



Summer, 2008

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a volunteer leader of the Westmoreland County 4-H Program, I am writing to seek your help and participation in the 4-H Benefit Auction, which will take place on Thursday, August 21, 2008 at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds. The auction supports the Westmoreland County 4-H Youth Development Program, which is a community of young people across America learning citizenship, leadership, and life skills. This program provides informal educational opportunities to youth ages 5-19 in urban, rural, and suburban communities. In Westmoreland County, approximately 9,000 youth participate in 4-H opportunities yearly.

Each year during the Westmoreland Fair, the 4-H program hosts a benefit auction to raise funds to support the many activities that the youth take part in. The money raised helps the Westmoreland 4-H Program to expand and maintain educational opportunities and experiences for youth in such areas as leadership, public speaking, and life-skills development. The monies also help provide expert resources in such topics as ethics education and work force preparation skills. Ten percent of the proceeds from the benefit auction also help support the 4-H scholarship fund. The scholarship fund provides ten \$600.00 scholarships yearly to graduating 4-H members who are pursuing a degree from an institute of higher education.

Last year, the Westmoreland County 4-H Program's Benefit Auction raised over \$13,000.00. Many businesses and individuals throughout the area made this possible by donating items, gift certificates, and tickets to be auctioned. This year, we are hoping to raise even more funds by enlisting the help of organizations such as yours. Perhaps you have an item of merchandise that may be appropriate for donation at its retail value. Besides the benefit you would bestow upon the entire 4-H program, the public would certainly be aware of your contribution and support of 4-H when that particular item you donated is held up and sold. A "Showcase Sponsor" title also earmarks any business/individual who contributes \$250.00 worth of merchandise. This entitles the organization to a large sign indicating sponsorship. The sign is displayed the week of the Westmoreland Fair.

This year, the Westmoreland County 4-H Program would be appreciative if your organization would donate merchandise to support our benefit auction. If you are interested and able to contribute, call Cindy Arblaster at the 4-H office at (724) 837-1402. Donations can also be sent directly to our office listed at the above address. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the 4-H office. Thank you for your support of the Westmoreland County 4-H Program!

Sincerely,

Westmoreland County 4-H Leader