

Fidelity brings business to youngsters

Mark Kossler, vice president at Fidelity State Bank and Trust Company, started volunteering to teach second graders seven years ago when a co-worker at a previous job convinced him to get involved. He continued to volunteer each year, eventually joining the Junior Achievement board and serving as auction committee chairperson last year.

Kossler joined Fidelity in January 2001, and brought JA with him. He now leads a group of nine Fidelity employees who volunteer at JA, covering every classroom at Lowman Hill Elementary school in Topeka. Those nine volunteers comprise 20% of the workforce of the bank. "It's a significant commitment of Fidelity's resources, and we have to juggle schedules to make sure we take care of our customers while the volunteers are out" noted Kossler, "but our bank's management believes in the program and the message it brings to children."

"I truly enjoy teaching, and the children seem to get a kick out of the visits. For them, it's a break in their normal school day, almost like recess," said Kossler. "The material is fun and engaging, so they learn new ideas and concepts without realizing it. JA does a great job of gearing the information to the appropriate age group." Through activities that include stickers and making pretend donuts, second graders learn about jobs in the community and how employees at businesses and the government contribute to making the community work.

Fidelity employee Debbie Orr has taught Junior Achievement to first graders for the past three years. "They're great kids, and I like being able to stay with the same teachers," she said. Kristen Warner has taught JA for four years, working with kindergartners. "They are always happy to see us," she noted.

Fidelity employees who vol-



Beverly Anderson, middle, teaches Junior Achievement to these happy kindergartners.

unteers for Junior Achievement include Beverly Anderson, Ruth Browne, Teresa Corley, Jeremy Francis, Mark Kossler, Jeff Narron, Lynda Noel, Debbie Orr and Kristen Warner.

Anderson has been a kindergarten volunteer for four years. "I encourage anyone who can give the time to volunteer for JA," Anderson said. "JA makes it so easy for you. The packets we receive provide all the materials, and include suggestions on how long to talk, what to do, and what things to emphasize." She said little time is necessary to prepare. "I've been fortunate to have the same teachers for the last three years. They know me, I know them, and we each know what to expect. The materials fit well into the subjects on which the class has been working. It has been a very rewarding experience."



Fidelity Bank's JA volunteers, from left front row, are Jeff Narron, Ruth Browne, Debbie Orr and Mark Kossler. Second row from left are Beverly Anderson, Teresa Corley and Kristen Warner.



JA applauds Carmona's contributions

Students benefit from Junior Achievement of NE Kansas thanks to volunteers, schools and financial contributors like Ed Carmona of ILC of Topeka. If harnessed, Carmona's energy could power Goodyear Tire and Rubber Plant for a year.

ILC serves banks, realtors, mortgage title companies and others with boundary surveys, topographic surveys, construction staking and mortgage title inspections.

Eleven people operate the survey company founded in 1989. ILC of Topeka serves customers within an 80 mile radius of Topeka and beyond.

Founder Ed Carmona was able to leave the day-to-day operations of his company to his staff. He now serves on 21 boards and committees throughout the community, including Junior Achievement where he serves as the JA auction chairman.

"JA participated in 77 schools in the area with a low cost per child," he said. "That's a great value."

"Thanks to our staff, we have been successful," Carmona said. "Now it's time to give back to the community." He focusses on seniors and young children.

"The auctions have been so much fun," he said. "We want to make sure the next auction will succeed as well as the last one did under Mark Kossler's leadership."



Ed Carmona contributes to JA through the annual auction.

Carmona exudes energy. He recently launched two more businesses including Busy Bee Cleaning which opens June 1 and Green Thumb Lawn Mowing which he sold to his employees.

Ralph Krumins:

A decade of service to Northern Hills Junior High

Ralph Krumins has volunteered at Northern Hills Junior High School for more than a decade.

"Ralph's JA material is always well prepared and covers a variety of areas in both personal and global economics," said teacher Ron Blanton. "He has a great relationship with all the students.

"He helps prepare these students to enter high school with a sound understanding of the real economic world. Sharing a classroom with Ralph is always a great experience because you learn so much from each session.

"I look forward to working with Ralph for many years to come. He is a great asset to our community."

The senior vice president-investments at Wach-

ovia Securities works with Northern Hills teacher Ron Blanton and his 9th grade class. "Mr. Blanton provides a great atmosphere by making the things that we talk about in class count towards the students' grades," Krumins said. Apparently Blanton asks students to take notes of their JA experience and turn them in as homework. "He makes it more than an hour of free time," Krumins said. "It is an hour of preparing for the real world of the future."

"I think youth education is very important," Krumins said. "With JA, kids learn things they wouldn't normally learn in the school system. JA provides lessons that will last a lifetime."

Krumins and his wife of 27 years, Maureen, have three sons. He serves on the TARC Endowment Board, on the Lutheran Home Association board and as Scoutmaster for Troop No. 52.

He enjoys racquetball, flyfishing and golf.



Ralph Krumins has taught Junior Achievement at Northern Hills Junior High School for 12 years.





Avondale East Grade School principal Duke Palmer and teacher Barb Gatewood, center, appreciate role models from the community visiting their classroom.

Principal welcomes JA to Avondale East

Junior Achievement volunteers are welcomed to a friendly environment at Avondale East Grade School thanks to principal Duke Palmer.

"JA comes in and gives our students an opportunity to see business people," Palmer said. "You can see excitement in the kids' eyes."

"I like JA," said Barb Gatewood, 5th grade teacher. "The kids really enjoy starting a business and making the pens." Fifth grade JA students develop a business, even manufacturing their own pens.

Palmer has worked in education for 32 years, the last four as principal. "As principal, it's great to see professional role models come into the classroom," Palmer said. "They become part of our staff, the teachers look forward to having our JA volunteers."

Junior Achievement has provided educational programs to Avondale East for 12 years. During this time JA has touched the lives of more than 2,700 Avondale East children. The Avondale East-Blue Cross Blue Shield partnership is one of JA's most successful.



Teacher Pam Cullen, above, uses JA in her classroom. Here they display a JA game, "The Bottom Line," showing how assets and resources move in and out of a business.

Junior Achievement of Northeast Kansas Board of Directors

Tim Beymer, Josten's
 Hank Booth, Kansas Wildscape
 Diana Buechle, Kansas Gas Service
 John Burdett, Burdett & Associates
 Ed Carmona, ILC of Topeka
 Michel Cole, SBG
 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
 Richard Gannon, Kansas Press Association
 Ward Hawley, Hallmark Cards
 Nate Hill, KSNT-TV
 Jeanne Hippe, Del Monte
 Ralph Hoyos, Payless ShoeSource
 Scott Jenkins, Horizon Milling
 Allen Joy, Joy & Company
 Carl Koupal, Community National Bank
 Jim Klausman, Midwest Health Services
 Mark Kossler, Fidelity State Bank
 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, KABSE
 Mitch Miller, Dynamic Computer Solutions
 Denise Peterson, CBiz
 Kent Pope, Office Depot
 Mike Rich, Harrah's
 Larry Robbins, Goodyear
 Karen Schuyler, Astaris
 David Sollars, Washburn University
 Jeff Sorensen, Hill's Pet Nutrition
 Chris Stratmann, KS Air National Guard
 Mark Strong, PBS
 Lisa Stubbs, Community Volunteer
 Tony Sawyer, Topeka Public Schools
 Denise Walker, Hill's Pet Nutrition
 Gerald Walker, Walker Construction
 Bob Washatka, Express Personnel
 Jeff Wietharn, Coffman Defries & Nothorn
 Mel Woods, Century United
 Bob Young, Blue Cross Blue Shield

Visit us at
www.kansasja.org



Superintendent: Award to Junior Achievement appropriate

Junior Achievement of Northeast Kansas was honored twice recently for excellence in education. The first award, by Partners in Education from USD 501, was presented Feb. 1 to honor JA as an outstanding organization working with the school district.

That honor led to Junior Achievement of Northeast Kansas being named the Kansas statewide winner of the "Friends of Education" award in the category of community group supporting public

education. This was presented by the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force, which was appointed by the governor.

"I think it was an appropriate award" said Tony Sawyer, superintendent of Topeka Public Schools. "JA has been a very aggressive source of support for our schools and our children," he said. "The business community has been motivated by the great messages that Junior Achievement brings."

Sawyer said the schools are pleased

with the energy and ongoing support from Junior Achievement. "I had JA experience in a previous district and schools," Sawyer said. "I always found it to be positive. In Topeka, I would say it is even more energized."

Each year Junior Achievement of Northeast Kansas receives outstanding support from area educators and administrators while serving more than 15,000 children in 700 classrooms. Sawyer also serves on the board of directors of Junior Achievement of Northeast Kansas.



Tony Sawyer

"JA has been a very aggressive source of support for our schools and our children. The business community has been motivated by a great working staff and board."

—Tony Sawyer, superintendent of Topeka Public Schools
