



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

Bridging Horizons Contest winners named

The winner of the 2000-2001 Bridging Horizons contest winner is the West Washington FFA of Campbellsburg (Washington County).

The FFA Bridging Horizons Contest, sponsored by Breaking New Ground, challenges FFA chapters to make an impact on their communities by planning and completing projects that enhance the independence and quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

The team from West Washington chose the challenging project of helping Ron Elgin, an indi-



Students work on Ron Elgin's ATV

vidual with quadriplegia, access his ATV and lawn mower. To do so, several modifications had to be made, including the conversion of the foot controls on both pieces of equipment into hand controls and the redesign, fabrication, and replacement of both seats to meet Ron's needs. In addition, the students made safety modifications, such as pro-

tecting Ron's legs from engine heat, and they are continuing to devise a lift to safely move Ron on and off the machines.

As a reward for their ambitious and creative project, West Washington received the grand prize of



Advisor Cory Scott and member Corey Churchman accept the contest award at the 2001 State FFA Convention at Purdue

\$500. According to chapter advisor Cory Scott, the project has made an impact not only on Ron Elgin, but also on the students themselves.

Plans are already in the works for next year's Bridging Horizons Contest. If you're an FFA advisor and are interested in participating, or if you have a need that an FFA chapter might address, contact BNG at 800-825-4264.

First BNG Scholarship awarded

Toby Days was recently named the first recipient of the Breaking New Ground Scholarship. Originally from Auburn, Indiana, Toby is a graduate student in the Forestry and Natural Resources Department of Purdue's School of Agriculture, where he specializes in wetlands management. This summer, Toby is serving an internship

with the EPA in Chicago and should finish his degree in December.

The BNG Scholarship was established to provide financial support to students with significant physical disabilities who are enrolled in Purdue's School of Agriculture and are pursuing agriculture-related careers.

One of the individuals instrumental in establishing the BNG Scholarship is Hubert Von Holton, president and founder of Round Grove Machine in West Lafayette. Though diagnosed with polio at age five and mobility impaired for most of his life, Mr. Von Holton has succeeded in many enterprises, and was a principal developer of the Mud Hog drive unit used on agricultural equipment around the world.

For more information about applying for the BNG Scholarship, or to make a tax-deductible contribution, contact BNG at 800-825-4264.



Scholarship recipient Toby Days

BNG workshop series honored

The *Caregiving in the Heartland* workshop series, coordinated by Breaking New Ground and supported with funding from the Indiana State Department of Health, recently received the Indiana Rural Health Association's State Level Distinguished Community Service Rural Health Award.

More than ten organizations participated in the planning and conducting of the workshops, including the Indiana Arthritis Foundation and the Independent Living Center of Eastern Indiana.

The Indiana Rural Health Association presents this award annually to an individual or organization that provides an outstanding contribution to rural health at the state level.



Look for BNG at:

Indiana State Fair
 August 8–19

National Farm Progress
 Show in Lafayette
 September 25–27

BNG Project Leader: Bill Field

Program Manager: Paul Jones

Rural Rehab Specialist: Steve Swain

Life Essentials develops truck-mounted lift

In addition to its line of custom-manufactured person-lifts for tractors, boats, horses, semis, and other applications, Life Essentials of West Lafayette now offers a mobile lift that fits in the back of a pickup truck and is capable of providing access to multiple machines.

Life Essentials recommends at least a ¾-ton pickup for this lift and preferably a full ton truck. Even when completely stowed, there is still some storage room in the truck bed. The lift can also be detached and removed from the bed with a hoist or front loader when not needed.

The lift operates on an independent hydraulic system powered by the truck battery. Two hydraulically-operated supports extend from the lift to the ground to provide added stability. At maximum extension, the seat will reach approximately eight feet from the mast.

The estimated price of the lift is approximately \$14,300. Although more expensive than a single lift permanently attached to a piece of equipment, its multiple-use capability makes it a feasible option for the operator who wants to access more than one machine.

For more information on this new lift and other assistive devices, contact Life Essentials at 800-543-3740.



Life Essentials lift in stowed position



Life essentials lift in extended position

Changes at THE CHAPS



After more than eight years of service and leadership to THE CHAPS therapeutic horseback riding program, Sherri McCormick recently hit the trail for new adventures in other areas.

In her capacity as CHAPS Director, Sherri served as an administrator, instructor, and fund-raiser for the program, which expanded significantly during her tenure.



Sherri McCormick

Though no longer an official staff member, Sherri remains closely involved with the program as a mem-

ber of THE CHAPS advisory group.

Since Sherri's retirement, Aissa Irvin-Slayton has joined the staff to facilitate fund-raising and public relations.

THE CHAPS stands for **T**herapy, **H**ealth, and **E**ducation through **C**hildren and **H**orses **A**s **P**artner**S**.



Aissa Irvin-Slayton with Blackjack

Amish benefit from BNG work

Breaking New Ground staff and consultants have been privileged to attend the past three annual "Amish Handicapped Gatherings," the most recent held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in June. Amish families impacted by a variety of disabilities come to these gatherings from all over the nation. This year, BNG was represented by Treva Chupp, who grew up Amish, recently graduated from Ball State, and has multiple disabilities.

BNG is committed to continued work with Amish groups, and tentative plans are being made to collaborate with the Independent Living Center of Eastern Indiana on programs to better serve Amish families with disabilities in that part of the state.

