

A photograph of a river scene with several people in canoes. The river is calm, reflecting the surrounding dense green forest. In the foreground, two canoes are visible, each with two people wearing yellow life vests. Further down the river, another canoe with more people is visible. The trees are lush and green, creating a canopy over the water.

“DOING THE BEST YOU CAN  
EVERYDAY A LITTLE BIT  
BETTER.”

AMRV RC&D  
2012 ANNUAL REPORT  
AND  
FY 2013 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

**Alabama's Mountains, Rivers, and Valleys  
Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.**

5514 US Highway 31S Hartselle, AL 35640

(256) 773-8495

**FY 2012 ANNUAL REPORT  
AND  
FY 2013 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Laine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being more prominent than the last name "Laine".

Chairman

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	3
Alabama RC&D Areas.....	4
Comments from our Chairman .....	5
2012 Year in Review      Mike Roden, Executive Director .....	6
AMRV RC&D Council      2012 - Officers and Staff .....	7
2012-2013 - Council Members & Technical Assistance .....	8
Equal Opportunity & Civil Rights.....	9
Services/Business of the Council .....	10
2012 AMRV RC&D Council Projects .....	11
2013 Proposed Budget.....	23
AMRV RC&D FY 2013 Annual Plan of Work .....	24
Equal Opportunity Statement.....	25
2013 Proposed Projects .....	25



## Alabama RC&D Areas



## **Comments from our Chairman**

Well folks here we are at another year's end which saw a lot of good things as well as bad. I have enjoyed the year in spite of the bad and I am in debt for you allowing me to continue as Board Chair. RC&D is a rewarding and fun organization because of the nature of the projects and all the people involved. The people, from RC&D staff and board members to the people involved with projects, are unbeatable because we all love helping people. The Cosby Company is included in that too, as we wouldn't have ample funding without their tireless efforts to educate lawmakers.

Even as I write this message our staff members are busy seeking funding sources to make 2013 better than ever. Thanks are in order to our State Lawmakers who kept us in the State budget even with the possibility of proration. Also thanks to our voters who saw the need and passed the Governors bill to take money from the rainy day fund to supplement the general fund budget.

As a result of the Congressional action of 2011, RC&D's across the country were required to make changes to operate without a Coordinator, an almost impossible task to say the least. Some of the coordinators who were at retirement age did so and went full time with their councils. We have a world class man in Mike Roden who became our Executive Director and is now working fulltime with us as well as training council members of RC&D groups across the state to be self-sufficient. Congress's action have turned out to be a blessing in disguise because it has allowed us to be true non-profits without governmental restrictions.

The fact that our AMRV-RC&D Council is the program model for the state, besides our Executive Director efforts, is due largely to our managers who are in a class by themselves. Renona Seibert, our program manager, in addition to managing all our programs, devotes more time and effort in being a one person maintenance, custodial, public relations, secretarial person, etc. than most folks would even try. We'd be in a mess without her and are blessed to have her on staff. Jay Grantland, our projects manager has produced another great crop of projects for helping our farmers to produce their crops more efficiently and profitably. One of which is the rain barrel project which conserves rainwater to be used in chicken farming. Jay juggles a number of projects successfully and some become popular across the country. He has recently started a canoe rental business partnering with AMRV and is doing quite well with this. We are blessed to have him as well.

All in all it is my opinion that 2012 has been a very successful year. RC&D folks across the country are proving the saying "life dealt us lemons and we made lemonade."

Thanks again for everyone's hard work. I'm looking forward to an even greater 2013.

Bill

## **2012 Year in Review      Mike Roden, Executive Director**

Time flies when you're having a good time!

This time last year we and all the RC&D Councils were still reeling from the sudden end of the USDA/Federal support of the RC&D program in the Nation. I remember saying that we were entering a new and exciting time for RC&D! Today I can say that we are well on the way! It has been a very demanding and exciting year for the AMRV-RC&D!

First of all I want to thank the Board for their embracing the new norm. Their calm approach and vision of the new ground that we were preparing to plow was exceptional!

Secondly.... and just as important.... was and is the attitude of your RC&D staff. I can truly say that Jay and Renona are the best! Jay's vision and hard work for the new Wheeler Explorers venture is paying off. Kids, teachers and adults are now getting an opportunity to experience the natural world by taking environmental field trips in canoes. Renona continues to find new and better ways of doing business and serves as the model for other RC&D Program Managers/Office Managers across the state. We are very fortunate to have employees with their vision, character and drive to be the best!

Council members continue to address the local and area needs by bringing excellent projects to the Board. Their ability to educate local sponsors and elected official on who we are and what we do is vital. But most importantly their unselfish desire to improve North Alabama for the people that we serve is admirable!

Thank you all for allowing me to be a small part of the team. I promise you that we are just beginning to "be the best that we can be" and I am devoted to your program and cause!

God Bless you All!

Mike

## **AMRV RC&D Council    2012 - Officers and Staff**

Chairman	Bill Latimer
Vice-Chair	Jeff Clark
Secretary / Treasurer	Phyllis Seymore
Executive Director	Mike Roden
RC&D Program Manager	Renona Seibert
RC&D Secretary	Vacant
RC&D Project Manager/ Tennessee River Basin Clean Water Partnership Facilitator	Jay Grantland

## 2012-2013 - Council Members & Technical Assistance

<b>Madison</b>
Phyllis Seymore
Joe Howe
Nell Long
Karen Jones
Peggy Long
Bob Culver
Ann Anderson
Albert Butler
Jeff Pruitt
Anthony Hudson (Tech)
<b>Jackson</b>
Horrace Clemmons
Billy Stephenson
Laura Bowman
Jim Frost (Tech)
<b>Limestone</b>
Bill Latimer
Brenda Wigginton
Jimmy Newby
Gerald Barksdale
Joyce Lane (Tech)
<b>Lawrence</b>
Henrietta Taylor
Floyd Shankle
Harold LouAllen
Peggy King
Kathy Gotcher (Tech)

<b>Morgan</b>
Jeff Clark
Brad Bole
Ann Smith
C.A. Blevins
Mary Elliott
Charlotte Hallmark
Doug Wigginton
Foy Kirkland (Tech)
<b>DeKalb</b>
John Eason
Stanley McClendon
Sid Holcomb
Billy Twillev
Vickie Goggans
Deanna Wilks
DeWayne Hulan
Jerry Wisener (Tech)
<b>Cullman</b>
Robert Harbison
Cherrie Haney
Tammy Roden
Deborah Widner
Sammie Danford
Edwin Carter
James Graves
Murray Griffin (Tech)

<b>Marshall</b>
Jerrell Smalley
Donald Smith
Shawn Manning (Tech)
<b>Businesses</b>
TARCOG
ALFA

<b>Area Wide Board Members</b>
Brian Brown
Janetta Thompson
Scottie Bolden
Gina Williamson



## Equal Opportunity & Civil Rights

The Alabama's Mountains, Rivers and Valleys RC& D Council made a special effort in 2012 to insure that all duties and project delivery was performed in a manner, which consistently demonstrated fairness, cooperation, and respect toward coworkers, office visitors, and all others in the performance of official business.

- ◆ Performed all duties in a non-biased manner.
- ◆ Delivered all programs and projects fairly with no discrimination.
- ◆ Used approved non-discriminatory statement on appropriate correspondence.
- ◆ All projects can and do benefit minorities and women.

The Council now has the following membership

White Women	20
Black Women	2
Black Males	1
American Indian (Male)	0
American Indian (Female)	2
White Males	23
Businesses	2

## Services/Business of the Council



Canoe Outfitter: Offering guided educational canoe outing or self guided canoe rental.



Native Grass Seeder: No till planter for land users through US Fish and Wildlife.



Geo-Textile Cloth: Low cost material for farmers through AMRV RC&D.



Geo Hay: Proven value in erosion control and storm water management. Made from 100% recycled carpet.

## 2012 AMRV RC&D Council Projects

### Area Wide

#### WaterWorks Environmental Education

**Awarded: \$5,500**

**Total Project Value: \$6,900**

Provided environmental responsibility eco-canoe trips for children in surrounding counties as well as age appropriate educational experiences for visitors to WaterWorks Center for Environmental Education.



### Youth Leadership



**Awarded: \$8,000**

**Total Project Value: \$18,388**

A yearlong multi county project for area teens involving a series of leadership forums designed to teach leadership skills. This project culminated with a week-long tour of agricultural related business and colleges in Alabama.

#### Wheeler Explorers

**Awarded:\$30,000**

**Total Project Value:\$45,000**

This multi county project allowed for the purchase of canoes and equipment to conduct environmental education classes on area streams.





### **Echota Cherokee Log Cabin**

**Awarded: \$4,000**

**Total Project Value: \$9,500**

Located in Cullman County, this Native American property needed repairs to the old log house. Bringing this house up to standards to be used for meetings and office space was a priority for the tribe.



### **Cave Rescue Training**



**Awarded: \$4,000**

**Total Project Value: \$69,350**

North Alabama is home to many caves which attracts amateur spelunkers. This multi county project assisted in the purchase of equipment used in cave rescues and training classes.

### **LEGACY: Small Farm Rain Catch Project**

**Awarded: \$3,000**

**Total Project Value: \$6,000**

Guttering and storage system was installed on a small Blueberry farm to demonstrate how to capture rapid storm water runoff from roofs to reduce non-point source pollution resulting from overland rainwater runoff. AMRVRC&D installed the rainwater collection demonstrations after securing training from BRAE Rainwater Systems. Funds have been applied for to install additional rainwater collection systems on other area farms. AMRVRC&D hosted educational / training field day for farmers at the demonstration farm.



**Jane K. Lowe: Education Project**

**Award: \$17,167**

**Total Project Value: \$35,000**

Inner-city and low income student groups from Huntsville and Madison County participated in Wheeler Explorers canoe programs. These students received basic canoe paddling instruction and on water safety training. They then took multiple trips on Flint Creek on Wheeler Wildlife Refuge where they participated in Ecological studies.



**EPA: Education Programs**

**Award: \$35,000**

**Total Project Value: \$42,000**

Biology and Water Chemistry programs.

The WaterWorks Center for Environmental Education continues to receive many requests to offer low-cost Environmental Education programs to local students and professional groups. This is an ongoing project. These programs are scheduled when requested and continue to impress those that participate. 26 student groups from local schools

have participated in field trips at WaterWorks this year. Hartselle City Schools and Cullman School systems held Teacher workshops at WaterWorks this summer

**Daniel Foundation**

**Award: \$7,000**

**Total Project Value: \$15,000**



This opportunity allowed for the continued support of educational programs at WaterWorks. Civic groups, students, teachers, family groups and individuals all benefited from scheduled activities at WaterWorks.



## Outreach



**Award: \$39,990**

**Total Project Value: \$52,000**



The AMRV-RC&D delivered over 17 outreach meetings for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and 10 meetings for the National Association of RC&D Councils for the purpose of informing new and beginning farmers, previously underserved, especially American Indians, on the programs available through NRCS to help them manage the natural resources on their land.

## Cullman County

### Ag Books for Libraries

**Awarded: \$3,000**

**Total Project Value: \$3,426**

Cullman County School libraries were furnished with books related to agriculture.



**North AL Agriplex Alternative Sewage**  
**Awarded: \$4,500**  
**Total Project Value: \$6,500**

The Heritage Center located in Cullman County is a classroom and meeting place for agriculture education. Proper sewage treatment was a priority to continue with programs and growth. Since the installation of septic tanks and city hook up the center has been able to host over 1000 participants in different agriculture related events.



### **Keeping Heritage Alive**



**Awarded: \$5,000**  
**Total Project Value: \$14,947**

Farming has changed so much over the years. Goldvine Farms is working to bring the history of farming our current generation. Part of this process is honey production the return of syrup making. Students tour the farm to learn these lost arts. This grant allowed for the expansion of the facilities.

### **Dekalb County**

**Wonders of Watersheds**  
**Awarded: \$2,500**  
**Total Project Value: \$15,000**

This grant assisted with the education of water conservation in Dekalb County including the first Water Festival for 4th graders.

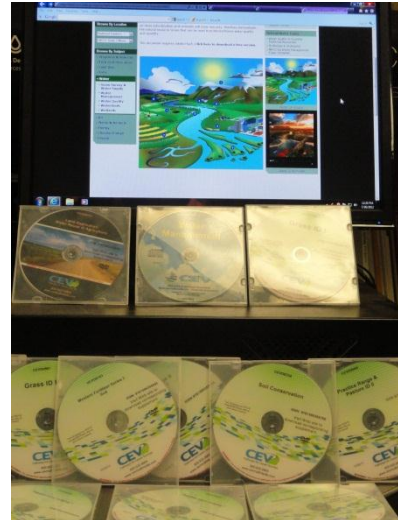


### **Plant Science Multimedia**

**Awarded: \$2,000**

**Total Project Value: \$2,200**

The Agriculture Science department at Ider High School in Dekalb County was able to purchase a computer and software to teach plant identification and conservation practices.



### **Fire Hose for VFD**



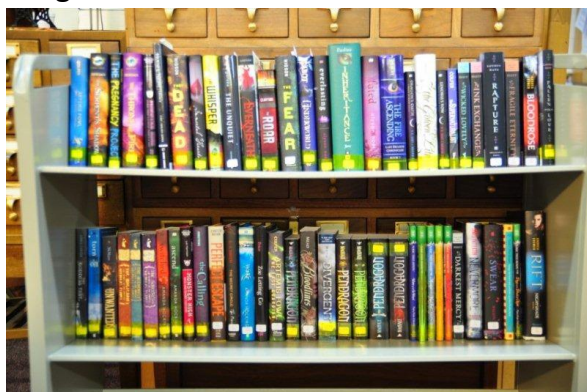
**Awarded: \$4,500**

**Total Project Value: \$4,500**

Blake Volunteer Fire Protection Authority in Dekalb County services approximately 850 households and businesses. The supply hose on the primary fire engine was past its serviceable life. The Fire Authority was able to purchase 1200 feet of three inch hose and two hydrant wrench sets.

### **Jackson County**

#### **Large Print Books**



**Awarded: \$3,000**

**Total Project Value: \$3,000**

Woodville Library in Jackson County was able to meet the needs of their senior adults by providing large print books for the visually impaired.



### **Community Garden Project**

**Awarded: \$2,000**

**Total Project Value: \$3,432**

Section High School FFA in Jackson County purchased a Rain Flo Plastic Mulch Layer. The use of plasticulture increases production and decreases costs associated with growing. The garden was planted and maintained by FFA and the community is the benefactor of all the hard work.



### **Gazebo for Outside Learning**



**Awarded: \$3,000**

**Total Project Value: \$5,700**

The Arc of Jackson County, a private non-profit organization that provides services for people with intellectual disabilities, had started an outdoor garden/classroom project a few years back. The addition of this gazebo has added the perfect place to stop and watch the butterflies. It is also being utilized as a classroom.

### **Woodville High School Greenhouse**



**Awarded: \$4,500**

**Total Project Value: \$9,000**

There was an interest in constructing a greenhouse for the Ag department for several years. Due to cutbacks in the State budget and other funding sources there were no funds available. The students and other Ag

teachers in Jackson County supplied the labor.

## Lawrence County

### North Courtland Park



**Awarded: \$2,500**

**Total Project Value: \$3,765**

The city has no recreational areas for the citizens. The ground work was completed to aid in the building of a future play space. After a design was in place lots were cleared and the park benches were installed.

### Fire Prevention Week

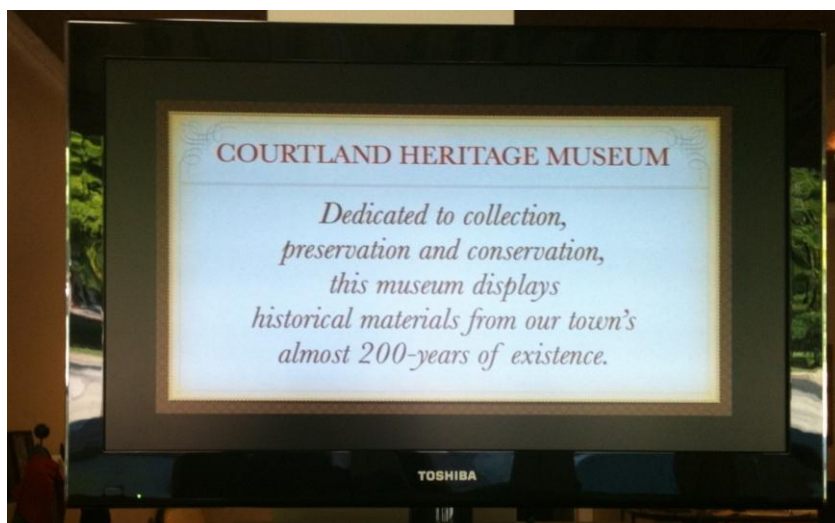
**Awarded: \$2,000**

**Total Project Value: \$2,000**

Caddo Volunteer Fire Department in Lawrence County purchased materials to pass out in the community and to use at community events teaching fire prevention and safety.



### Courtland Heritage Museum:



**Awarded: \$2,500**

**Total Project Value: \$2,500**

Located in Lawrence County, the museum created a video on the history of the area. Preservation of local history and the artifacts housed in the museum is the primary goal of the museum.





#### **Hillsboro Baseball/Softball field**

**Awarded: \$2,500**

**Total Project Value: \$5,000**

The city ball field was not up to AHSA standards. After much work the city was able to host a t-ball league. With the addition of the new field, they are looking forward to hosting camps, community leagues, and possibly tournaments.

### **Limestone County**

#### **Relationship Smarts**

**Awarded: \$2,500**

**Total Project Value: \$4,700**

Sponsored by the Athens-Limestone County Family Resource Center these classes were for parents and at risk teens. The program was designed to teach teens and their parents how to make wise choices keeping them at home as opposed to the Detention Home.

#### **Limestone County Water Festival:**



**Awarded: \$2,000**

**Total Project Value: \$30,000**

This annual event for fourth graders teaches about the importance of protecting our watersheds and environmental responsibility through hands on interactive teaching labs.

## ID Card Printer

**Awarded: \$3,400**

**Total Project Value: \$5,252**

Homeland Security requested that all law enforcement, fire, and EMS personnel wear ID's. The cost of the equipment was more than this small town in Limestone County could afford. This opportunity allowed for the purchase of the new equipment bringing the emergency personnel in the town of Ardmore and surrounding agencies into compliance with the request.



## Madison County

### Madison County Drinking Water Festival:



**Awarded: \$2,500**

**Total Project Value: \$28,331**

This annual two day event for fourth graders teaches about the importance of protecting our watersheds and environmental responsibility through hands-on interactive teaching labs.

### Movie Film Event

**Awarded: \$2,000**

**Total Project Value: \$4,000**

Facilitated by Jacob's Ladder in Madison County a group of children and teens from the Triana community were privileged to have a movie production company come out and help them write, design, film, and produce a movie.



### **CASA Community Garden:**



**Awarded: \$3,000**

**Total Project Value: \$10,319**

Local citizens of Madison County reap the benefits of this garden each year. The efforts of many volunteer hours pay huge dividends for the elderly and home bound clients. There was almost a ton of produce grown and distributed in the month of July alone.

### **Waterfall and Spring House Pump:**

**Awarded: \$2,000**

**Total Project Value: \$2,000**

The Madison County Nature Trail atop Green Mountain provides an escape from urban life. The old pump for the waterfall was above ground and required much maintenance. The new pump allows for a quieter more dependable source of water for the water features at the site.

## **Marshall County**

### **Arab Jr High Band**



new music.



**Awarded:\$8,500**

**Total Project Value:  
\$8,500**

Located in Marshall County this grant assisted with the purchase of instruments and



## Morgan County

### Morgan County Environmental Education



**Awarded: \$4,500**

**Total Project Value: \$4,768**

The Flint Creek Wetlands Mitigation Bank located in Morgan County, in an effort to continue upgrading the area for educational purposes, added plant identification plaques to

specific areas on the property.



### Rescue Squad Radio



**Awarded: \$2,500**

**Total Project Value: \$2,500**

The Morgan County Rescue Squad has volunteer membership of over 50 people. Each one needs a radio to communicate with 911 dispatch. Ten additional radios were purchased and put into service.

### Lighting Somerville Court House



**Awarded:\$5,000**

**Total Project Value:\$19,470**

This is the oldest original standing courthouse in the State of Alabama. It had been renovated on the downstairs floor. It is used for community events, weddings, family reunions and still as a courtroom for the Town of Somerville. The exterior was in need of lighting for safety reasons.

## AMRV RC&D

### 2013 Proposed Budget

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
CWP		Grant Expense	186,819
State Fund Projects		Insurance	12,000
State Funds Admin		Facilities	10,800
Solar Income		Operations	153,750
Daniel Foundation			<u>363,369</u>
EPA			
Brindley Creek			
USFWS			
Wheeler Explorers			
Private Donations			
Corporate Sponsorships			
Donations/Dues			
NRCS Outreach			
		Income	375,703
		Expense	<u>363,369</u>
			12,334



## **AMRV RC&D FY 2013 Annual Plan of Work**

The Council's Annual Plan of Work is developed as an operational and management tool based upon the 2012-2017 Area Plan.

### **Statement of Vision and Mission**

The Mission of the Alabama's Mountains, Rivers and Valleys (AMRV) Resource and Conservation and Development Council is to improve the quality of life of the rural residents in its area by the reasonable and responsible protection and development of the natural and human resources of the Tennessee Valley.

- To develop the natural and human resources of the area to meet the economic and social needs of its people
- To assist rural areas and small towns in obtaining adequate housing and adequate water and sanitary systems.
- To develop public recreational projects, programs, and facilities.
- To preserve, develop and maintain game and fish habitat
- To improve forest management
- To implement conservation programs, projects, and policies that reduce flooding, pollution and soil erosion.
- To establish and improve industries that process and market products from natural resources.
- To increase income from agricultural lands by improved cropping methods and livestock enterprises.

These eight goals outlined in 1973 are still viable. Much progress has been made over the last thirty seven years. As the needs and the challenges evolve RC&D is ready to act. Much progress is yet to be made.

"All programs and assistance of the RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status."

## **Equal Opportunity Statement**

### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

The AMRV-RC&D Council prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

### **Compliance with the Civil Rights Act**

The Alabama Mountains Rivers and Valleys RC & D program is conducted in compliance with the non-discrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial (or technical) assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

## AMRV RC&D 2013 Plan of Work

<b>Name</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Food Video	\$ 4,000	Tony Glover	Area Wide	A food video to feature local agriculture production from farm to table.
Rainwater Collection Demos for small	\$ 17,419	Renona Seibert	Area Wide	Establish small farm rainwater collection demonstrations across North AL.
Mineral supplement for small ruminants	\$ 3,480	Robert Spencer	Area Wide	Parasite workshops/training for small ruminant farmers.
Board/Staff Training and Operations	\$ 6,000	Renona Seibert	Area Wide	Assist with the cost of training of Board and staff and to offset cost of supplies.
WaterWorks Education Programs	\$ 3,562	Renona Seibert	Area Wide	Facilitate the delivery of educational programs at WaterWorks.
Lola Boyd Upgrade and Maintenance	\$ 4,000	Jerral Smalley	Area Wide	Expansion of the pavilion and maintenance.
Environmental Education	\$ 4,000	Deb Widner	Cullman	Education programs in Cullman County Schools to include: Fawn, Water Festival, teacher workshops and also for Earthday.
Recreational opportunities at Duck River	\$ 2,500	Christy Turner	Cullman	Enhance recreational opportunities in the Duck River Watershed area.
Camp Meadowbrook	\$ 2,500	Johnny Grantham	Cullman	Replace pavillion that was destroyed in tornado.
Water Quality Education	\$ 2,000	Allison Jenkins	Dekalb	Raise awareness of watersheds and ecology.
Tables and chairs for children's section	\$ 5,000	Debbie Stepleton	Dekalb	Furnish library with reading chairs and tables in the children's section
Education through play	\$ 4,000	Rhonda Wheeler	Jackson	To create a play space integrating nature fun facts.
Bringing nature to the playground	\$ 3,000	Rhonda Wheeler	Jackson	To create a play space integrating nature fun facts.
Wheelchair ramps	\$ 2,000	Beverly Waldrop	Jackson	Assist with minor home repairs and wheelchair ramps

Video Presentation	\$ 2,000	Robert Rebman	Lawrence	Create a video of the history of Courtland.
Recovery Ministry	\$ 2,000	Thomas Davis	Lawrence	Hold classes for those recovering from addictions.
Picnic table, grill	\$ 5,000	Scottie Bolden	Lawrence	Update Hillsboro park with a pavillion, grills and seating.
Water Festival	\$ 2,000	Brenda Wigginton	Limestone	Water festival for 4th graders.
Outdoor Classroom	\$ 2,000	Dana Downs	Limestone	Create a nature area and outdoor classroom.
Repair baseball field	\$ 5,000	Dennis Black	Limestone	Nets and safty screens for baseball/softball destroyed by tornadoes.
Music is momentum	\$ 2,000	Karen Jones	Madison	Music awareness program for students from an impoverished area.
Teacher Workshop	\$ 2,000	Kathy Walker	Madison	An agriculture based teacher workshop.
County Wide Emergency Radios	\$ 5,000	Anne Burkett	Madison	Creat a base station for new digital radios.
Radio Equipment for Animal Control	\$ 3,000	Anne Burkett	Madison	To replace an outdated analog radio system.
Community historical cultural center	\$ 2,000	Betty Williams	Madison	A project to document and preserve the history of Triana.
Greenhouse	\$ 4,000	Lisa Bowman	Marshall	Create a hands-on science environment for special education students.
Greenhouse	\$ 2,358	Lisa Bowman	Marshall	Create a hands-on science environment for special education students.
Education Programs	\$ 4,000	Lindy Ashwander	Morgan	Provide innovative arts in education programs.
Drainage issue	\$ 5,000	Don Stisher	Morgan	Correct a drainage problem on the Falkville school campus.
Picnic tables for elementary school	\$ 3,500	Allen Stover	Morgan	Purchase picnic tables and benches for parks at two schools
Life Jackets	\$ 2,800	Tony Weikert	Morgan	Replace old worn out life jackets for the rescue squad.
Raised bed gardening	\$ 2,200	Summer Stidham	Morgan	Install a raised bed garden to teach about composting and gardening.