadors.

Alexis Roberts – Northwest District Winner  
nominated by Laurie Murrah-Hanson

Alexis has served as FACS agent in Fulton County since 2020. She previously served as the FACS agent in Bartow County.

Andrew Warner – Northeast District & **State Winner**  
nominated by Cindy Meadows

Andrew knows and understands the importance of working with 4-H Youth and educating them on the importance of agriculture. During his 14 months as a Seminole County ANR Agent and his present time as an ANR Agent in Wilkes County, Andrew has been highly successful working with both youth and adults in the agricultural program area.



# State Awards Professional Achievement



Erica Pullen  
Douglas County

Erica is an advocate for all youth, aiming to empower and encourage healthy life choices that will propel them into a promising future.



Kelli Brookins  
Columbia County

Kelli began her career six years ago as the 4-H/ANR agent and CEC in Crawford County. In 2017, she became 4-H agent in Columbia County managing over 3,500 activities & programs, four judging teams, 120 volunteers, two grant programs, as well as 115 grade specialty and grade based clubs.



Megan Powell  
Evans County

Megan Powell has served as the 4-H Agent in Lanier County and Evans County. Megan's personal involvement in 4-H and dedication have allowed her to excel as a 4-H professional.



# State Awards Outstanding Support Staff



Vernon “Dale”  
Lowery  
NW District

nominated by  
Stephanie Skojac



LeAnna Connell  
SE District  
**State Winner**

nominated by  
Cheryl Poppell

LeAnna is the  
Montgomery County  
Extension  
Administrative Assistant.  
For over twenty years,  
LeAnna has been the  
glue that held the office  
together. Always willing  
to help with 4-H, Ag and  
Community projects,  
LeAnna keeps the  
Montgomery County  
Extension office visible  
as a true community  
partner.



Janet Myers  
SW District

nominated by  
Katrina Laurel-  
Searcy

Janet is the  
Administrative  
Assistant at Cook  
County Extension  
and has been in  
service for 6 years.  
She is an excellent  
nature photographer  
and enjoys outdoor  
recreation.



Mary Tilley,  
Charlotte Davis,  
Deana Davis  
State Staff

nominated by  
Keri Hobbs

In addition to their  
roles as 4-H center  
staff, these ladies took  
on the added critical  
need of volunteer  
record verifications  
for statewide  
volunteer rosters.

# State Awards Outstanding Support by Public Media



Georgia Farm Monitor  
NE District

nominated by  
Marcus Eason

The Georgia Farm Monitor is a weekly show televised on Georgia Public Broadcasting and other local news stations around the state telling the story of Georgia agriculture. The Oglethorpe County 4-H Cooking to Share Project Club has had a story ran twice about the program.



Donalsonville News  
SW District  
**State Winner**  
nominated by  
Cindy Meadows

The Donalsonville News has been a long time supporter of Seminole County Extension. For the last eight years, it has been a privilege to collaborate with Davide Maxwell, managing editor, not only on weekly extension articles, but also on feature articles and special issues. David knows that Extension is the expert on anything to do with youth development and agriculture.



Daily News Tribune  
NW District

nominated by  
Allison Perkins

Donna Harris from the Daily Tribune has been a wonderful support of Bartow County 4-H. She has gone above and beyond to help showcase 4-H events and the hard work that 4-H'ers have done.





# State Awards

## Peach of a Profession Scholarship

Katrina Laurel-Searcy

Cook County

Katrina comes to Extension from the Philippines. She is a UGA alumna with a Master of Science Degree in Plant Pathology. Katrina is happily married to Jonathon Searcy.



## Continuing Excellence Award



Dinah Rowe

Heard County

One of Dinah's area of focus has been in Healthy Living. She was awarded \$200K to install an educational kitchen to hold cooking & nutritional classes. She has also created presentations on Opioids and Vaping that she has shared throughout the state. In addition, she includes yoga in several activities.

# State Awards Innovative Work in School Relations



Adrianne Cox

Northwest District  
Winner

Adrianne focuses on teaching youth through STEAM and developing life skills. She has bee work in 4-H programming for 20 years and enjoys having fun on the job.



Billie Ann King

Southeast District &  
**State Winner**

As the Piece County 4-H Agent, Billie serves over 600 youth while partnering with local school systems to provide engaging science standards lessons and programs.



Sonya Jones

Southwest District  
Winner

Pulaski 4-H celebrates differences and promotes inclusion, diversity and equality. Anyone & everyone can be a part of 4-H H.E.R.O.E.S. (Hope 4 Everyone to Recognize in Other Extraordinary Skills) is a program created for 4th & 5th grade special education students. Once a month, 4-H'ers with disabilities learn and grow together alongside teen leaders and Extension staff to create a safe and inclusive environment

# State Awards

## Outstanding AmeriCorps/VISTA Member

### Jay Moon – Northeast District Winner

Whether it is working with youth, helping the community, or working on his family's dairy farm, Morgan County AmeriCorps member, Jay Moon is dedicated to the mission of Extension.



### Virginia Chu – Northwest District Winner

Virginia was responsible for in-school club meetings in the southern part of Fulton County. She led club meetings in approximately five schools and took on additional school after the departure of the 4-H Educator. She also assisted with 4-H Community Club at Camp Truitt-Fulton.

### Lauren McNure – Southeast District Winner

Lauren has served as the Bulloch County AmeriCorps member for three years. She recently graduated from Georgia Southern University with plans to veterinary school.



### Tyler Tucker – Southwest District & State Winner

Tyler is currently serving in his second term as an AmeriCorps member in his home county of Ben Hill. As a 4-H member, he garnered four master titles, a national championship title, served as a district officer and a camp counselor.

Tyler is a student at Valdosta State University majoring in organizational leadership with a minor in public administration.



### Toni Hunlen – State Staff Winner

Toni, Georgia 4-H VISTA, has been a tremendous asset to Georgia 4-H. Through his service, 4-H has endowed Kelvin Bailey Camp Scholarship and reached more than 4.5k through videos.





# State Awards Outstanding Individual Volunteer Leader



Stewart Thigpen – Southeast District  
nominated by Susannah Lanier

Stewart is a 4 year Bulloch County volunteer involved with archery, judging teams, fund development & so much more. He and his wife Karen have two active 4-H'ers, Jackson & Harrison.

Janie Ray – Northwest District  
nominated by Ashley Witcher

Janie began volunteering with Cherokee County 4-H around 40 years ago and has attended cloverleaf camp for a majority of those years. She is Cherokee's most experienced and willing volunteer and has assisted with numerous in weekend events and activities, school club meetings and cloverbuds.

Jonathon Van Keith Searcy – Southwest District  
nominated by Katrina Laurel-Searcy

Jonathon is a God-fearing, family oriented, Georgia Bulldog loving real estate agent. He is happily married to Katrina Laurel-Searcy.

Traci Buckingham – Northeast District & **State Winner**  
nominated by Christina Garner

Traci is a 4-H Alumni who has been a committed 4-H volunteer since 1989. For 30 years, Traci has devoted her time to improving the lives of 4-H members in Pickens County.

# State Awards Outstanding New Extension Professional

## April Edwards – Northeast District Winner

April served Georgia 4-H through in various capacities in Jackson County beginning with Program Assistant, then Educator and currently an agent.

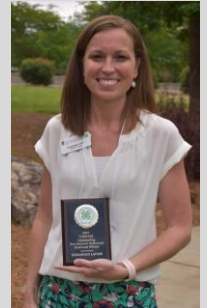


## Erica Pullen – Northwest District Winner

Erica has serves as the Douglas County 4-H agent for three years. She is an advocate for all youth, aiming to empower and encourage healthy life choices that will propel them into a promising future.

## Susannah Lanier – Southeast District Winner

Susannah has served Bulloch County 4-H for three years helping 4-H'ers grow their leadership potential and experience new things. Lanier and her husband Luke live in Metter, Georgia with three young boys: Charlie, Emmett and James.



## Ashley Carroll – Southwest District & **State Winner**

Ashley has served as the Tift County 4-H agent since 2018. Her favorite 4-H programs are poultry judging and the Southwest District Clover Jam event.

## Courtney Brown – State Staff Winner

Dr. Brown is the Extension Specialist for Georgia 4-H Healthy Living Programs. She also serves as the leader for various grant programs including Georgia Healthy Habits and Well Connected Communities.



# State Awards Outstanding Volunteer Leader Program

AmeriCorps VISTA Statewide Team  
nominated by Keri Hobbs

The AmeriCorps VISTA Program extended capacity by the service equivalence of \$213,248. VISTAs coordinated more than 250 volunteers, who served nearly 2,000 hours, raised \$8,153 in donations, created 15 videos reached 229 youth through Summer Health Squad and partnered with 15 organizations to enhance food security for more than 5,200 individuals.



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*Congratulations!*  
*to all of our*  
*State Award winners!*



# Board of Directors



*Special thanks to all contributing authors and the 2020-2021 GAE4-HA Media Committee for their contributions to this newsletter.*

## Media Committee

Shanda Ashley  
Kasey Bozeman  
Pam Bloch  
Ashley Carroll  
Jason Edenfield  
Christina Garner  
Lili Hester  
Cheryl Poppell  
Dinah Rowe  
Abbie Salmon  
Randy West  
Patrick E Willis

Megan Powell, Editor

## Executive Committee . . . . .

Dinah Rowe	President	Heard Co.
Jeffrey Burke	President-Elect	State Staff
Jakyn Tyson	Vice President	Emanuel Co.
Sonya Jones	Past President	Pulaski Co.
Crystal Perry	Treasurer	Sumter Co.
Brennan Jackson	Secretary	Jones Co.

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Erica Pullen	Diversity	Douglas Co.
Megan Powell	Media	Evans Co.
Adrianne Cox	Member Recognition	Harris Co.
Abby Smith	Oceans of Fun	Effingham Co.
April Edwards	Programs	Jackson Co.
Wanda McLocklin	Professional Development	Barrow Co.
Octavia Jackson	Public Relations & Info	Lamar Co.
Joey Eller	Policy & Resolution	Rabun Co.
Rebekah Greene	Research & Evaluation	Tattnall Co.

## District Leadership . . . . .

Kelle Ashley	Northeast Senior	Oconee Co
Cassandra Weston-Hainsworth	Northeast Junior	Walton Co.
Leah Woodall	Northwest Senior	Spalding Co.
Ashley Harman	Northwest Junior	Meriwether Co.
Lauryn Gilmer	Southeast Senior	Wayne Co.
Billie Ann King	Southeast Junior	Pierce Co.
Ashley Carroll	Southwest Senior	Tift Co.
Christina Garner	Southwest Junior	Stewart Co.
Courtney Brown	State Staff Senior	State Staff
Matt Hammons	State Staff Junior	State Staff
Royce James	Life Member Senior	Retiree
Shirley Williamson	Life Member Junior	Retiree

