

Southern Barren Family Resource Center and Northeastern Family Resource Center will now be able to better serve their communities, thanks to the support of local farmer, Ryan Matthews, and America's Farmers Grow Communities.

Sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company, Grow Communities provides farmers in eligible counties the chance to win a \$2,500 donation for a local nonprofit organization of their choice. To further support counties declared natural disaster areas by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) due to the drought this year, winning farmers in these counties are able to direct double donations, a total of \$5,000.

Barren County was declared a disaster area by the USDA, giving Matthews the opportunity to choose two organizations to receive \$2,500 donations. Matthews selected the Southern Barren Family Resource Center and the Northeastern Family Resource Center. The Southern Barren Family Resource Center that serves Austin-Tracy and Temple Hill Elementary Schools plans to utilize the \$2,500.00 donation at both school sites in order to meet the basic and educational needs of their students. Student well-being and academic achievement are top priorities within the center.

The North Eastern Family Resource Center will utilize this donation to ensure that the basic needs of students and families are met. Funds will also be utilized to support the programs of the center that promote student achievement.

"I am really thankful to be able to give back like this. This is always something so great to be able to take part in," said Matthews.

This year, the Monsanto Fund will invest nearly \$6 million in rural America through Grow Communities, which includes double donations for counties impacted by the historic drought.

In Kentucky, \$160,000 is being given across 32 counties.

America's Farmers Grow Communities is sponsored by the Monsanto Fund to partner with farmers in helping them positively impact their communities. This program is part of the Monsanto Fund's overall effort to strengthen rural America.

For a complete list of Grow Communities winners and more program information, please visit growcommunities.com.