



JATODAY

Junior Achievement®

Fall 2003

Commerce community spirit

Commerce Bank & Trust has been a model of integrity for more than 40 years. Commerce provides volunteer support to Junior Achievement through volunteers in the classroom, on the bowl-a-thon, and on the JA board of directors.

Garry Cushinberry, Commerce vice-president business development, has taught Junior Achievement for two years. "Everyone should be in a Junior Achievement class," he said. "Teaching some real-world economics is a great value for our children."

He speaks to students about how he obtained his job through education and hard work. "Our kids need to learn business skills," he said. "They need to know about entrepreneurship and the function of money." He said JA teaches fiscal responsibility.

Commerce Bank believes that providing loans and advice to small business owners to help build their businesses in turn spurs community economic growth. It has played a critical role in helping to fund civic projects, and earned repeated recognition for its contributions to the community and its industry.

Ceandrea Tyson, senior sales associate, brings JA to Holy Name Catholic School. "I love working with eighth grade," she said. "They're the best. I



Commerce Bank & Trust allowed ten employees to volunteer in the classroom last year including, clockwise from top left: Emily Wells, Mike Faler, Ceandrea Tyson, Raymond Remp, Jr., Lori Dale, Garry Cushinberry and Aaron Anderson.

can teach them a few things before they go into high school, and they're so willing to learn." Budgeting is a big deal for them, she said.

It's no surprise employees embrace the Junior Achievement experience. Commerce Bank was awarded the local Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics by the Topeka Better Business Bureau in 1999.

Mike Faler, marketing officer Commercial Services, has served on the JA Board of Directors for 13 years. He previously volunteered for Eisenhower

Middle School. "We help schools fill the gap by showing kids the reality of the business world. A lot of kids get a good look at the real world of family finance and the checkbook."

Raymond Remp, Jr., vice president
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Highland Park principal supports JA

Highland Park Central Elementary students enjoy Junior Achievement thanks to support of principal Valarie Patterson.

"JA is a great tool to help our kids understand their community," Patterson said. Highland Park welcomed JA classroom consultants from Teletech and Bank of America last year. "JA helps our children get familiar with their surroundings and I think it falls in the social part of our developmental pathways," Patterson said.

"Highland Park Central is a great school," Patterson said. "Our teachers recognize our children's needs and the parents participate."

Patterson started her career as a physical education teacher in 1978 at Highland Park. She was promoted to assistant principal of Topeka West High School in 1996. Patterson was then named principal at Highland Park Central in 1999.

Patterson earned her education degree at Emporia State University. She holds a B.A. in elementary education and a M.A. in educational administration.

Patterson has a daughter. She enjoys volleyball, softball, gospel and classic R&B music. She said she loves action movies.

JA has partnered with Highland Park Central Elementary School for nine years. Each year JA volunteers provide hundreds of hours of support. The teamwork between JA classroom volunteers and the teachers they work with is important in helping Highland Park Central children prepare for success in their futures.



Valarie Patterson, principal of Highland Park Central Elementary, values every student.

"JA is a great tool to help our kids understand their community."

—Valarie Patterson, principal Highland Park Central Elementary

Commerce Bank teaches real-world finance

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Bankcard Merchant Officer, is heading into his eleventh semester of teaching Junior Achievement. He has worked with seventh and ninth grade students at Northern Hills Junior High School. "My kids are in the Seaman district," he said. "I know how kids benefit and I might have a chance to teach my daughter in the classroom."

Lori Dale, customer sales associate, taught JA economics to eighth grade students last semester. "I would have chose eighth grade if I was going to be a teacher," Dale said. "Its a big time to show

them they need to stay in school and that they will flourish if they do well."

"I like to teach kids," said Aaron Anderson, vice president branch manager, who teaches sixth grade at Jay Scheidler and Auburn Elementary. "We can show them the world is bigger than Kansas. They always tell you about all the places they have traveled to."

Emily Wells, vice president branch manager, has been a JA classroom consultant for three years. She teaches seventh grade.

"It's different from your everyday job," she said. "I like to interact with the children. They always ask two questions, 'has your bank ever been robbed?' and 'have you ever fired anyone?'"





Terry Cobb



Cobb appreciates classroom access

Seventh graders benefit from real-world economics taught by Terry Cobb of Kirk and Cobb Real Estate.

Cobb has taught Junior Achievement for five years. "If I wasn't in real estate, I would teach," he said. The challenge is connecting with students learning at different levels, Cobb said.

"This is rewarding to me," he said. "The two teachers that I've worked with have been very appreciative of someone who comes in from the outside." Teacher Kay Thomas steps forward to help with the students. "She knows her students very well. She's a great partner in the classroom."

Realtor's are more flexible during daytime hours, Cobb said. He has worked in real estate for 35 years.

"We teach new sales people how to do it right," Cobb said. "We aren't a huge company, but we're effective." Cobb also teaches his JA students to follow the rules to be successful.

Married to Beverly they have four children and one grandchild. Cobb plays tennis five days a week. He is slated to play in a mid-level national championship tennis tournament in Tuscon, Ariz. in October.

Cobb is a busy person, running a successful business and spending time with his family, but he feels that it is important to give his time to help Topeka children.

He would recommend that others follow his example and get involved in JA.

Auction brings materials to classroom

The community supported students by attending the Junior Achievement of Northeast Kansas Auction Nov. 22.

More than 900 items were auctioned including a John Wooden autographed basketball and a Manzanillo Bay, Mexico

getaway complete with a 5-star villa, European spa and a professional therapist.

Six hundred people arrived to bid on items and help Junior Achievement meets its goals of providing world class materials to the classroom.

Bowl-a-Thon captains thanked



Rebecca Perkins leads a bowling team for AmerUs Annuity Group

Through the efforts of 139 area businesses, a Bowl-a-Thon took place Oct. 10-12 in Topeka and Lawrence. Businesses encouraged employees to participate to raise money for Junior Achievement. Because of those businesses, 126 volunteers joined in helping raise money for

materials for area classrooms to teach JA projects. The goal was to raise \$100,000, and 472 people served as captains to guarantee a successful event.

Participants obtained pledges and earn prizes like T-shirts or a weekend condo at Table Rock Lake.



Yvonne Viator is team captain for the Kansas Department of Aging.



Beth Cordova leads the bowling team for Educational Credit Union.



Dennis Handke, represents ILC of Topeka on a JA bowling team.

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Topeka Capital-Journal key to JA success

Participating in Junior Achievement takes many forms. Some volunteer in the classroom, some join in fund-raising activities and some donate to the cause. John Fish, publisher of the Topeka Capital-Journal, supports JA through donations, volunteers, and he has even been known to pick up a bowling ball for the annual Bowl-a-Thon. He also was instrumental in JA getting the Business Hall of Fame off the ground.

"John saw and supported the vision that we have," said H. Craig, past JA Board Chairman and Chairman of the Topeka Business Hall of Fame. "He and the Capital-Journal are deeply appreciated as partners in this project. He has been a pleasure to work with."

The Topeka Capital-Journal is the second largest newspaper in Kansas and benefits from its location in the capital of Kansas. The newspaper aggressively covers state government as well as regional news in 23 northeast Kansas counties. It reaches more Topekans than any other medium and has one of the highest daily penetration rates of any metropolitan newspaper in the country.

"JA is a tremendous organization that has a very worthy goal to educate our youth about the world of business," he said. "It is more important now than it has ever been." JA has been successful in building a model to do that, he said. "JA fulfills an important mission that someone out there needs to fill," Fish said.

Fish has served on the board of directors of Junior Achievement of Northeast Kansas for more than three years.



John Fish supported the Topeka Business Hall of Fame display located at the Topeka Capital Journal.