

Local Rotary groups undertake service projects

By CLEVIS JEFFRIES
STAFF WRITER

The Greensburg Rotary Club and Green County High School Rotary Interact organization will be actively involved in two important humanitarian service projects starting soon.

Greensburg Rotarian and Rotary Interact advisor Sandy Smith spoke of the two projects at the Greensburg Rotary weekly meeting Jan. 29.

Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls is the largest humanitarian aid project of Buckner International. It provides new shoes and socks to orphans and vulnerable children in the United States



Photo by Clevis Jeffries

Sandy Smith

and throughout the world.

The local Rotary organizations will participate in this worthwhile project.

Smith said, "We

would like to collect new shoes. We need them by May, because then they will be taken up to the district conference in Louisville and those shoes

will be given to kids in orphanages."

She noted that collection boxes will be placed at various locations in the community.

The availability of new shoes for these orphan children promotes good health, gives them hope, provides opportunities, and lowers the barriers to school attendance for them.

Rotary Club member Smith informed local Rotarians about the service project, "Blessings in a Backpack." This is a project being promoted at the district level by Rotary Interact members.

Local Interact Club members will take an active role in this project during the Interact Leadership

Conference on March 2 in Louisville.

She said, "While they're there, not only are they going to participate in leadership activities, they're going to actually participate in what's called the "Blessings in a Backpack" program."

Those who will be attending the conference are asked to provide at least 1800 items for this service project.

The local club will be donating at least 300 items, namely

Goldfish Crackers, Smith said.

"We were asked to bring 300 items," she said.

The Interact advisor said that hopefully a local business will provide a number of Goldfish cracker packages to assist in this worthwhile endeavor.

She also informed Rotary members about the upcoming speech contest. The Greensburg club will conduct the local contest Feb. 26.

\$620 thousand plus invested in KY Agriculture Development Funds

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approved \$628,256 in 10 agricultural diversification and rural development projects across the Commonwealth at its monthly board meeting.

Specifically relating to Green County is the shared-use equipment program.

Shared-use Equipment Program

The Shared-use Equipment Program assists broad-based community organizations with the purchase of farm equipment. The equipment purchased is made available for producer use in a specific county on a leased basis. Five Shared-use Equipment Programs were approved totaling \$20,471 for Green (\$7,721) and Pulaski (\$12,750) counties.

Other approved projects include: Hemp Policy:

The board approved the Joint Committee on Industrial Hemp's recommendation that the KADB will consider funding hemp applications related to education and certified seed for 2019. The KADB and Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) will consider applications for loans on a participation basis. Hemp shall be an eligible crop for CAIP and Next Generation Farmer Program.

State Investments: Kentucky Certified Honey Program

The Kentucky State Beekeepers Association was approved for up to \$128,808 in State funds over a two year period to establish the Kentucky Certified Honey Program. For more information on this project, contact David Shockey at (270) 307-8549 or kentuckycertifiedhoney@gmail.com.

County Investments: Honey Bee Conservation Program

The Powell County Beekeepers Association, Inc. was approved for up to \$5,000 in Powell County funds for a Honey Bee Conservation Program. For more information on this project, contact Valerie Stewart

at (606) 663-6405 or vwstewart@uky.edu.

Agricultural Education Facility

White House Lodge, LLC was approved for an additional \$20,000 in Daviess County funds to construct an agricultural education facility. For more information on this project, contact Suzanne White at (270) 929-1445 or suzannececilwhite@gmail.com

On-Farm Investments

The County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP) offers 11 investment areas that give Kentucky

agricultural producers the ability to increase net farm income, add value to their products and diversify their operation. CAIP benefits and enhances agriculture across the state by stimulating markets for Kentucky agricultural products. Three CAIPs were approved by the board totaling \$428,977 for Lewis (\$154,589), Pulaski (\$215,000) and Rowan (\$59,388) counties.

Environmental Stewardship

The Deceased Farm Animal Removal Program serves as a measure to facilitate the coordination of environ-

mentally sound and cost effective disposal of deceased livestock for Kentucky producers. One Deceased Farm Animal Removal Program totaling \$7,500 was approved for Hart County.

Youth Agricultural Incentives Program

The Youth Agricultural Incentives Program (Youth) serves as a measure to facilitate the growing need for a specialized program that benefits youth actively engaged in agriculture. Two Youth Programs were approved by the board totaling \$17,500 for Fayette (\$7,500) and Grant (\$10,000) counties.

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