

Outreach Grant Recipient

The recipient of the 2014 Outreach Grant is Ms. Jessica Eileen Hill, County Extension Coordinator of DeKalb County. Ms. Hill is using the GNC grant to increase access to healthy affordable food, particularly fresh fruits and vegetables and to provide educational opportunities and resources to communities that are considered food deserts.

Getting food to the food deserts is accomplished through the use of the Mobile Farmer's Market. This is a one-aisle grocery store on wheels built from a retrofitted bus where fresh produce is distributed to communities that are considered food deserts. Opportunities to participate in nutrition workshops are provided. The mobile market restores food access to geographic areas where lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables has existed.

Stakeholders create stopping points along the Mobile Farmer's Market's route. They serve as hosts to provide space on their property for nutrition classes and demonstrations for adults and children. These partnerships take the experience beyond the shell of the stationary bus to an active public space where lessons are transferred to individuals to share with their families and the extended community at large. In short, the Mobile Farmer's market brings fresh produce and educational programming directly to food deserts. This project has created a collaborative relationship between a local technical school, the board of health, faith based institutions and organizations to create a healthier community.

If you have a special project that would benefit from funding assistance, why not apply next year for the Outreach Grant. All active GNC members who have held membership for the past 3 consecutive years are eligible to submit a grant application to apply for funding. The project must focus on nutrition education addressing the health and well-being of Georgians, as well as promote the GNC mission to address current nutrition issues, trends, and research. One grant application will be selected. Up to \$500. may be awarded to implement the community outreach nutrition project. For more information or to request an application contact: Caroline Richardson, GNC President-Elect <crich@uge.edu>