...in Emanuel and Candler Counties. A collaboration with the Georgia Department of Corrections offers a series of monthly two hour classes to incarcerated women at Emanuel County Women’s Facility. Women need knowledge of how to be successful in society as well as in their homes upon being released to avoid re-entry into the system. Classes have been conducted on Effective Communication, Handling Stress, Health, Nutrition, and Exercise. 100% of the women have learned skills to better themselves and their families upon returning home. Educating these women reduces the burdens of the correctional system and Georgia’s taxpayers by providing women with skills to prevent re-incarceration.

...agents that provide quality child care training to Madison and Oglethorpe Counties’ 22 day care homes and centers employing over 100 professionals that provide services to 835 children and their families. Those professionals in turn contribute greatly to the local economy. UGA Cooperative Extension continues to be a leader in educating providers and impacting the quality of care for Georgia’s youngest citizens. In 2012, the UGA Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agent in Oglethorpe County provided 20 hours of research-based child care education to over 250 employees in her county service area and surrounding counties valued at $10,040.

...Cooking for a Life Time Cancer Prevention Cooking Schools throughout the state of Georgia during the past year. Nearly 500 women that participated reported that they plan to increase their intake of vegetables and fruits to 7 servings, consume less high fat food and control portion sizes. They will also read nutrition labels to reduce their intake of saturated and trans fats. This benefits the community by helping these women to select and eat healthier foods to lower the risk of cancer for both themselves and their families. They also report that they are now more likely to be regularly screened for breast and cervical cancer. Regular screenings identify theses cancers at earlier stages thus increasing the chances for survival, lowering medical costs and allowing these women to remain productive members of society.

...Positive Parenting Programs operating through Cooperative Extension in Columbus. Positive life experiences and nurturing care are critical to a child’s brain development during the first five years. The parent is the child’s first, most influential teacher. The research shows that evidence-based home visiting programs have a positive effect on school readiness and maternal and child health. Georgia taxpayers benefit from reduced school remediation costs, as well as lower health care costs due to reduced use of the emergency rooms and fewer days in the NICU.