Community Spotlight. . .

Washington PRIDE off to a great start

Washington's newly formed PRIDE committee was started last summer. They got off to a fast start by conducting a needs assessment and determined priorities to be: enhancing the physical environment of the community; expanding the performing arts; improving youth and senior centers and creating social activities for all ages.

The PRIDE group has met on a weekly basis since their inception. Their first project was raising money for food boxes for the needy during the Christmas season. Members visited service clubs and private individuals in a concerted effort to raise monies. These efforts raised $2,500 for the food box project. One hundred boxes were filled with basic food supplies and distributed to individuals and families who requested assistance.

Washington’s PRIDE group will also participate in the PRIDE Healthy Ecosystem-Healthy Communities program (HEHC), which will give Washington's citizens opportunities to protect and build upon their natural resources.

"A community organizational and supper meeting will be held in the basement of Washington's First National Bank at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, to explain PRIDE and the HEHC program," stated Dr. Roger Baskerville, PRIDE Chairperson. Sherry Davis, Program Coordinator for HEHC, will be sharing further details of the HEHC program and what it takes to get started.

News You Can Use. . .

Making the most of your quarterly reports

Thanks to all of the communities who sent in their quarterly reports for the last quarter of the 2010 calendar year. You continue to do an amazing job of volunteering in your community. To date we’ve had
28 communities submit a report for a total of 9,951 volunteer hours. To translate those hours into dollars, the Independent Sector places a value of $20.85 per hour on volunteer time. That equals a total of $207,478.35. Wow! That is a real impact for your rural communities. Make sure you use this information as you visit with key stakeholders in your community. By multiplying your volunteer hours times the hourly rate of $20.85 you have the volunteer contribution PRIDE has made to your community. Add this to the results of the projects and you have a great story to share.

**Are they public or private dollars?**

With each quarterly report, we ask that you tell us the dollars received through public and private sources. Public funds are tax based and include all money received from a unit of government, including State or Federal grants. Private funds are those dollars received from individuals, families, corporations, private foundations and most other fund raising.

For example, a community receives grant funds from their watershed district. These would be considered public dollars as the watershed is funded through federal dollars. If a community were to receive funds from a local community foundation, these would be considered private dollars as they received their funds from individuals, families or corporations.

You are probably wondering why we're asking for this information. This information is important to key stakeholders as it reflects how communities are leveraging their public dollars with private dollars to carry out successful projects.

**Your youth partners are important to us**

The quarterly report form for 2011 has a couple of slight changes. This year we are asking you to check the projects and collaborations which include youth. We know that youth who volunteer within a community develop a greater sense of belonging resulting in increased youth retention. Tracking this information helps PRIDE measure those efforts. If you don't have the 2011 Quarterly Report form, click here.

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**Upcoming Opportunities. . .**

**PRIDE Capital Project Awards**

March 1 is the deadline to submit nominations for the Capital Project Awards. These awards are designed to recognize communities who
have done excellent work developing community capitals. Local PRIDE programs are encouraged to nominate a high quality project for state-level recognition which reflects their work in a community capital area. Nominations may be submitted in all seven capitals as long as you use a separate project nomination form and a different project for each capital. Projects must have been completed between July 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010. Initiation of the project may have occurred prior to July 1, 2009. The Kansas PRIDE Awards Information and Nomination Packet includes the awards criteria along with the nomination form.

**Spring Workshops**

Still have questions about the new PRIDE program, how to become a Community of Excellence, how to apply for a Partners in PRIDE grant or how to increase volunteer participation in your PRIDE projects? These topics will be covered in a series of spring workshops held in five locations across the state. More details are coming soon.

- March 28 - Melvern, Community Center
- March 29 - Goff
- March 29 - Stafford
- April 7 - Grainfield, Opera House
- April 12 - Marion, Community Center

**Dates to Remember. . .**

- **March 1** - Capital Project Awards nominations
- **March 28** - Spring Workshop, Melvern, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m
- **March 29** - Spring Workshop, Goff, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- **March 29** - Spring Workshop, Stafford, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- **April 5** - Spring Workshop, Grainfield, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- **April 12** - Spring Workshop, Marion, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- **June 4** - Day of PRIDE - Larned