

By Anna Mathews
Carroll County News

BERRYVILLE — Project Save Our Children, which educates area youth on the dangers of drunken driving, received a boost recently when two businesses contributed to the cause. State Farm Insurance donated \$3,000 and First National Bank of Berryville furnished a computer. Harley Fox, who heads up the non-profit educational program, accepted both gifts during a brief presentation ceremony May 8. Shane Stracner and Tasha Flanagin, with FNB of Berryville, said the Dell computer with flat screen monitor will be for the Virtual World simulator program used by students participating in the project's educational series. The \$3,000 Good Neighbor Citizenship grant from State Farm was presented by Jo Ann Clark, the Berryville State Farm agent. Clark said the agency was pleased to help Fox with his program, aimed at warning teens about drinking and driving, and similar issues. "The good news is, this is one problem that we can do something about — by becoming involved," she said. According to State Farm spokesman Gary Stephenson, the purpose of the donation from the State Farm Companies Foundation is to support local efforts to promote safe teen driving. He said company officials report that teen drivers are involved in nearly three times as many accidents as older age groups, and traffic accidents are the leading cause of death for teen drivers. He said Arkansas is listed as one of the state's most in need of improved travel safety laws, and a graduated driver's licensing program would help. "We should look for ways, as a state, to ensure that our teens have a safe experience as they learn to drive," he said. "Graduated licensing would help reduce accidents and save lives." Fox said he greatly appreciated the donations and the community's continued support of the program.

While contributing to Project Save Our Children, donors paused for a photograph. Pictured were: (from left) Tim Riley, with Congressman John Boozman's Office, a supporter of the program; Shane Stracner, holding a Dell flat screen monitor contributed by First National Bank of Berryville; Steve Warren and Dr. Lyman Squires, board members for Project Save Our Children; Tasha Flanagin, representing FNB of Berryville; Harley Fox, founder of Project Save Our Children with a donated Dell hard drive in hand; and State Farm Agent Jo Ann Clark, with a \$3,000 Good Neighbor Citizenship grant check from the State Farm Companies Foundation.