

## Georgia 4-H Foundation Names Johnathon Barrett to Executive Director Post



Johnathon Barrett

(For Immediate Release – May 2018) A non-profit executive with Georgia roots has been named executive director of the Georgia 4-H Foundation following a nationwide search. Johnathon Barrett is a native of Perry, Georgia with extensive knowledge of the state and will begin his new role this week. The announcement was made by foundation Chair Diane Vaughan and Georgia's State 4-H Leader Arch Smith.

Barrett has served as vice president of statewide operations with Junior Achievement (JA) of Georgia since 2004. As the director of leadership for regional JA offices outside of metro Atlanta, he played a significant role in corporate and individual investments as well as coordinated donor stewardship for the organization. Barrett's partnerships stretch across community groups such as boards of education, economic development agencies, chambers of commerce and businesses.

"Johnathon has a wealth of knowledge that he is bringing to the role of executive director," according to Vaughan, Director of Development at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and a former 4-Her. "His tenure will begin a new era for the foundation as a whole and increase the positive impact we can have on young people across the state. With his extensive experience in fundraising, Johnathon has a clear understanding of the skillsets required to grow the foundation's footprint."

Prior to joining JA, Barrett held leadership positions with Parent & Child Development Services, Inc., Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools and the United States Department of the Treasury. He is a graduate of Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia with dual degrees in finance and accounting.

"Serving as the executive director of the Georgia 4-H Foundation is a dream job for me," says Barrett who is a certified public accountant. "I have a passion for bringing teams of people together and making a difference in the lives of our future generations. Being a former state 4-H officer and counselor, I understand what middle and high school students strive for in terms of leadership and growth. My new role will allow me the opportunity to help them achieve their goals."

Barrett has written two books: *Rise and Shine! A Southern Son's Treasury of Food, Family and Friends* and *Cook & Tell: Recipes and Stories from Southern Kitchens*. He has served on numerous advisory boards including the Georgia Public Broadcasting Coastal Georgia, Savannah/Chatham Schools Excellence Fund, Second Harvest Kid's Café, Savannah Children's Choir and Savannah Technical College SIFE. Barrett has also served on the boards of the Georgia Family Partnership, Chatham-Liberty-Effingham County Regional Library, Rotary Club of Savannah, The Georgia Historical Society, First City Club, Savannah & Chatham County Humane Society and the Episcopal Church of St. Paul the Apostle.

In addition to Vaughan and Smith, others serving on the search committee and executive board of the foundation include Jay Morgan, J.L. Morgan Company, Anne Sapp, an Atlanta attorney and Kirby Thompson, SunTrust Bank.

The Chason Group, an executive search firm specializing in economic development, chambers of commerce and foundations, assisted the EDA with the executive search.

**About the Georgia 4-H Foundation.**

The Georgia 4-H Foundation was chartered on November 17, 1948 to receive funds for the construction of the Rock Eagle 4-H Center. As the Rock Eagle project was completed, the foundation continued to support the Georgia 4-H program by providing scholarships, awards, and incentive trips for successful achievements of 4-H youth in Georgia. As time passed, [the foundation began to develop endowments that today fund college scholarships, provide funding for children to attend summer 4-H camp at little or no cost, and fund other 4-H educational programs.](#) The foundation solicits gifts from 4-H alumni, friends, corporations, foundations, and businesses to fund defined programmatic areas and capital improvements. The foundation continues to support four 4-H centers in the state that include Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island, Fortson 4-H Center in Hampton, Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, and Wahsega 4-H Center in Dahlonega. Georgia 4-H continues to offer programs at Camp Jekyll and Tideland's Nature Center on Jekyll Island.