

A quarterly letter to friends of the Breaking New Ground Outreach Program

BNG receives top NSC disability services award

Breaking New Ground was recently honored by the National Safety Council (NSC) as the first place winner of its *2001 Award for Improvement in the Quality of Life for People with Disabilities*.

NSC makes this award annually to individuals and/or organizations for techniques, approaches, programs, devices, and other mechanisms that can prevent or mitigate disabling injury to and/or improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

The specific programs BNG submitted for this year's award were The Toolbox, the BNG caregiver workshop series, and the BNG rural county accessibility assessment initiative. BNG staff accepted the award and cash prize at the NSC Annual Congress and Expo in Atlanta.

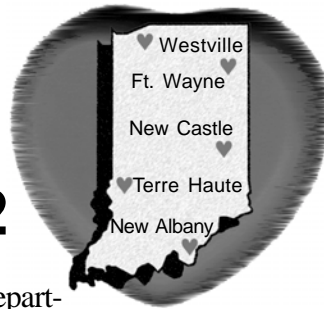
American Habilitation Services of Houston, Texas, the second place winner, implemented a specialized van safety training program for transporting its



National Safety Council

5000 clients with disabilities. The third place winner, Volunteers for Medical Engineering of Baltimore, Maryland, utilizes over 250 volunteers to fabricate assistive technology solutions for clients with disabilities.

Mark your calendars: BNG caregiver workshops coming in 2002



BNG has received funding from the Indiana State Department of Health to conduct the third series of workshops for caregivers, people with disabilities, and professionals. Our last two caregiver workshop series have been well received by participants, and the 2001 series received the Indiana Rural Health Association's Distinguished Community Service Award for its contribution to rural health at the state level.

This year, BNG plans to conduct five workshops in different parts of the state that will be hosted by the local center(s) for independent living. The tentative sites and dates for the events are: **New Castle—March 5; Terre Haute—March 19; New Albany—April 9; Westville—April 23; Fort Wayne—May 7.**

AgrAbility staff conduct BNG review

Breaking New Ground was pleased to host three staff members from other AgrAbility Projects for an external review on October 29-30. BNG asked

the program. The review team also visited Life Essentials to view new assistive technology devices.

One reason for the visit was to assist BNG with ideas for the program's upcoming funding proposal. USDA funding for the current project ends on March 31, 2002, and BNG will be competing with approximately 20 states for a limited number of project grants. If you have any suggestions for services you would like to see added, expanded, or changed, please contact BNG at 800-825-4264.



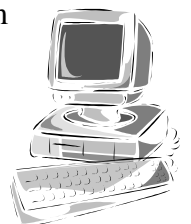
the staff—Karen Funkenbusch from Missouri, Paul Leverenz from Wisconsin, and Bryan Shaw from Texas—to talk with BNG staff, tour the facilities, meet with our advisory group, and make recommendation for improving

BNG announces new URL and revised Web pages

There's a new and easy way to access all kinds of information about BNG. Just go to your Web browser and type **breakingnewground.info**. Using that address, you'll be able to reach the home pages for both the Breaking New Ground Outreach Program, which provides direct services to farmers and rural residents in Indiana, and the Breaking New Ground Resource Center, which produces disability-related materials for agricultural and rural audiences worldwide.

The Web address **agrability.org** is still active and has been converted into a "one-stop" site for accessing several other organizations that serve farmers with disabilities, such as the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) and the Job Accommodation Network (JAN).

Our BNG Web pages have been revised significantly during the past six months, so check them out and let us know what you think. You can email your comments to BNG at bng@ecn.purdue.edu.



BNG Project Leader: Bill Field

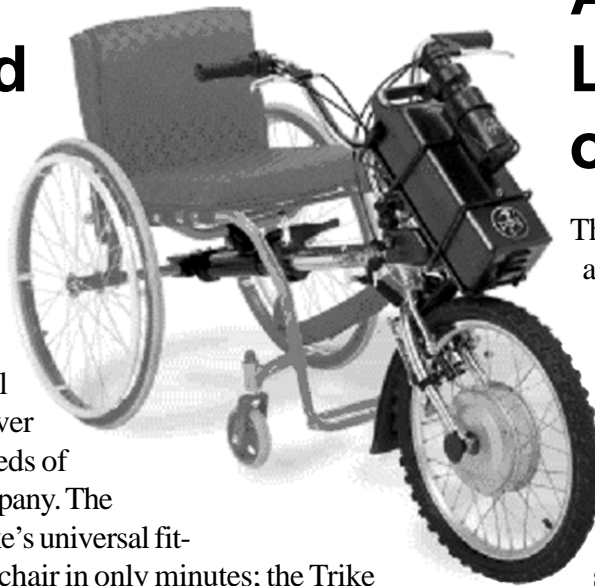
Program Manager: Paul Jones

Rural Rehab Specialist: Steve Swain

Power Trike offers off-road alternative

PDQ Mobility recently introduced the Power Trike, a motorized accessory that clips onto any standard folding or rigid frame wheelchair, turning it into a three-wheel vehicle capable of maneuvering over gravel, grass, and gradients at speeds of up to 11 mph, according to the company. The company states that the Power Trike's universal fittings can be attached to any wheelchair in only minutes; the Trike can then be connected or removed from the chair in 30 seconds. The Power Trike folds easily and fits neatly in a car trunk, according to PDQ.

The price of the Power Trike is approximately \$1,950. It is reportedly quiet, environmentally friendly, runs for 20 miles, and is rechargeable in less than four hours. It is distributed by Harmar Mobility of Sarasota, Florida, and they can be reached at 1-800-833-0478. PDQ's Web site is www.pdqmobility.com.



An "Accessible Life" insurance option available

The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company is now offering Accessible Life, a policy that could benefit people with disabilities and others whose occupation or medical history have prevented them from buying life insurance. To qualify for the policy, individuals do not have to undergo a medical exam or answer health questions. Certain restrictions apply, so if you have questions about this policy, contact Janis Hill at 317-271-3058.

TT/TTY users can dial now 711 for access

Individuals with speech or hearing impairments can now access text telephone service in Indiana through a simplified system. By dialing 711, callers will be automatically connected to Relay Indiana, the state's text telephone service. Because of a Federal Communications Commission mandate, the service should also be available not only in Indiana but nationwide as of October 1, 2001. Therefore, those traveling to other states will only have to remember one access number.

To learn more about this service,



contact InTrac (Indiana Telephone Relay Access Corporation) at 877-446-8722 (TT/voice), or Sprint at 800-676-3777 (TT/voice).

Busy fall for BNG awareness events

The past few months have been busy ones for BNG in regard to farm shows and expos. The 12 days of the Indiana State Fair were followed by the Farm Progress Show in September,

plus the annual Extension conference and the National FFA Convention in October. If you're going to any of the following upcoming events, make sure to stop by the BNG display:



Indiana/Illinois Farm Show at the Indiana State Fairgrounds
December 11-13

Indiana Farm Bureau Convention Expo
December 15

Ft. Wayne Farm Show
January 15-17

BNG Consumer/Consultant Ron Thomas demonstrates the Life Essentials lift on the BNG Valtra tractor for State Fair visitors at the Indiana FFA Pavilion