

Focused on students

The commitment by Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc., benefits thousands of children in Topeka. Hill's provides enough volunteers to offer Junior Achievement in 28 classrooms of two schools. The company also helps with the Bowl-A-Thon, annual auction and with funding.

Denise Brice Walker and Jeff Sorensen serve on the board for Junior Achievement. Walker coordinates volunteers at Hill's.

"I think it fits in our scope and mission at Hill's," she said. "JA is on the forefront of developing kids and teaching them about being successful."

This year, Walker taught a special education class of third-, fourth- and fifth-graders. She enjoyed the challenge.

"Part of it is knowing about their challenges," she said.

"You have to quickly adapt to what the children need to understand you."

Hill's inspires children at Lundgren Elementary and Williams Magnet School.

The company coordinates community giving through its Caring Hearts Program.

Ginny Trygg chairs the donations committee. "We have several employees very involved with Junior Achievement," Trygg said.

"JA has helped a lot of chil-



Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc. supports its employees who volunteer for Junior Achievement. Left to right, back row are: Pam Rubow, Mary DeBey, DVM, Brenda Ziegler, Allison Corbitt, Kimberly Walker, and Clif Franklin. Left to right, front row, are: Ameerah Salaam Hazziez, Rachel Bartels and Cathy Schneider. Hill's volunteers not pictured are: Kathy Davis, David Lignell, Isaac Jackson, Jeff Sorensen, Rebecca Dortch and Denise Brice Walker.

dren for a long time. They make a difference."

Topeka-based Hill's sells pet food in 54 countries. The idea of feeding pets



Clif Franklin proudly displays a thank you poster given to him from his Junior Achievement class.

something other than table scraps or homemade food is still a relatively new idea in most countries. Hill's uses a sophisticated Prepared Pet Food Index to

gauge use of prepared pet foods.

Educating consumers about the health benefits of Hill's products is one way the company has tackled this challenge.

Hill's employs 865 people in Topeka. In September, Hill's announced a \$15 million expansion with the creation of 60 new jobs over five years.



Century United shares success

Junior Achievement of Northeast Kansas has grown and prospered thanks to volunteers and donors like Mel Woods, President of Century United.

The JA board member has volunteered for classroom duty, slowing his involvement only due to travel demands.

Woods encourages participation in Junior Achievement events including the Bowl-a-Thon and the auction. He matched 10 percent of all funds raised in the 2002 oral auction, and encourages others to do the same.

"I would encourage others to get involved," Woods said. "Very seldom do we have an opportunity to relate to students so JA helps us keep in touch with their perspective."

Woods recently accepted an award from Savin Corporation for obtaining the largest contract in the 42-year history of Savin Corporation. He supplies copiers to the State of Kansas.

Woods started volunteering in the classroom in 1985. He taught seventh-



Mel Woods, president Century United, counts on his dedicated employees to carry on his tradition of support to Junior Achievement. Woods supports JA at auctions and the Bowl-A-Thon, while several of his employees volunteer in the classroom.

graders at Shawnee Heights Middle School. "I think JA has a good value," Woods said. "It is a break in students' normal routine and in ours too."

Woods has four children and seven

grandchildren.

Since 1981, Century United has helped businesses in Topeka and surrounding areas with their copying, facsimile and printing needs.



Ready to hit the links?

Sales have started for the Junior Achievement™ Golf Card. The \$35 card allows you to play more than 45 rounds of golf at 34 courses.

Users enjoy an average savings of \$24 every time they use it. Call the JA office at (785) 235-3700 to get your card.

Purchase four or more cards for \$30 each. To order using a credit card, call (785) 235-3700, or mail a check to Junior Achievement, 501 SE Jefferson Ste 22, Topeka, KS 66607.

Thirty-four golf courses participate.

Visit www.kansasja.org for details and restrictions



Endowment established

The Board of Directors of Junior Achievement is committed to maintaining a strong organization now and in the future.

Board Chairman H.W. Craig has led a committee that has established a Junior Achievement endowment to work towards an organization that is healthy in the future as well as now.

The endowment has been established through the Topeka Community Foundation. Anyone wishing to make contributions to the newly-created endowment can do so through the Topeka Community Foundation.

What is Junior Achievement?

Junior Achievement is the world's largest and fastest-growing nonprofit economic education organization. Programs are taught by classroom volunteers from the community.

Junior Achievement educates and inspires young people to value free enterprise, business and economics. Programs span grades K-12, with curricula designed to teach elementary students about their roles as individuals, workers and consumers and to prepare middle and high school students for key economic and workforce issues they will face.

During 2002-2003, Junior Achievement of Northeast Kansas served 15,000 public, parochial and private school students with more than 500 volunteer in 700 classrooms.





Ross Elementary School depends on teachers, students, administration and community volunteers. Back row, from left are, principal Jeff Soltez, classroom consultants Kristina Dietrick and Erin Field, of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, and teacher Terri Marie Feldkamp.

Soltez appreciates community support at Ross Elementary

Students at Ross Elementary School receive quality education, including JA, thanks to a dedicated staff led by principal Jeff Soltez.

"Junior Achievement is wonderful for our community, students and businesses," Soltez said. "It's great to see our community people come in and make ties with our youngsters."

Ross Elementary students chime in their approval. "I like it because we have fun and do all kinds of different things," said student Azhane Griffin.

"It's fun to put the sticker on the books," said Brandon Hartke, student.

Ross Elementary includes 301 youngsters in kindergarten to fifth-grade. In the 2000-2001 Kansas State Assessments standards-based tests, Ross students scored 67 percent in reading scores, topping the Kansas average of 66 percent. Ross students in 2002 score at 95.9 percent, topping the state average of 95.8 percent.



Jeff Soltez, principal, left, discusses JA material with a student.



From left, Crystal George, Taysha Cay and Brandon Hartke enjoy the JA workbooks.



Azhane Griffin, left, and Zairily Herrera say Junior Achievement's fun at Ross Elementary School.

Junior Achievement of Northeast Kansas Board of Directors

- Bud Anderson, Hallmark Cards
- Tim Beymer, Josten's
- Hank Booth, KLWN/KLZR
- Diana Buechle, Kansas Gas Service
- John Burdett, Burdett & Associates
- H.W. Craig, Martin Tractor
- Jeff Croskey, Bank of America
- Garry Cushinberry, Commerce Bank
- Mike Faler, Commerce Bank
- Greg Fankhauser, Heritage Bank
- John Fish, The Topeka Capital-Journal
- Vince Frye, Frye-Allen Advertising
- Richard Gannon, Countryside Bank
- Nate Hill, KSNT-TV
- Jeanne Hippe, Del Monte
- Ralph Hoyos, Payless ShoeSource
- Scott Jenkins, Cargill
- Allen Joy, Joy & Company
- Carl Koupal, Community National Bank
- Jim Klausman, Midwest Health Services
- Mark Kossler, Fidelity State Bank
- Dick Lind, Farmland
- Shawn Maisberger, City of Topeka
- Bruce Mallory, Burlington Northern Santa Fe
- Kent Manion, Capitol Federal
- Jim Martin, Professional Engineering Consultants
- Juli Ann Mazachek, Washburn Univ. Endowment
- Bob McFrazier, Topeka Public Schools
- Mitch Miller, Dynamic Computer Solutions
- Larry Robbins, Goodyear
- Lou Rosa, Harrah's
- Karen Schuyler, Astaris
- Jeff Sorensen, Hill's Pet Nutrition
- Mark Strong, PBS
- Denise Walker, Hill's Pet Nutrition
- Gerald Walker, Walker Construction
- Rebecca Wempe, SBG
- Jeff Wiethorn, Coffman Defries & Nothern
- Mel Woods, Century United
- Bob Young, Blue Cross Blue Shield

Visit us at
www.kansasja.org



Meier shares know-how with Logan students

Lenny Meier of Meier's Market shares his a strong work ethic in the classroom. Meier has taught Junior Achievement for 12 years to seventh-graders at Logan Junior High.

"Seventh- and eighth-grade students are the most impressionable," Meier said. "I tell them, at their age, I was up at 5 a.m. to pick strawberries and cut asparagus before school. Then we'd get back and do it again until 7 p.m. Then, we'd do homework."

Meier said most of his students have trouble relating to that life-style.

Meier extols the importance of finishing school "A lot of kids go to part-time jobs and they don't realize that there is competition out there for the real jobs," he said. Meier helps students in his class operate a simulated business and create a family budget. Often, they end up \$100-\$200 short every month. "It's a good exercise to see how much insurance and taxes eat up your paycheck."

Meier's Market sells top soil, fresh fruit and vegetables. He hired several of his Junior Achievement students to work on his farm. Meier centers his hiring around grades and attitude.

"I tell them that if they have a goal in mind, a realistic goal, they can do anything," Meier said. Meier said that JA is important and encourages others to serve as volunteers.

Meier, and his wife, Sandy, have been farming for seven years, helped by their sons Lenny and Steven.

Meier serves as a member of the Kansas State Horticultural Alliance and as president of the Kansas Vegetable Growers Association.



Lenny Meier, JA volunteer, operates a large greenhouse with garden flowers and plants as well as fresh vegetables.