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2008 Youth Leaders

- Dan Egolf
- Jon Egolf
- Jeff Jacobsma
- Jon Robbins
- Deana West
- Aerika West
- Evan West
- IBC Youth Partners

Present Accomplishments, Past Preservation, Future Planning

Seasons Greetings to one and all.

At this time of year when we count our many blessings, our thoughts turn to those of you who have given so much to help San Pierre. Your donations, grants, in-kind gifts, and volunteer support will never be forgotten. With your support, CROPS and its youth volunteers continue to make steady progress. In addition, they are making history—and leading the way to create a model program for “youth-led rural development.” Their model, called ***Growing Rural***, is rapidly gaining state and national attention and has the potential to change the landscape of rural America by engaging youth in civic leadership and community service.

Last summer twenty youth from Northwest Indiana and Ohio worked together to paint the playground equipment, picnic tables and benches at the park; pull weeds around the Welcome Signs; landscape in front of the Lions Club

building; and paint a storage shed. Their efforts also resulted in a full basketball court being installed at the park—and they published a book and video to tell their story of the San Pierre Revitalization Project and Growing Rural Model. The Growing Rural book and DVD will be available for purchase beginning in January of 2009.



Although our youth leaders are quite proud of these accomplishments, they are acutely aware that there is much more work to be done. Projects planned for the future include the restoration of the old bank building, preservation of the historic WPA stone bleachers at the park, the creation of a skate park and 44 mile Sandhill Crane Bikeway system, and additional renovations

to the Lions Club building. Grants are being sought for more than \$750,000 from the Indiana Office of Rural Affairs, US Department of Agriculture, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources, but 25% (or approximately \$187,500) needs to be obtained as cash and in-kind gifts from local foundations and donors.

No contribution is too small or too large. All donations help leverage grants at a ratio of 4 to 1—so for every \$25 dollars donated, we can bring in \$100 in grant funding. No other investment opportunity in today's economy offers a better return. Please consider leaving your legacy in San Pierre by making a tax deductible donation before the year ends.

Ball Brothers Grant Supports Growing Rural Model



Youth-Led Rural Development

In October, Ball Brothers Foundation announced the approval of grants resulting from its second and final grant cycle of the year to several organizations throughout Indiana. While the majority of the grants were distributed to organizations in East Central Indiana, a few grants were directed to groups outside their geographic area—including one to the Center for Rural Outreach & Public Services, Inc. CROPS' recent grant award from

Ball Brothers Foundation in the amount of \$34,000 represents its second grant from Ball Brothers, with a previous award of \$22,500 in 2007. The purpose of the funding in 2007 was to develop a model program for youth-led rural development, and in 2008 to test and refine the program for future replication throughout the state and nation. CROPS' model program, called *Growing Rural*, works similarly to Habitat for Humanity, but instead of adult volunteers working with disad-

vantaged families to build homes, inner city youth work with rural youth to rebuild entire towns. Over the past year Angelique Milo has worked with more than twenty youth volunteers, training them in digital photography, audio recording, book publishing and film production. The result of her efforts culminated into a beautiful, highly illustrative book and DVD that describes the Growing Rural model and features both youth and adult volunteers from San Pierre.

Health Network Center—Innovative Access to Wellness



Senator Ed Charbonneau

A HRSA grant in 2008, helped CROPS launch an initiative to improve access and increase the quality of health care in San Pierre and the surrounding areas by establishing a rural health network called Health Network Center. Network members include Starke Memorial Hospital, HealthLinc-Starke, Art Circle Institute,

Ancilla College, Holm Medical Clinic, Fitness Forum Sports & Wellness, Indiana University South Bend—School of Nursing and Health Professions, Indiana State Department of Health, Northwest Indiana Area Health Education Center at Purdue — Calumet, and Indiana Senator Ed Charbonneau. Accomplishments as a result of the network include a San Pierre Health Fair in July,

baseline health assessments, and a community health survey. Recently, CROPS applied for another grant from HRSA to provide mobile dental hygiene and oral health screening services, as well as health education and screening activities, youth camps, and a Parish Nurse Program. A copy of the HRSA proposal is at www.ruralgrants.org.

Extreme Makeover—Future Education Center



Future Education Center

Volunteers and donations are needed by July 2009 to complete renovations to the San Pierre Lions Club so that it can be used as a Community Education Center. An estimated \$50,000 must be raised to install a new roof, windows, HVAC, well, septic, ADA compliant restrooms, flooring and

kitchen upgrades. New ceiling tiles were purchased through a grant from the Starke County Community Foundation. At least 25 skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed to complete the job in one month. Volunteers with skills in the construction trades, architecture, engineering, drywall, commercial painting, septic systems, wells, and land-

scaping will be crucial for its success. For exact dates of the Extreme Makeover Project contact CROPS' Youth Director, Angel Milo at 574-772-7012. Donations of any size are welcomed. Naming rights to the Education Center will be offered to any individual, family or foundation that wishes to provide 75% of the makeover costs.

First Annual San Pierre Bulldog Reunion - Summer 2009

Autumn Schumacher, winner of a \$1,000 grant award from the Indianapolis Colts, helped make it possible to have a full basketball court at the San Pierre Park. The total cost of the project was \$1,768. Additional funding for the hoops came from the Starke County Community Foundation. The Colts grant was part of a league-wide initiative by the NFL to encourage fans to “Join the Team” and give back to their communities. Through this pro-

gram, the Colts, Grange Insurance, and NFL Charities provided funds for student-led community programs or projects. The new hoops were recently purchased and installed at the park at nearly the same site as the former gymnasium where the San Pierre Bulldogs once played. Now in the spirit of giving back, the youth of San Pierre want to host an historic event in the summer of 2009 by challenging the former San Pierre Bulldogs to a game. With the San Pierre School closing in 1965, most of the former

Bulldogs will be more than twice the age of their young opponents. Hoping to establish an annual event that honors the former Bulldogs, the youth also want to attract former Bulldog coaches, cheerleaders, band members, teachers, and fans. CROPS’ Youth Leader, Jon Robbins and his mother, Dawn Robbins, are working out the details of the event, but additional volunteers are needed. Anyone wishing to help with this exciting first-ever Bulldog Reunion should contact Jon at 219-828-5472.



History Project—Oral Histories and Digital Storytelling

For two years, Keith Kingman and Sarah Tannehill, former residents, have been collecting oral histories of people from San Pierre. Several interviews have been transcribed and are available to read on the CROPS website: Del Paulsen, Jeanette Wobith, Jean Kennedy, Emil Smolek, Mary Margaret Good, Dick Kingman

and Germaine Jones. Others will be completed in 2009 such as Anne Marie Eckert, Dona Richardson Rinehart, Mary and Peggy Daly, Kenneth Alberding, Ed Kesl, Bob Sharritt and more. Recently, Angel Milo and Bev Santicola learned how to create digital stories. By taking information gathered from the oral history interviews or experiences from a specific place and

time in their lives, they have created four short videos so far. The names of the digital stories are Planting Seeds, Preparing the Soil, Can I Lead the Dance?, and Who Will Answer the Call? Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the oral history interviews or digital stories may download them for free from CROPS website in 2009. More people are

“I remember voting. It was where Jeanette Wobith’s folks lived...” Germaine Jones

sought to share their stories through oral interviews. There is no cost involved and we provide a list of questions that will be asked in advance. To schedule an interview call Beverly Santicola at 866-843-3493 or email info@ruralgrants.org.

Preservation of the San Pierre Bank

Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008 at 1:00 pm
A Public Hearing will be held in San Pierre at the St. Luke’s United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall to begin the process of acquisition and renovation of the old San Pierre bank into a Community Center. Preliminary architectural and

engineering drawings are being developed by the Troyer Group. Following the Public Hearing to gain resident approval, CROPS will work with the Starke County Commissioners and Kankakee Regional Planning Commission to prepare an application for a grant from the Indiana Office of Community Affairs to purchase the property from the existing

owners and build a Community Center that preserves the historic aspects of the former bank. Local matching funds required for the \$500,000 grant are estimated at \$50,000—\$75,000. Donor names will be displayed inside the historic building. Naming rights are available to any individual, family, or foundation that provides 75% of the match.



San Pierre Bank



COMPREHENSIVE MASTERPLAN 2008

Comprehensive Master Plan available at
www.ruralgrants.org

Join Others Who Care About the Future of San Pierre

Donate Today By Sending a Check or Pledge to

CROPS - San Pierre Revitalization Project

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Phone: 866-843-3493, Fax: 713-960-0537
E-mail: info@ruralgrants.org

CENTER FOR RURAL OUTREACH & PUBLIC SERVICES, INC.

WWW.RURALGRANTS.ORG

San Pierre Revitalization Project Donors—Thank You!

The following individuals, foundations, organizations, and government agencies helped CROPS raise more than \$280,000 in grants, donations and in-kind gifts over the past 3 years. Many individuals and grantors have given gifts to CROPS annually as indicated by the numbers beside their names. Numerous pledges have been made and will be recognized upon receipt of the funding. Please advise CROPS of any unintentional omissions or errors on this list. Certified Public Accountants from The Bair Group in Ft. Wayne prepare CROPS' federal tax return. Reports are posted on our website.

Alberding, Wayne & Marilyn	Gilmore, Chase	Livett, Janet	Schrombeck, Jeffrey & Marla (2)
Amm, Bernita	Goetz, Bud	Machamer, Deb & Pat	Smisek, Elaine & Laddie
Amdt, Jay & Barb (2)	Good, Dixie	McCarty, Lillian	Smolek Farms, Emil
Art Circle Institute	Good, Mary Margaret & Don - Memorial	McCullah, Marilyn	Smolek, Andrea and Don
Bailey, Connie & Hank	Greenwood, Margaret	Milo, Mark & Joy	Sonju, Virginia
Ball Brothers Foundation (2)	Guffrea, Mildred (2)	Milo, Max & Angelique (3)	Sparks, Chester - Memorial
Bard, Elvira	Gundlach, Helen (2)	Milo, Mike	Spenner, Petrina
Bickel, Randy & Buggs	Hankey, Ruth (2)	Milo, Mike & Dolly (3)	Spenner, Thomas - Memorial
Bluhm, Patricia Minarik	Hickner, Doris (2)	Minarek, Robert & Bett - Memorial	Starke County Community Foundation (3)
Boisvert, Leo - Memorial	Holtz, Richard	Moser, Edna	Stellwagen, Gale Jones
Bonnell, Edward & Jill	Howard, Thomas & Ann	NIPSCO	Sullivan, Thomas & Virginia
Campbell, LeRoy & Helen	Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs	Oliver, Jim & Rita	Switt, David
Capouch, Don & Shirley	Indiana Youth Institute	Paulsen, Tom and Ardella - Memorial	Tannehill, Mark & Jary
Cervenka, John & Sophie	Indianapolis Colts (2)	Paulsen, Skip	Tannehill, Mary Helen (2)
Cervenka, Isabelle & William	International Boxing Club	Pixey, Larry & Margie	Tannehill, Sarah
Chesak, Betty Kalinke (3)	Jones, Germaine	Potempa, Chet & Peg	Theis, Clifford & Liz (2)
Clarke, Robert & Barbara	Jones, Monys	Prchlik Jean	US Department of Health & Human Services
Cole, Julie	Kankakee Valley REMC (2)	Rausch, Barb & Steve	US Department of Housing & Urban Affairs
Cummins, Harry E., III	Kennedy, Jean	Sakal, Larry (2)	US Government Grants (2)
Daly, Mary (2)	Kingman, Richard (2)	San Pierre Athletics	Vanecek, Edna
Daly, Peggy (2)	Kneisler, Catherine	Santicola, April & Butch	Webb, Barb & Don
Eckert, Anne Marie (4)	Komarek, Ron & Judy (2)	Santicola, Beverly & Marc (4)	Wegner, Pat & Roger
Eckert, Erna	Kuchenburg, Cindy & Gary	Scamerhorn, Steve	Williams, Louise
Elingneburg, Bob - Memorial	Lashley, Delores	Scholz, Lorene	Wobith, Jeannette G.
Germann, Dan & Irma (2)	Litschgi, Barbara	Scholz, Raymond	Zimmerman, Bruce & Karen