

GREENSBORO ECHO

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Young Farmers



The Winston County Self Help Cooperative is nestled in the rolling hills of Louisville, MS. The cooperative's mission is to help save rural America by providing needed information to small and un-served landowners. Winston County Self Help Cooperative was founded in 1985 with three original members still active today. The cooperative's membership consist of 35 members with 33 percent females. According to statistics from USDA the average age of today's farmer is 62 and African American farmers 70 years old; however, Winston County Self Help Cooperative's average age is 44 years old. The cooperative is committed to training future generation of landowners by approaching farming from a holistic perspective. According to cooperative member Hubert Nicholson, "We are concerned about wellness, finance, education, housing, and social and economic well-being. The cooperative has taken a significant role in providing services to educate its members and the general public on creating a thriving environment for future generation of landowners. The cooperative membership consist of certified financial and home buyer counselors for the benefit of aiding needed families before and after major purchases. Additionally, the cooperative has sponsored wellness

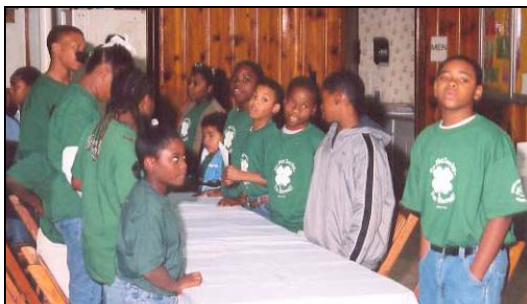
events to raise the conscious of health issues and provided information on nutrition. This holistic approach has attracted several members under the age of 35 years old. Jacqueline Steele stated, "The cooperative has provided an opportunity for my family to reconnect with the natural resources and take advantage of the home buyer and financial education classes." Additionally, Jacqueline serves as assistant treasurer of the cooperative and leads the financial education unit. Winston County Self Help Cooperative Youth Group has been allowed intergenerational learning opportunities with the senior group. This has been a valuable tool to help transform our next generation of landowners according to Dorothy Harper, WCSHC Youth Director. We have 25 eager youth ready and committed to learn from our senior members and we are transferring this knowledge through our Youth Garden project. We are planning to institute a canning project with Mrs. Mattie Haynes in the spring. We have young parents who are unfamiliar with preserving fresh vegetables; therefore, this will be an opportunity to promote intergenerational learning. Winston County Self Help Cooperative is committed to help save rural America, and we are moving forward with our mission by connecting with the next generation of landowners. The cooperative meets on the first Monday of each month 3:55 p.m. at the Extension Office on Vance Street in Louisville, MS. For more information, contact Gloria Moore 662-705-0112 or Hubert Nicholson 662-773-3336.

SUPER VOLUNTEER GLORIA MOORE



The Winston County Self Help Cooperative has an unselfish volunteer by the name of Gloria Moore. She has been with the cooperative for four years and serves in the following capacities: recording secretary, organizer, facilitator, and spokes-woman. The cooperative is appreciative of Gloria's generosity and dedication for assisting in any way needed. Gloria gives each member a phone call prior to the meeting with instructions of being on time at 3:55 p.m. and brings written information on births or deaths of animals. She disperses minutes and notates exchanges doing the regular monthly meeting. Additionally, she organizes and plans trips for the cooperative membership, and she reminds each individual to bring necessities such as, eye glasses, medications, pillows, and extra goodies to eat. Gloria Moore is the heart and soul of the Winston County Self Help Cooperative. In closing, we are thankful for Gloria Moore's efforts to help save rural America, and she is definitely a team player.

WCSHC 20th CELEBRATION



The Winston County Self Help Cooperative celebrated its 20th year Anniversary and Christmas Gala on December 2, 2005, 5:55p.m. at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Louisville, MS. The theme was "Making Your Membership Count and Moving Forward Into 22nd Century." The church's annex was draped in Christmas colors, setting the mood for a grand celebration. The cooperative youth department presided over the program and started the celebration promptly at 5:55pm with call to order,



scriptures, prayer, and songs. Mrs. Mary Hannah, a founding member of the cooperative stated, the Winston County Self Help Cooperative was founded in 1985 with the intent of assisting small farmers in marketing animals and buying collectively. We are committed to help save rural America, therefore, we are moving forward with our programs to create a better place for the next generation of landowners. The cooperative awarded Omeria Dotson, Mary Hannah, and Bobby Hardin founding members with special plaques for 20 years of dedicated services. Additionally, each cooperative member and friends received certificates



of appreciation for supporting the cooperative. The WCSHC extended words of appreciation to Mississippi Association of Cooperatives and Beat Four Cooperative for participating in the 20th year celebration. The celebration concluded with a delicious meal prepared by Mrs. Mattie Triplett. The menu included tongue licking good collards, mustard & turnip greens, fried and bake chicken, turkey & dressing, yams, potatoes & green salad, lima beans, macaroni & cheese and cupboard of desserts. Again, the Winston County Self Help Cooperative thanks everyone for participating

“Helping to save Rural America”