

2014 Jail Best Practices Award Official Entry Form

This form must be attached to all entries. Entrants must complete all sections for the entry to be considered complete. A copy of this official entry is available electronically at www.pacounties.org.

County Name: Dauphin County Class: Third
Address: Administration Building 2 South Second Street City: Harrisburg Zip: 17101-1295
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Project Information

Title: Project TRADE Start Date: July 2010 and continuing

Each application must be submitted with two signatures. Place appropriate signatures on two of the lines below:



Chair of the Board of County Commissioners



County Chief Executive Officer



Chair of the county Prison Board

Program Narrative

A separate program narrative document must be attached to this form that answers the following questions in the order presented. This must be typed in a Word-document, Times New Roman, 10-point type.

- **Need:** a description of the identified need and the background including what programs were in place before the current project, if any, and how it led to this effort
- **Program/policies:** a description of how the project enhanced general operations programs/policies, treatment, and custody
- **Approach:** a description of the project, including any evidenced-based approaches to jail diversion, community involvement strategies, formation of stakeholder groups, county-wide planning strategies, etc.
- **Evaluation:** a brief description of how the project was evaluated and any lessons learned
- **Stakeholders:** a brief description of the community, including a description of key stakeholders, organizations, and county departments that were involved in the project
- **Processes:** a description of how the activities or processes utilized in this project were altered or will be continued based on experience, including plans for leveraging additional resources
- **Costs:** a description of any costs associated with the project and how it was funded; cost savings, if any and any change in community acceptance, reductions in insurance costs, or inspection improvements that resulted from the program

Scoring will be based on the elements as described above.

Please attach supporting documents, forms or other information that support the award entry. **Entries must be received by close of business on February 14, 2014.** Winners will be announced during the CCAP Spring Conference, March 23 - 25 2014. More information: Brinda Carroll Penyak, bpenyak@pacounties.org or (717) 526-1010.



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DAUPHIN COUNTY PRISON



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Project TRADE

Need: A majority of inmates committed to jail have either no or very limited marketable skills to enter the workforce. In addition, because of their criminal history, their chances of employment are even lower than traditional applicants with clean records.

There are many approaches to the treatment of individuals who run afoul of the law. But no matter what philosophy, treatment modality, or programmatic concentration, every professional shares one ultimate goal: that once an individual leaves the supervision of any justice system, they do not return. Those charged with the responsibility of ensuring an individual's permanent exit from court involvement are slowly coming to the realization that a linkage to career building employment is a powerful tool toward this end.

Dauphin County Prison (DCP) has a vast assortment of programs (Addictive/Compulsive Behaviors, Violence Intervention, Support Skills, AIDS Awareness, Inside/Outside Dads, Thinking for a Change, Sex Offenders, and Educational Core Group) and therapeutic communities (Second Chance/Drug & Alcohol and MEND/Power & Control) that prepare inmates for reintegration to society. One of the missing components was providing them the ability to obtain viable employment upon their release.

Program: In an effort to provide inmates with a marketable skill, DCP and Home Builders Institute (HBI) partnered to design, develop, implement, and operate Project TRADE as a Vocational/Work Training Program that includes a job placement component. Project TRADE has a daily capacity of five (5) male inmates per instructor. In addition, when the program first began we were able to include female inmates.

HBI is providing a construction trades training to inmates six (6) hours per day, five (5) days per week. The length of training for each inmate is approximately eight (8) to ten (10) weeks and is operated on an open entry/skilled exit basis.

Inmates are offered trade-specific training in one or more of the following trade areas: Carpentry, Plumbing, Landscaping, Building and Facilities Maintenance, Brick Masonry, HVAC, and Electrical Wiring by journey-level instructors. These skills increase their chances of economic self-sufficiency and success so they can move forward and live a crime-free life.

In addition, while in this program, the students are involved in community service projects which provide valuable hands-on experience and a way to give back to the community.

Approach: During each training session, HBI utilizes its Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (*PACT*) to deliver the skills training component to Project TRADE participants. Approximately twenty-five (25) percent of time is spent in classroom-related instruction and seventy-five (75) percent of time is spent in community service/work-based learning that integrates classroom learning with work site experience. The classroom component, which includes a 1:5 instructor to inmate ratio, provides instruction in practical trade skills, care and use of tools, safety, work habits, fundamental mathematics, and communication skills. This array of component areas allows Project TRADE to integrate academics into the work-based learning component and classroom experience. A critical part of the program is the incorporation of HBI's *PACTMath* and *PACTComm* curricula which is used to develop the participant's mathematics and verbal communication skills. Assignment of instructional modules is based on the outcomes of the *PACTMath* diagnostic assessment. Mastery tests are provided at the end of each instructional unit. Successful mastery is based on a score of seventy (70) percent or higher.

Additionally, during each training cycle, the program includes group and individual counseling. Inmates who are interested and eligible to participate in Project TRADE have to attend counseling groups in the areas identified on their prison treatment plan (i.e. Drug and Alcohol, Violence Intervention, and/or Support Skills) to address other issues that contributed to their incarceration.

Finally, Project TRADE also provides weekly instruction in employability skills. This course not only prepares inmates to complete applications and the interview process, but also teaches appropriate work site behaviors and the social skills needed to maintain employment. Inmates are taught a variety of job search strategies. Project TRADE staff, in concert with Dauphin County's Work Release program, assists participants in obtaining the proper identification required for employment, provides access to job fairs, and otherwise supports the inmate in the job search process. Once an inmate obtains employment, follow-up is coordinated between the Dauphin County Work Release Center and Project TRADE staff.

Evaluation: The Project TRADE program was evaluated by reviewing the success rate of individuals who attended and/or completed the program. The female program, which was in place from July 2010 through November 2011, included thirty-four (34) enrollees. A total of thirty-two (32) of these participants earned their *PACT* certificate and twenty-eight (28) of these graduates found employment as a result of their project participation. The male program, which has been in existence since December 2011, has enrolled a total of eighty-one (81) participants, of which thirty-eight (38) earned their *PACT* certificate. Graduates finding employment through the program measures at thirty-five (35). When reviewing the history of the Project TRADE program, it yields a graduation rate of 60.9% and a job placement rate of those completing the program to 90.0%. In addition, inmates participating in this program have performed a total of 9,738 hours of community service.

Project TRADE has also been helpful in decreasing the recidivism rates for incarcerated individuals. In 2013, the recidivism rate of general population individuals was 79.6% while the rate for those individuals completing the Project TRADE program was 33%. When reviewing the job placement rate and recidivism rate in conjunction with each other, we see that an inmate's inclusion in this pre-employment program provides them with the necessary social and work skills which enable them to rejoin society in a manner that is unlikely to lead to future incarcerations.

Stakeholders: The following is a list of stakeholders involved in the Project TRADE program: DCP, Dauphin County Work Release Center, Dauphin County Parks & Recreation, Dauphin County Maintenance Department, Dauphin County Land Bank, HBI, Christian Churches United, Church of God, Habitat for Humanity, The PROGRAM: "It's About Change," Dauphin County Anglers & Conservation Club, Dauphin County Humane Society, and Perry County Historical Society.

In addition to these stakeholders, many employers have hired Project TRADE graduates. These employers include: Applebee's, Liberty Tax Services, Jerry Sweetin Landscape, Power Component Systems, Pink Flamingo, Wetzler Repairs, Preferred Staffing, Gilligan's Restaurant, B&W Fencing, Stealth Insulation, Pro-Crete, Capital Remodeling, Carrabba's Italian Grill, C and Z Construction, Country Pride, Construction, Inc., Mr. Rooter, McDonald's, Café Fresco, Fuddrucker's, Lift, Inc., and C & C Construction. In addition, some Project TRADE graduates have found employment in other masonry business/organizations, and auto detailing businesses. Some graduates have even gone on to become self-employed.

Processes: It is apparent from the listing of employers that industries outside of the construction arena are finding valuable new resources through Project TRADE. It is our belief that this has resulted from the counseling and other life skills direction that is given as a natural part of the program, although not necessarily an intended outcome.

As Project TRADE moves forward, there is a concerted effort to continue to expand the services offered to other non-profit entities, including the Dauphin County General Authority (negotiations underway to help the Authority erect a bathhouse on the Dauphin Highlands Golf Course property). It is believed that continued efforts to include a non-construction focus will yield further employment opportunities for the participants in this program.

Future plans have been made to continue to leverage additional resources for the funding and sustainability of this program. One example of such leveraging of relationships is the partnership with the Dauphin County Land Bank. The Dauphin County Land Bank Authority (Authority) was established to rehabilitate blighted existing properties as a way to help protect communities by demolishing and clearing sites. This rehabilitation consists of construction and rehabilitation of blighted parcels. Working together, the Authority and DCP will aid each other in their programs to rehabilitate properties, train inmates for employment following incarceration, and return properties to the tax rolls.

The parties will jointly identify eligible properties and the Authority will obtain title to these properties. Following the purchase, Project TRADE will then return them to marketable parcels. The parties shall work together to prepare plans for rehabilitation and time tables for the same.

Cost: Originally, in 1997 Dauphin County was a pass-through for a PCCD Grant (Federal Drug Control and System Improvement) for three (3) years which initially established Project TRADE. That initial grant, over the three (3) year period, was to be up to \$192,500.00, with a requirement for matching funds of \$192,500.00. However, due to some unanticipated issues with the community agency, the program was discontinued after two (2) years when the agency was not able to obtain the required matching funds for the first two years. Over the years, DCP sought ways to resurrect the program and in 2010 was able to secure another PCCD grant in an amount of \$300,000.00 for a prisoner re-entry initiative. After that money was exhausted, DCP was able to pay for the program from March 2012 through May 2013 with prison funds. In February 2013, DCP was able to secure the amount of \$445,828.00 from the Dauphin County Local Share Gaming Grant. It is the intent of partnership between the Dauphin County Land Bank and Project TRADE to purchase blighted properties, rehabilitate, and resell, making enough of a profit to eventually allow the program to become self-sufficient.

ATTACHMENTS:

HBI Overview

HBI Pre-Apprenticeship Training

HBI Press Release, 5/20/12 – Students Renovate Building for Local Non-Profit

The Patriot-News, 10/10/13 – Dauphin County land bank nears buying of property

The Patriot-News, 9/1/13 - Prison, land bank join to flip houses

The Patriot-News, 11/14/13 – Dauphin County land bank prepares to flip its first house

The BURG magazine, November 13 – Lives, Reconstructed

2013 WTE Green Competition – Certificate awarded for demonstrating success at recycling and reusing material in training for benefit to the local community, “Bat House Project”

2012 WTE Harrisburg – Make a Difference Day

Thank you letters:

Historical Society of Perry County (x2)

Dauphin County Parks & Recreation



HBI is a national leader for career training in the building industry.

Through certification programs, mentoring, pre-apprenticeships and job placement services, HBI prepares its students – including at-risk and underserved populations such as youth, veterans, ex-offenders and displaced workers – with the skills and experience they need for successful careers in the building industry.

HBI program graduates are qualified to work across many different sectors of the construction industry, giving businesses a competitive edge when hiring new workers. The placement rate for graduates nationwide regularly exceeds 80 percent.

HBI training programs do more than just provide job skills; they build character and self-esteem, providing students with the interpersonal skills they need to succeed on the job and in life. This gives graduates a solid foundation for becoming valuable members of their communities and responsible citizens.

HBI works in partnership with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) in carrying out its various workforce development initiatives.

HBI uses a dynamic national skills training model that can be customized to meet local workforce needs in communities nationwide. By facilitating partnerships within these communities, HBI helps them build a solid foundation for economic development and employment growth.

HBI helps federal officials and other policymakers understand the importance of creating a skilled workforce to meet the growing demand for qualified workers in the building industry. It also assists state and local workforce boards, state departments of corrections and education, and state and local home builder associations to further their goals by providing workers with valuable job skills that match local workforce needs.

For more information on HBI training programs, please visit HBI.org.



HBI (Home Builders Institute), a 501(c)(3) corporation based in Washington, D.C., is a national leader for career training in the building industry. HBI training programs are taught in local communities across the country to youth and adult populations, veterans, ex-offenders and displaced workers.

Students gain the skills and hands-on experience they need to build careers in construction and related fields. With an 80 percent job placement rate for graduates, HBI training programs consistently benefit our graduates, the communities in which they live and work and our nation.

HBI has been offering training and related products for more than 40 years. Its current portfolio includes HBI Job Corps, HBI PACT, HBI Mentoring, HBI Residential Construction Academy and NAHB Student Chapters.

HBI Programming-at-a-Glance

HBI Pre-Apprenticeship Training

- More than 2,500 youth and adults in 20 states learn building trades through HBI's Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (PACT) curriculum.
- HBI PACT students learn-by-doing as the curriculum offers a 25/75 split of class time and hands-on training through community service projects.

HBI Job Corps

- Under contract with the U.S. Department of Labor, more than 3,000 at-risk youth get real-life, hands-on training in one of 10 building trades with HBI Job Corps.
- HBI's 149 Job Corps programs are at 73 sites nationwide.

HBI Mentoring

- Industry and other professionals provide young people ages 13-18 with support and guidance about education and career goals through HBI mentoring strategies.
- HBI has mentoring programs in 10 states with more than 3,800 youth participating.

HBI Residential Construction Academy

- The HBI Residential Construction Academy offers the only series of national residential construction skills standards-based textbooks and teaching aides—the Residential Construction Academy Series.
- HBI partners with The Ohio State University to certify instructors and NOCTI to certify secondary and post-secondary students taught through HBI Residential Construction Academy Series materials.

NAHB Student Chapters

- HBI administers the NAHB Student Chapters program for the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). More than 3,000 students from high schools, career and technical schools, community colleges and four-year colleges and universities participate in more than 120 NAHB Student Chapters nationwide.
- The annual Residential Construction Management Competition at NAHB's International Builders' Show is a highlight of the NAHB Student Chapters experience.

For more information on HBI training programs, please visit HBI.org.



HBI Pre-Apprenticeship Training

HBI's pre-apprenticeship training programs provide at-risk and underserved populations such as youth, veterans, ex-offenders and displaced workers with the opportunity to learn the building trades through hands-on experience. HBI is available to help communities customize its flexible national skills training model to create programs that best meet the workforce needs of that community's local construction businesses.

At the core of this model is HBI's award-winning Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (PACT) curriculum, which is industry-validated and aligned with the National Green Building Standard™ approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The HBI PACT curriculum is one of only three U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)-recognized pre-apprenticeship curricula, and it also is recognized by the DOL as a Registered Apprenticeship Innovator and Trailblazer.

The HBI PACT curriculum integrates work-based learning with vocational and academic skills training and includes job readiness, employability skills, career development, life skills and on-the-job training. It evaluates trades and safety skills mastery in these competencies: carpentry, electrical, plumbing, brick masonry, landscaping, facilities maintenance, painting, green building and weatherization. HBI PACT is a uniquely effective training tool because the curriculum is:

- Easily tailored to typical building projects such as modular construction, remodeling or new construction for local community groups, Habitat for Humanity, community development, other non-profit developers and public housing.
- Appropriate for use in teaching special populations, including academically-challenged individuals.
- Contextual learning that covers the trades plus safety, construction math and tools and materials identification. While it includes the theory and practice of building, HBI PACT relies on the time-honored apprenticeship approach for learning craft skills, combining classroom and hands-on training on the job site.
- Easily navigable with units separated into sections that include overviews, vocabularies of trade-related terms, suggested activities, skills achievement records and resource lists.
- Enhanced by several additional HBI resources that instructors can use to assess student learning needs, teach fundamental skills and conduct lesson/class activities or share as stand-alone exercises. These include green home building guidelines and instructional videos; workplace math, literacy and communications supplements; safety briefs; entrepreneurial and placement assistance; and assessment tools and tests.

For more information about HBI training programs, please visit HBI.org.



License PACT From HBI

Give your students the opportunity to learn the building trades by licensing the PACT training system for your career technical education training program. PACT is the award-winning Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training brought to you by HBI, a national leader for career training in the building industry. PACT is based on HBI's National Construction Skill Standards and NAHB's National Green Building Standards. Subject matter experts devised PACT's skill achievement records—knowledge every PACT student must master to be employed in an entry-level or semi-skilled job within the building industry.



With an 80 percent job placement rate for HBI PACT graduates, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has recognized HBI PACT with a Registered Apprenticeship Innovator and Trailblazer Award. Furthermore, PACT is one of only three DOL-recognized pre-apprenticeship curricula utilized in youth training programs nationwide. The PACT curriculum integrates work-based learning in the building trades with vocational and academic skills training and includes job readiness; employability, life and safety skills; career development; and on-the-job training. As licensee of the PACT training system, your program receives access to:

- **PACT Instructor Guide:** The 227-page full-color instructor guide offers step-by-step implementation of the program. Its 13 units include instruction on building trades, safety and first aid, construction math, tools and construction materials, green building and employability as well as individual units on carpentry, electrical, plumbing, brick masonry, landscaping, facilities maintenance, painting and finishing, and weatherization. Each contains a topic overview; suggested activities that introduce, demonstrate and practice the skills in the unit; a skill achievement record that evaluates progress and skill mastery; and a unit-specific resources list of Web sites, publications and organizations.
- **PACT Student Workbook:** The 193-page full-color PACT Student Workbook corresponds to the 13 units in the PACT Instructor Guide and offers vocabulary terms, full-color illustrations and exercises that assist the student in mastering the skills in each unit.
- **Compact Disc With Special Extras:** Print copies of the instructor guide and student workbook and access additional content including green home building instructional videos and guidelines; PACT Math, PACT Communications, and PACT Literacy supplements; safety briefs; and assessment tools and tests.
- **Student Certification:** Students who graduate from an HBI-licensed PACT program will receive an industry-recognized and portable pre-apprenticeship credential accepted by the DOL that qualifies them for employment in the U.S. construction industry.
- **Instructor Training and Technical Assistance:** HBI technical training staff experienced with PACT-based training provide a thorough grounding in the use of PACT to maintain fidelity to the PACT model with integrity and accountability with onsite technical assistance.
- **The PACT Certificate Ordering System:** Easily certify each graduate's eligibility and order certificates for your PACT graduates through an online portal.

For more information about HBI training programs, please visit HBI.org.



HBI Mentoring

HBI Mentoring provides youth with promise and untapped abilities with support and guidance about education and career goals. The program, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, aims to match several thousand youth ages 13-18 with industry mentors recruited from home builders associations, NAHB Student Chapters, other business organizations and local communities. HBI Mentoring currently is located in 10 states and continues to grow.

The Importance of Mentors

An estimated 17.6 million young people experience circumstances that challenge their chances for living up to their full potential. Yet with the support and guidance of caring adults, their odds for eventual success improve. Structured, trusting mentoring relationships can make a big difference in young peoples' lives by providing support, counsel, friends, reinforcement and positive examples. Children who meet regularly with a mentor are more trusting of their parents and guardians. They also are:

- 52 percent less likely to skip a day of school
- 46 percent less likely to start using drugs
- 37 percent less likely to skip a class
- 27 percent less likely to start drinking alcohol

Industry Involvement Through Civic Engagement

HBI Mentoring matches youth who are participating or interested in participating in building training programs with mentors from the industry. The goal is to further strengthen young people's commitment to an eventual career in any aspect of the building industry. HBI Mentoring includes student involvement in local industry-focused community service projects that promote leadership development, community attachment and relationship-building. Working alongside their mentors in community service clubs, students give back to their communities through projects such as working with Habitat for Humanity on home building projects.

Becoming a Mentor

Being a mentor requires just a few hours each month, yet makes a huge impact on a young person's life. There are benefits for mentors too – studies show that mentors gain an increased sense of intrinsic personal and professional satisfaction and enhanced leadership, teaching and communications skills. Prior to embarking on a mentoring relationship, HBI mentors receive comprehensive training that explains their roles and tasks and provides insights about how to build a solid relationship with a young person. Training also covers topics such as effective communication and problem-solving.

For more information on HBI training programs, please visit HBI.org.

HBI Mentoring is supported by Grant # 2009-JU-FX-002 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.



hbi.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amy Strawser
(717) 614-5485
astrawser@hbi.org

Home Builders Institute Students Renovate Building for Local Non-Profit

Harrisburg, Pa.—March 20, 2012—Students from the local Home Builders Institute (HBI) facilities maintenance program honed their skills on a real-world job site while they gave back to the Harrisburg community when they renovated a building at 1515 Derry Street for The PROGRAM "It's About Change," a local non-profit.

The students installed ceramic tile in three bathrooms, repaired drywall, built a vanity and mounted a countertop and installed ground-fault circuit interrupter electrical outlets and light fixtures. They are part of HBI Project TRADE Harrisburg, a pre-apprenticeship certificate residential construction trades training program that prepares at-risk populations for satisfying, well-paying careers. The program currently is offered at the Dauphin County Prison.

"Project Trade was an excellent collaboration between several partnerships and is a win-win for all. As a non-profit, the project helped The PROGRAM "It's About Change" save money on building repairs during the financial economic slump we are facing, while providing skill training activities for incarcerated individuals who are productive while serving time," said Valerie Simmons, Chief Executive Officer for The PROGRAM "It's About Change".

The students in the HBI Project TRADE program are learning skills that will increase their chances of economic self-sufficiency and success so they can move forward and live a crime-free life. "This program has helped me in so many ways. I gained new skills that are helping me find employment, so I can have the kind of life I have always dreamed of. I am a better person because I was involved with HBI Project TRADE," said Terry Burke, a recent graduate of the HBI Project TRADE Harrisburg program.

HBI Project TRADE combines academic instruction, literacy and employability skills with hands-on residential construction trades skills application. "Students must demonstrate competency in each skill area to earn a PACT certificate," said Amy Strawser, project coordinator for HBI Project TRADE in Harrisburg. "This requirement sets HBI apart from the competition because employers can be

The Workforce Development Arm of the National Association of Home Builders



hbi.org

confident they are hiring well-trained employees."

For more information about HBI Project TRADE, contact Amy Strawser at (717) 614-5485 or astrawser@hbi.org.

About The PROGRAM, "It's About Change"

The PROGRAM, "It's About Change" is a local non-profit agency that provides supportive counseling, programming and advocacy for women and men that are transitioning from a restrictive environment back into local communities. The goal of The PROGRAM is to provide services to individuals who have had interaction with the criminal justice system, suffered from drug or alcohol addiction, been a victim of domestic violence or experienced homelessness.

About Home Builders Institute

Home Builders Institute (HBI) is the 501(c)3 affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) that provides training, mentoring, curriculum development and job placement services in support of the housing industry. As the workforce development arm of NAHB, HBI has prepared youth and adults for residential construction careers for more than 40 years. Visit www.hbi.org for more information.

The Workforce Development Arm of the National Association of Home Builders



Union files grievance for fired Marysville police chief

MARYSVILLE • Teamsters Local 776 of Harrisburg filed a grievance Wednesday on behalf of Carl Lehman, who was fired as the borough's police chief Monday.

The grievance claims Lehman was unjustly dismissed and calls for his reinstatement with back pay. Lehman was on unpaid administrative leave since Sept. 25.

The seven-member Marysville Borough Council voted unanimously to fire Lehman for neglect of official duties, disobedience of orders and/or conduct unbecoming an officer, Mayor Deb Troutman said.

"I don't see Chief Lehman made any errors in the performance of his duties that merit the measure of discipline he received," said Mario Eckert, business agent of Local 776.

The borough has 14 days to respond, Eckert said. Depending on the outcome, Lehman could pursue remedies through the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Labor.

Dan Altland, Marysville's solicitor, said the firing came after an investigation by himself and the mayor.

"They considered it bad enough to take the vote to terminate him," Altland said of the council's vote, although he said no criminal wrongdoing was found in the probe.

Lehman, who had been a member of the Marysville Police Department for 12 years, could not be reached for comment.

— Barbara Miller, bmiller@pennlive.com

NRA has 800 exhibitors for new Great American Outdoor Show

HARRISBURG • If you go to the National Rifle Association's new outdoor show at the Farm Show Complex in February, you can expect more gun manufacturers and fewer items "as seen on TV."

The NRA has more than 800 exhibitors signed up for its Great American Outdoor Show, which will replace the Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show. That show was canceled last year after a dispute between vendors and the former promoter over which guns could be displayed and sold.

The new show will feature hunting, fishing, camping, archery and boating halls, but it will also include a new shooting sports hall, featuring gun manufacturers including Smith & Wesson, Colt, Taurus, Remington and Beretta, said NRA spokesman Kyle Jillison. Firearms can be displayed at the show, but the NRA is not allowing them to be sold onsite.

The Eastern show boasted more than 1,200 exhibitors. The NRA will not say how many exhibitors it hopes to have when the show opens Feb. 1, but Jillison said the NRA does expect to add vendors and fill the complex.

Not every Eastern vendor will be back. The NRA decided to limit the number of vendors who weren't selling outdoor products.

In the coming weeks, the NRA expects to announce more off-site events connected with the new show, including at least one NRA-branded country music show.

— Jeff Frantz, jfrantz@pennlive.com

Dauphin County land bank nears buying of properties

HARRISBURG • The first land bank authority in the state is moving toward acquiring its first property.

Five municipalities — Highspire, Hummelstown, Millersburg, Steelton and Susquehanna Twp. — have signed memorandums of understanding with the Dauphin County Land Bank Authority to participate in the pilot program. The Dauphin County Prison has signed a similar memorandum, which would allow the prison to teach inmates trade skills in some of the land bank's renovation projects.

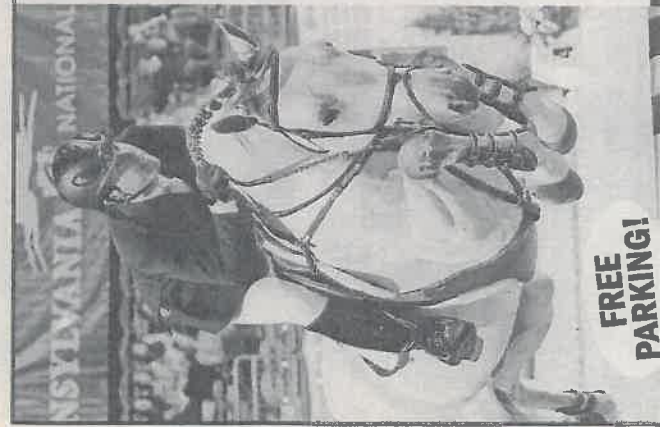
Those agreements are the first step toward getting the land bank up and running. Next, the authority will need to get the school districts for those municipalities onboard.

The goal is to acquire blighted, abandoned properties, rehabilitate them and return them to the tax rolls. For the first five years after the properties are resold, the land bank authority receives half the property tax revenue. The county, municipality and school board only acquire properties approved by the municipality and the school board.

Already, the participating municipalities have abandoned properties they would like to see the authority acquire, Executive Director Skip Memmi said. That process could begin in early 2014.

The county commissioners awarded the authority a \$250,000 gambling grant to initially capitalize the bank.

— Jeff Frantz, jfrantz@pennlive.com



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SEPT. 1, 2013

AVAILABLE IN THE AUG. 27
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Prison Community

SERVING DAUPHIN AND WESTERN LEBANON COUNTIES

DAUPHIN COUNTY | The newly created authority would acquire property, then inmates would rehabilitate it for sale, with the prison and authority splitting profits.

Prison, land bank join to flip houses

BY JEFF FRANTZ
jfrantz@pennlive.com

If everything falls into place, inmates from Dauphin County Prison could be working to renovate and flip homes within a few months.

The work would be done as part of a partnership between a prison program to teach inmates building trades and the county's newly established Land Bank Authority, which is seeking to rehabilitate blighted and abandoned properties.

The authority would acquire a property, then inmates taking part in Project TRADE would help fix up the home. The authority would then sell the home, returning the property to active use. After covering expenses, the authority and the prison would split any profits from the sale and put that money toward future projects.

The authority is still getting start-

“The idea is to get these guys enough background experience that they can get a good job and stay out of jail.”

WARDEN DOMINICK DEROSE, Dauphin County Prison

are taught basic construction, landscaping and demolition skills by the Home Builders Institute, the workforce development arm of the National Association of Home Builders. Inmates taking part in the program aren't paid, but the county refunds their per-diem charges, DeRose said.

After the eight-to-10-week course, Project TRADE graduates earn a pre-apprenticeship certificate. After their release, they would be able to start an apprenticeship. The program gives inmates — many of whom do not have more than a sixth-grade education — a real chance at starting a career in an industry with need.

“The idea is to get these guys enough background experience that they can get a good job and stay out of jail,” DeRose said.

Please see **LAND** on Back Page.

HOW IT WORKS: LAND BANK AUTHORITY

Here is how the authority would work:

- » The Dauphin County Land Bank Authority would work with municipalities and school districts to identify abandoned properties that are delinquent on their property taxes.
- » The municipality and the school district would have to agree to allow the authority to acquire the property — and give up their right to collect back taxes. They would also have to agree that the authority would receive half of the property taxes for the first five years after a property goes back on the tax rolls. As it is, most of the owners of most of the targeted properties have not paid property taxes in years, and have little prospect of paying them in the near future.
- » The idea would be to acquire the properties at judicial tax sale, without the authority having to pay any money for them. The authority would not have the power of eminent domain or control over zoning ordinances.
- » The authority would include the five members of the county Redevelopment Authority board and two others appointed by the commissioners. Authority meetings would be public, and the authority would be required to keep a public listing of any properties in its possession.



LOWER PAXTON TWP.

Revised plan
approved for

mentally sensitive features," Staub said.

Wolfe explained that the new plan has less density than the old. The original plan had 340 lots, while the revised has 274 lots. Commercial lots are reduced from four to two in the new plan. There had been 31 residential lots with the old plan.

The township's planning commission reviewed the recommended approval, according to a township memorandum.

The project needs a general permit for a storm-sewer outfall from the DEP, Staub said, and erosion and sedimentation control approval.

Crews could break ground this spring on the first phase of the four-phase project, Staub said. Construction on a couple model homes could start in the fall. And Staub said he thinks there will be interest among people looking to buy up these properties. While he didn't know the exact pricing range for the properties, Staub said the pricing would give people "more of an opportunity" to get financing for a "less expensive" unit.

is not desirable," he said. The council already plans to refinance a 2009 bond used to pay for its share of sewer upgrades in order to take advantage of low interest rates. Foster said the borough could add in money for the municipal building by extending the bond without increasing yearly payments by much.

In a related matter, the council voted to apply for a gaming grant to the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board for up to \$500,000 for such costs as acquiring a new site, paying architectural fees and covering engineering costs for a new building.

Bink said the recommended new building should serve the borough well "for at least the next 20 years, and hopefully 50 years."

Professional staffs of those municipalities have shown interest in the authority's approach, Memmi said.

The next step is getting the elected officials, and eventually the school districts, to buy into the program.

Professional staffs of those municipalities have shown interest in the authority's approach, Memmi said.

Lacey's Mechanicsburg students got the idea from a TV news story about Earl Morse, a retired Air Force captain and Veterans Administration physician assistant from Ohio who organized the Honor Flight Network of pilots in 2005 to give free flights to veterans to visit the National World War II Memorial.

tasks that would require licensing, such as electrical or plumbing work, would still need to be done by certified professionals. The prison, through Project Trade, would be responsible for making sure all inmate work is inspected and approved, Foreman said.

Still, DeRose said, there would be value in inmates working alongside those experts.

"Inmates can see how it's done so they'll have a basic understanding so if they're fortunate enough to get an apprenticeship, they're one step ahead," DeRose said.

Meanwhile, the authority is moving forward. Memmi will soon be pitching the authority's pilot program to borough councils and township supervisors in Halifax, Hummelstown, Millersburg, Steelton, Middletown, Highspire and Susquehanna Twp.

Most years, two busloads of survivors having moved on, having done your duty" at a time it wasn't the popular thing to do, she said.

Since the Honor Bus started in 2008 through efforts of Lacey's Mechanicsburg Area Middle School students, more than 500 midstate vets have traveled to Washington, veterans' organizations,

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LAND

Continued from E1

Advocates for returning veterans from the Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Lacey said, and have volunteered as escorts for the Honor Buses.

Lacey isn't proposing an Honor Bus for the Vietnam veterans, because most who want to see their memorial have probably already done so. The Vietnam memorial

welcome home celebration of survivors having moved on, having done your duty" at a time it wasn't the popular thing to do, she said.

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REACTION ON PENNLIVE

"This program is a great idea to give prisoners a trade and to get priorities back on the tax role. I would hope that a trial period is set up, lets say 2 years, and an audit at the end and thru the program. My hats off to the innovators who thought of this." — hiker27

"These guys get out with a criminal record and they have a hard time finding a job. This program could allow them to find work rather than participate in criminal activity. With the Obama economy, their chances of finding legitimate work is slim. The problem is a lack of jobs and lack of a focus on jobs from Washington." — tingle33

"At first glance this project seems like a win win. I have done some research and feel this project could be better served by using unskilled and non incarcerated labor. Would this project cost a tremendous amount more to hire people at minimum wage? With the rise in private for-profit prisons everyone should pause to consider what the downside of prison labor could be, truly, crime could pay." — wrinkles

"The inmates should be paid the prevailing wage that should go to their families or if they owe restitution, to their victims, as it should be applied to restitution. Otherwise this is a giveaway program to somebody." — Buck Batard

"Great idea. There are many opportunities available in which we can use this potential work force, giving them a skill set and giving back to the county (taxpayers) which is paying for their incarceration. A lot of grass needs cut, litter picked up, and houses demolished around the county." — O'NO

Inmates will not be doing all of the work on the land bank's projects.

"Our vision is they would work with us on select projects, and there will be other projects we'll work on individually," authority solicitor Bruce Foreman said.

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BUILDING

Continued from Page W1

concerns by not separating the police department from the remainder of the borough offices. The borough has 14 full-time and five part-time employees.

Building a 10,000-square-foot building will probably require finding another site, because there is not enough room at the present location or the neighboring property, which the borough also owns.

Council is negotiating over possible real-estate locations.

Council President Brian Foster said he hopes the borough can break ground for a new building within two years, or even sooner. The study shows "this location

mentally sensitive features," Staub said.

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Computer glitch clouded Cumberland election returns

CARLISLE • A computer glitch caused absentee ballots to not be included in election night totals, Cumberland County election chief Penny Brown said.

"It was a computer error we didn't catch" until the next morning, she said.

Absentees were supposed to have been combined with machine totals by computers on election night, Brown said. This year, she said, judges of the elections were back at 9:30 p.m. with machine results, which was the earliest ever. Absentees are counted last, and she said the gap of time apparently resulted in the computer program "going to sleep," which wasn't noticed by election personnel.

The problem was discovered the following morning, and result totals were corrected online. Addition of the absentees resulted in a winner rather than a tie in one of four East Pennsboro Area School Board seats. Democrat Rob Copeland was declared the winner over Republican incumbent Patrick Wentz Jr.

The problem has been corrected, Brown said, adding, "It won't happen again."

Also, Brown said only two military and overseas ballots were received in Cumberland County by the Nov. 12 deadline, and they did not affect the outcome of any races. The ballots were for precincts in Carlisle and North Middleton Twp., she said.

— Barbara Miller, bmillier@pennlive.com

Doctor, fertility clinic battle over frozen human embryos

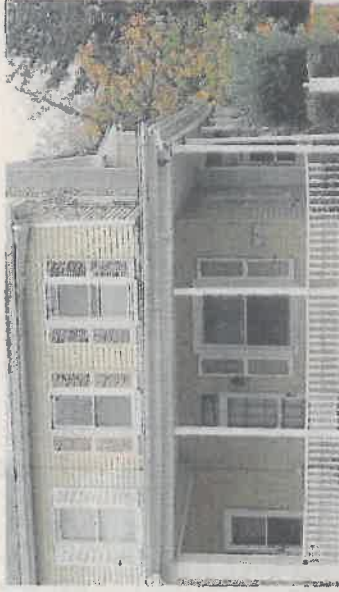
CARLISLE • A Dauphin County doctor and a West Shore fertility clinic are locked in a legal battle that could decide the fate of a batch of frozen human embryos.

Dr. Eric P. Fiedler launched the case against Shady Grove Fertility Centers, which has a facility in Camp Hill, by asking a Cumberland County judge for an injunction barring clinic officials from saying there are record-keeping problems with embryos that came from his former practice.

Fiedler contends in court filings that Shady Grove officials incorrectly concluded that records of embryos were corrupted during a transfer from his former office to Shady Grove for eventual implantation in women during the in vitro fertilization process.

All embryos from his office were properly labeled and traceable to the women who provided their eggs for fertilization, the doctor contends. So no questions exist that would justify the discarding of the embryos, Fiedler claims in court documents.

Shady Grove, which is based in Maryland, is trying to shift the legal battle to U.S. Middle District Court, a



JEFF FRANTZ, PennLive

Dauphin County land bank prepares to flip its first house

HARRISBURG • Now the Dauphin County Land Bank Authority can get to work.

The land bank authority voted Tuesday to acquire its first piece of property, an abandoned house in Steelton, to fix, flip and return to the tax rolls.

Wells Fargo has agreed to donate the house at 209 Lincoln St. to the land bank. As part of the deal, Wells Fargo will pay any tax liens due on the property, any transfer fees and provide title insurance.

The yellow half-duplex has been vacant for two years, land bank solicitor Bruce Foreman said. It's posted as unfit for human occupancy, he said, but an engineer who did a cursory inspection said the home looks structurally sound.

The most likely expenses, Foreman said, would be in overhauling the plumbing, heating and electrical systems. A garage will likely have to be leveled. Cosmetic improvements to the sidewalk and porch will also have to be made.

The point of creating the land bank authority, which the county did this spring, was to do this kind of work. Rehabilitating blighted buildings will improve property values and start bringing tax money back into local municipalities, officials say.

— Jeff Frantz, jfrantz@pennlive.com

Hearing slated as Spanier seeks to delay his defamation case

HARRISBURG • A judge on Wednesday scheduled a January hearing to consider lawyers' arguments about whether former Penn State University President Graham Spanier should be allowed to delay proceedings in his defamation claim against former FBI Director Louis Freeh and Freeh's law firm.

Court officials announced a Jan. 9 hearing in Bellefonte on Spanier's request to have the civil case put on hold while he defends himself against criminal charges related to the Jerry Sandusky sex abuse scandal.

Spanier initiated the case by filing a one-page document, but he has not produced a full legal complaint laying out the allegations. Freeh's lawyers have argued against the delay, saying the defamation charge is hurting Freeh's reputation without providing any substantiation.

Freeh and his colleagues produced a report for Penn State in 2012 that was highly critical of how Spanier and other high-ranking school administrators handled complaints about Sandusky in 1998 and 2001.

Spanier awaits trial, along with former PSU Vice President Gary Schultz and former Athletic Director Tim Curley. The judge in that case has not scheduled a trial date. All three men have repeatedly denied the criminal charges against them.

— The Associated Press



SPANIER



Got a picture of your champion pee wee baseball team? How about one of the neighborhood fundraisers?

community

Your Community Newspaper Every Tuesday in



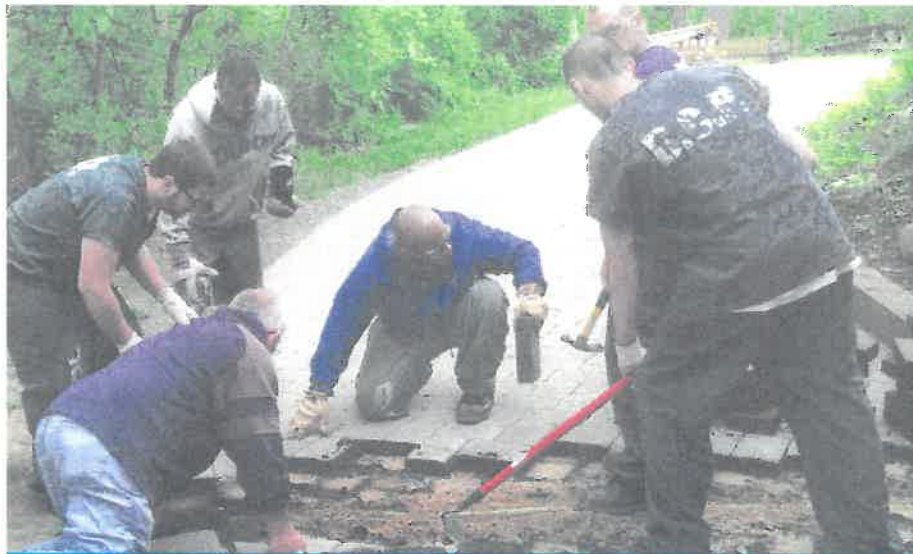
LA Z BOY

“La-Z-Boy Furniture? It's like comfort food for your home.”

THE BURG



11
13



LIVES, RECONSTRUCTED

County program teaches building trades to ex-offenders.

BY RON HOPKINS

You may have seen them downtown or at Fort Hunter, the Greenbelt or Wildwood Lake.

They're men, mostly young, wielding hammers, hanging drywall, repairing fences. That may seem unremarkable, except that they're inmates of Dauphin County Prison, a select group chosen to participate in a program that teaches them valuable construction skills.

Run collaboratively by the prison and the Home Builders Institute (HBI), the program aims to fight the problem of chronic unemployment among ex-offenders, a lack of opportunity that leads many to return to street crime upon release.

"The HBI PACT for Adults Program at the Dauphin County Prison opens up the door for at-risk populations like ex-offenders to find satisfying and well-paying careers when they leave prison," said Amy Strawser, program manager for HBI PACT for Adults Harrisburg.

These HBI PACT students must demonstrate and apply their competencies in a variety of building trades skills by performing hands-on work around the Harrisburg area. Eight to 10 weeks later, they graduate and earn pre-apprenticeship

certificates, which signifies to employers they are ready for entry-level work.

"The HBI PACT curriculum combines academic instruction with hands-on training in the building trades as well as literacy and employability skills," Strawser said. "The men ... learn skills that will increase their chances of economic self-sufficiency and success so they can move forward and live a crime-free life."

Community service is an integral component of HBI PACT. Over the past year, students have worked on the Veteran's Building and projects for Habitat for Humanity and the Humane Society of Harrisburg. They have painted offices and the Dauphin County Anglers and Conservationists' clubhouse, completed carpentry and framing, done drywall repair and manned a variety of landscape projects.

At Wildwood Park, crew members helped resurface the 1-mile Towpath Trail and maintain 100 trees planted as part of a TreeVitalize grant from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, said Chris Rebert, manager of Wildwood Park and Olewine Nature Center.

"They also landscaped around the Olewine Nature Center and spearheaded invasive vine removal from mature park trees," said Rebert.

Recently, a lack of job opportunities for ex-offenders has gained greater attention in our area as a key contributor to continued high levels of crime. State Rep. Patty Kim (D-Harrisburg) has made fighting recidivism a centerpiece of her legislative agenda, recently co-sponsoring a bill that would expunge a criminal's record after seven years of release from prison, as long as certain criteria were met.

Several participants said the HBI PACT program allowed them to move on to the next phase of their lives.

Andre, a student, said he anticipated learning the basics of building from the program, but had gained "so much more. In the very near future, I plan to pursue a career in the construction trade. I want to take the knowledge I now have and use it to better my future," he said.

HBI PACT graduate Daniel Smoot said he was employed by a demolition company after his release from prison, and, not long after, was promoted to supervisor. Then, he began building guardrails for another company and is

working on obtaining his commercial driver's license.

"Things worked out well for me, and I would really recommend the HBI program to young guys trying to break into construction," Smoot said.

Dauphin County Prison Deputy Warden Elizabeth Nichols said the prison/HBI partnership has been a success and that a recent grant will allow the program to purchase, remodel and sell an abandoned house, providing the HBI PACT students with a job site, bettering the community and maintaining the program beyond the grant period.

"Inmates participating in the program will gain valuable job experience by providing the necessary work," she said. "This also is a way for inmates to learn to give back to the community—known as restorative justice—another important lesson that contributes to the reduction of recidivism." **B**

For more information about the HBI PACT for Adults Harrisburg program, please contact Amy Strawser at astrawser@hbi.org or 717-614-5485. You can learn more about HBI's certification programs, mentoring, pre-apprenticeship training and job placement services at HBI.org.

2013 WTE GREEN COMPETITION

**THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED
TO
HBI PACT FOR ADULTS,
DAUPHIN COUNTY PRISON**

**For demonstrating success at recycling and reusing
materials in training for benefit to the local community**



[Handwritten Signature]
Signature

12/9/13
Date

HBI

Bat House Project

This project will be very helpful to the community because it will aid Wildwood Park and their bat house projects that they already have in place. Through our efforts, burgeoning bat populations will have new homes. During this process we got to use our imaginations, our mathematical and carpentry skills. This project made us more environmentally aware. In addition, building this project helps our relationship with the county workers at Wildwood Park and might help us obtain jobs later.

- Upon starting the project, we searched the shop and assessed the scrap wood that would be needed for the project.
- We went online and searched for a design for a bat house that we could use.
- After that, we got on the proper PPE (safety glasses, Steel toe boots).
- Then we went around the shop identifying tools and equipment that we needed (Measuring tape, table saw, belt sander, compound miter saw, router and wood burner).
- Next, we measured the wood and made our cuts.
- Some pieces needed to be glued together and most needed to be sanded.
- We took the pieces and assembled them according to our schematic.
- Then we burned a Bat logo into a plate that will be affixed to the front of the Bat House.
- We used the router to enhance the ascetics of the lid and bat logo.
- Made up some wood putty, used it to cover screw holes.
- Finally we painted the bat house with penetrating wood finish which we had on hand.

Dimensions of the Bat House

- 28' high in back
- 21' in front
- 11' 1\4 deep
- 10' wide



HOME BUILDERS INSTITUTE

The Workforce Development Arm of the National Association of Home Builders

1201 15th Street, NW
Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20005
202-371-0600 Fax 202-266-8999
www.hbi.org

WTE Harrisburg “Make a Difference Day” – Friday, October 26, 2012

WTE Harrisburg will participate in the national “Make a Difference Day” by helping to beautify the Riverfront in Harrisburg, PA. Participants from Dauphin County Prison, along with HBI staff will pick up trash and debris along the riverfront area of Harrisburg which borders the beautiful Susquehanna River. This is our way of making a difference!



WTE Harrisburg Staff: Amy Strawser, Program Manager, Rick Oberlin, F.M. Instructor

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PERRY COUNTY



Incorporated 1952

P.O. Box 81
Newport PA 17074-0081

Phone (717) 567-9011
www.hsopfpc.org

December 7, 2013

Dear Amy and Ron,

I thought I would add my own "thank you" to that of the society. Really, I can't thank you enough- Ron for volunteering to begin with, Amy for making it happen. Ron you are the best of crew leaders, one who works right beside the guys and never expects something that you wouldn't do yourself. Amy you are the best of bosses, one who sees a need and does not ignore that need. The crew and program are very fortunate to have you both.

As Ron knows, our family quickly became very fond of the "boys." I hope that their experience in Perry County provided a glimpse of a different kind of life that is possible if they head in that direction. I hope that the vocational training provided opens some doors to them that they would otherwise find closed once their incarceration is over. Long live Project Trade!

Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bobbi".

Bobbi Armolt, Trustee

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PERRY COUNTY



Incorporated 1952

P.O. Box 81
Newport PA 17074-0081

Phone (717) 567-9011
www.hsopfc.org

HBI- PACT

Ms. Amy Strawser

December 7, 2013

Mr. Ronald Hopkins

152 Hunkey Hollow Road

Duncannon, PA 17020

Dear Ms. Strawser and Mr. Hopkins,

The Historical Society of Perry County thanks you for your efforts in bringing Project Trade to the Dromgold Farm. Your enthusiasm for helping to preserve this piece of Perry County history is greatly appreciated. The work that Mr. Hopkins and his crew did provided the beginning spark in the restoration of the sadly neglected farmhouse. Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl Tressler".

Carl Tressler, President



DAUPHIN COUNTY
P E N N S Y L V A N I A
P A R K S & R E C R E A T I O N

Wildwood Park
100 Wildwood Way
HARRISBURG, PA. 17110
(717) 221-0292
(717) 221-0318 FAX

January 14, 2014

Amy Strawser
Program Manager
HBI PACT for Adults Harrisburg

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JEFF HASTE, CHAIRMAN
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CHIEF CLERK/CHIEF OF STAFF
LAURA E. EVANS, ESQ.

DIRECTOR
CARL A. DICKSON

To Whom It May Concern:

Located within the City of Harrisburg, Wildwood Park is south central Pennsylvania's premier public wetland and study area. The Park's 229 acres include a 90 acre wetland, nature center, 6 miles of trails and 1.5 miles of accessible boardwalks. Many of these amenities are projects made possible with funding from state and municipal agencies, the Friends of Wildwood, private donors and an army of volunteers. This park has evolved from a booming recreation destination in the early 1900s as part of the "City Beautiful" movement, to a lifeless city dump in the 1940's and 50's, to the present day urban wetland park attracting 100,000 people annually. The park is a repeat destination for residents as well as tourists. It provides vital green space and pristine freshwater wetland habitat for wildlife. It also functions as an ingenious flood mitigator for the city of Harrisburg. Wildwood Park has been owned and managed by Dauphin County since 1977.

Thank you very much for your staff and site hour contributions to Wildwood Park. HBI has been instrumental in assisting with park maintenance and habitat restoration projects. We truly appreciate your support. HBI's involvement with Wildwood Park has provided better opportunity to further the mission of education and conservation by directly completing park natural resource projects and assisting with ongoing maintenance.

Listed are the projects HBI completed in Wildwood Park:

- Assist with wetland education platform construction
- Planting of TreeVitalize grant trees at the Dauphin County Judicial Center
- Assist with planting and maintenance of 95 TreeVitalize grant trees at Wildwood
- General landscaping and beautification of native gardens around nature center
- Flood cleanup and boardwalk repairs
- Trail trimming and bog bridge construction
- Painting and staining of park bollards, picnic tables, bridge and signage
- Assisted with the installation of trail mix
- Removal and relaying of down spout drain

Thank you again for your outstanding service. Please keep up to date on all the activities at Wildwood Park at www.wildwoodlake.org.

Sincerely,

Chris J. Rebert, Park Manager

www.dauphincounty.org