

## **Anderson University Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) 2010/11 Recap**

### **Sam's Club Environmental Sustainability Challenge**

Anderson University's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team was the National Champion in the Sam's Club Environmental Sustainability Challenge for the third consecutive year. This year's national competition was the third annual; for each of the three years, the AU SIFE team has taken home the top award.

The SIFE team was among the eight finalists of the Sam's Club Environmental Sustainability Challenge in April in Bentonville, Ark. The goal of the challenge, sponsored by Sam's Club, was to inspire environmentally sustainable practices in the lives of Sam's Club small business customers and their businesses as well as within their customers and communities. The AU SIFE team worked with two existing Sam's Club small business clients- Shear Transitions Beauty Salon and Simpson Place- to incorporate environmentally friendly changes, and in turn improve their financial efficiency.

The students worked with Glenn Plumbing to recommend ways each company could improve hot water supply and reduce temperature loss. Additionally they added insulation, replaced light bulbs with energy-efficient bulbs, installed weather stripping, recommended a schedule for opening and closing foundation vents, and installed solar flood security lighting. The team also purchased a variety of eco-friendly hair care products to be used in place of traditional commercial salon products at Shear Transitions Beauty Salon. Because of these changes, both businesses experienced a significant reduction in their power bills and expect long-term savings as well.

Of the win, AU SIFE team president Danielle Atkinson stated, "It was an honor for the Anderson University SIFE Team to be named the Sam's Club Environmental Sustainability Challenge National Champions for the 3rd consecutive year. It could not have been done without the support of the AU College of Business and the Business Students who dedicated countless hours toward making businesses in our area environmentally sustainable."

As winners of the national competition, the AU SIFE team is the recipient of a \$5,000 grant, which will be used to fund SIFE projects for the coming academic year.

### **Campbell's "Let's Can Hunger" Challenge**

Again, Campbell's Soup Company recognized the team for their efforts in the Campbell's "Let's Can Hunger" Challenge with a silver spoon. This is the second Silver Spoon the team has won in

the two years the program has been existed. The Let's Can Hunger Challenge, sponsored by Campbell Soup Company, provides SIFE teams with the opportunity to participate in a competition with a series of objectives focused on coordinating urgent, lasting local hunger relief efforts, and generating awareness about hunger. The AU SIFE team raised over 39,000 pounds of food for the Anderson Interfaith Ministries (AIM) food bank. Aim nominated the team for the United Way's Helping Hands award based on their efforts.

### **Regional Level Competition**

At the regional level the AU SIFE team was recognized as a regional champion and advanced to the national competition. A total of 600 SIFE teams competed at one of 12 SIFE USA Regional Competitions this spring. By the end of the regional round, 160 teams had advanced to the SIFE USA National Exposition where they will present the results of their outreach projects to a distinguished group of business leaders serving as judges. The team received a trophy and \$1,000.

The AU SIFE team also partnered with Upstate Federal Credit Union on "We Stand for Kids," a financial literacy program. This program earned second place with the Clemson University's Spiro Center for Entrepreneurship Making A Difference award.

### **Lowe's Community Improvement Challenge.**

The Anderson University Students in Free Enterprise, or SIFE, team has been named one of fifty organizations nationwide to receive the prestigious Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation (LCEF) *Community Improvement* Challenge grant.

The grant was offered for the first time this year by the LCEF to nonprofit organizations and public agencies in communities where Lowe's operates stores and distribution centers. The SIFE teams that receive the funding are awarded \$1,200 grants for the structural improvement of community, educational, municipal, or residential facilities or operations.

Founded in 1957, the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation (LCEF) has a long and proud history of contributing to grassroots community projects. LCEF awards millions annually to diverse organizations across the United States. The mission of the LCEF is to improving the communities they serve through support of public education, community improvement projects, and home safety initiatives.