



Coweta-Fayette



powerlines

CHOOSE U 365

Self-confidence improves learning

Witnessing a child who held his head down in class start to encourage others after a success is the cycle of growth that Dr. Tara Miller hoped to see. "That was a victory for me," said Dr. Tara Miller, Director of Choose U 365, a Palmetto-based non-profit organization dedicated to helping others gain self-confidence while learning.



One week children in Choose U 365's after school STEM program built and flew paper air planes. After the first test flight, the kids could make one alteration. One boy didn't make any changes to his plane. "When he didn't alter his plane, he noticed his plane started to soar further than the other ones. I saw him starting to encourage other people. This was the same kid who would hold his head down every class," she said.

Before Choose U 365 began in 2017, Miller and her colleagues noticed concerns with their students. "It wasn't just the issues with learning as far as reading, math and writing. If they had confidence within themselves, then the learning component was a lot easier," she said. "If I see you with your head

hung low, then I need you to remember to choose yourself and lift your head up high. That was the origin of Choose U 365's name."

Miller's goal is to teach children through applying skills to their everyday lives.

"You see numbers every day, even if it's going to the store and giving the man a dollar and him giving you back two quarters." Alongside directing Choose U 365, Miller is a clinician specializing in psychotherapy. "We go into the schools; we go into the homes; and of course, individuals come into the office. Wherever there is a need to be met, we'll be there," she said.

Currently, the organization focuses its efforts on children from 5th to 8th grades from the northern part of Coweta County up through South Fulton County. Choose U 365

operates a STEM program in schools, an after-school STEM program, a self-confidence camp and a reading camp. There is also an athletics component.

"My hope and dream would be to see a family center out of this," said Miller. "To help children, we have to help the adults become equipped to help the children," she said. Miller wants to see a facility that hosts family-friendly activities, so parents and children can learn topics such as financial literacy, sustainable living, athletics and even foreign languages.

Like most small non-profits, Choose U 365 could use more donations to help their students as well as more dedicated, consistent volunteers. "And of course, I would love to have a whole building as a family center," added Miller. One way you can become a consistent donor to Choose U 365, and many other local organizations, is through Operation Round-Up. By agreeing to round up your monthly electric bill, your pennies can add up to sizable donations, making a big difference for organizations like Choose U 365.

In July, Coweta-Fayette EMC gave Choose U 365 an Operation Round-up grant to help with their STEM Program.

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Coweta Fayette EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer /M/F/Y/D

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CFEMC RETURNS OVER \$4 MILLION IN CAPITAL CREDITS TO MEMBERS



Since 2000, CFEMC has returned over \$30.4 million in capital credits to our current and former members.

Ever wonder who owns your power company? If you get electricity from CFEMC, that answer is easy – it's you!

Everyone who receives power from CFEMC is an owner. So what does being an owner mean? Simply put, if you sign up for service with CFEMC, you own a share of every line, substation, transformer and pole on our system. A portion of the electric bill you pay each month goes to building the electric distribution system that supplies power to your homes and businesses.

EMC's are cooperatives. We follow a unique member-focused business model based on a set of seven principles. One of those principles is Member Economic Participation. As members, you get money back. Any funds left over after the bills are paid goes into a patronage capital account for each EMC member. Then, as our bylaws set forth, your Board of Directors determines the capital returned to you based on the financial health of the organization. How much you receive is based on how much electricity you used.

We are pleased to announce your CFEMC Board of Directors has issued a refund of capital credits for members who

purchased electricity from the cooperative in 1999-2001 and 2018. This year, members receiving a distribution of more than \$20 will continue to receive a paper check from the EMC. However, if your distribution is less than \$20, the credit will appear on your electric statement. Credits will be on either your September or October statement. Please make sure you look at your bill. You'll see your credit in green on a line item called Capital Credit Refund.

If you move, or no longer receive service from CFEMC, it's important that you inform the cooperative about your address change. That way, future retirements can be mailed to you. Even if you leave the service area, if you purchased electricity during a year that is returned, you are still entitled to the refund.

EMC's are unique. You receive a vital resource – electricity – from a business owned by you, your friends and neighbors. Working together, we provide you with the highest level of service while striving to keep rates low and your bill affordable. That's the EMC difference.



The President's Message

*Chris Stephens
CEO*

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it's National Co-op Month!

This is the time of year when we celebrate who we are and the members we serve. I hope you made plans to attend our annual meeting on October 12th. It's a great time for you to learn about the programs we offer and meet the employees who work hard every day to meet your needs.

Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. CFEMC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

In fact, many of you received an invitation to participate in a survey. I hope you take the time to give us feedback. We want to hear how we are doing and learn what programs you are interested in. Your comments can help shape the direction of our future.

Our close connection to our members ensures we get a first-hand perspective on what's important to you. Just a few weeks ago, we started construction on a solar project because you've told us renewable energy was important to you.

We hope you will think of CFEMC as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about your priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.

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