

renew



by Kayla Schlechter

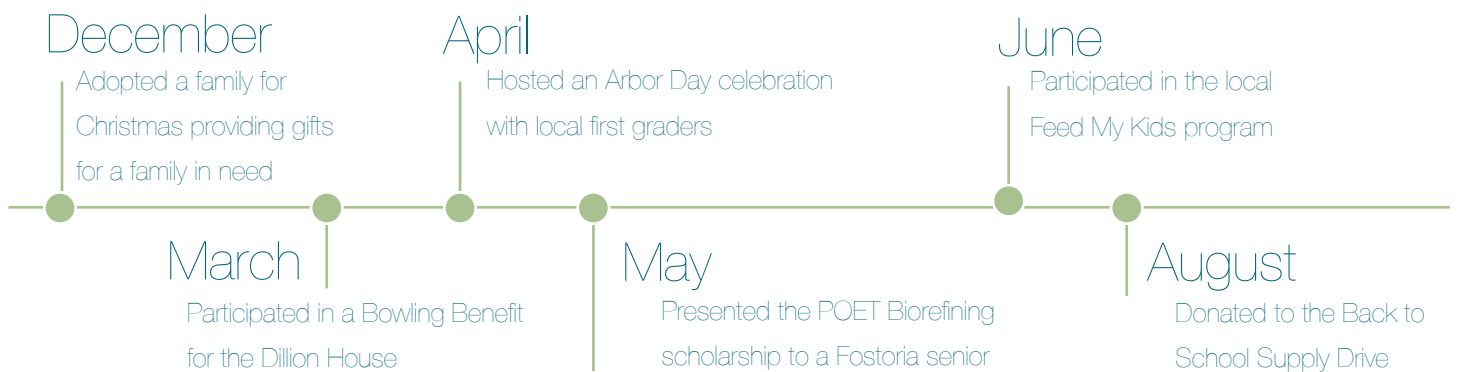
>> *team involvement*

When a community is in need, you can count on its members to become involved. And that's exactly what POET Biorefining – Fostoria, Ohio is doing. By creating a Community Involvement team, the plant has been able to provide a generous amount of support to the community.

When Sarah Hess, Administrative Assistant at POET Biorefining – Fostoria, heard that a Community Involvement team was being created, she was excited to get started. Sarah and ten other team members at POET Biorefining – Fostoria seek out opportunities, review donation requests and

organize groups to participate.

The team has already been involved in several activities throughout the community where, no doubt, their generosity has not gone unnoticed. And they continue to work on new programs and look for more opportunities to benefit the town they call home.



adopting a cleaner approach

Not only are the team members at POET Biorefining – Corning, Iowa choosing not to litter, but they're cleaning up for those who do. Volunteering to enhance the cleanliness of their community, the facility has adopted a two-mile stretch along Highway 34.

The Adopt-A-Highway program was started by the Department of Transportation to increase public awareness of environmental needs along highways – a concept that was taken in stride by the team in Corning. Twice a year the team volunteers to clean up their stretch of highway.

“We’ve learned to make it efficient and fun for our team members,” says Greg Olsen, General Manager at POET Biorefining in Corning. “It’s good to see the smiles on the faces of people who participate.”

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To The Zoo

A newly constructed gazebo will provide shade and shelter for zoo goers in the Wichita, Kansas area.

Completed in early June, the POET Ethanol Products gazebo serves as a shaded area for kids, a rental for parties and a picnic area for a nearby restaurant. One of three gazebos in the largest tourist attractions in Kansas, this structure provides benefits to both the zoo and the community.

Mark DeVries, Director of Business Development at POET Ethanol Products, serves on the board of the Wichita Zoo and noticed a need for the gazebo. Soon after presenting



the idea to Ethanol Products the two boards were working together to create a construction plan for the gazebo.

“We were glad to be able to provide such a needed structure for the zoo,” says DeVries. “It’s a great addition to the community as a gathering place.”

Supporting Higher Blends by Alyssa Broin

In an astounding event that took place on June 25, 2009, a small town saw changes made that had never seemed possible in the past. The people of Manning, Iowa witnessed the opening of the first ethanol blender pump in the area, and with it, gained a steady understanding of the developing fuel industry.

You may be asking yourself, why here? Why would this specific location be chosen for such a paramount occasion? The beginnings of the decision actually had a lot to do with the amount of federal and state assistance provided, and the fact that Manning had a higher population than most surrounding areas. In fact, the new pump would thoroughly complement the existing self-serve station that had already been in place for a while, making the town a choice location for the latest ethanol blends.

Over 200 attendees from the community showed up in support of the blender pump, and to fill their own cars of

course. Throughout the course of the day, Growth Energy handed out information about flex fuel vehicles and helped pump fuel – fuel that was sold with a significant discount with costs marked down at up to 85 cents off the regular price.

Owen Shunkwiler, General Manager for POET Biorefining in Coon Rapids, had this to say of the day’s events, “Everybody with their own flex fuel vehicle needs to experiment... to understand what fuel is best for them.”

Since the event, business concerning the self-serve station has been progressively better, creating a sense of hope and encouragement in all those involved.

“People have had excellent, excellent, excellent support,” said Randy Behrens, General Manager of Aspinwall Co-op. “Their awareness has certainly created a growing interest in flex-fuel vehicles.”