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Program helps prepare leaders

We offer a tip of The Tribune's hat to the 25 graduating members of the 2005 class of Leadership Jackson County.

Although they completed their course of study Thursday with the public presentations of their community projects, we must all hope that graduation doesn't signal the end of their involvement in our community.

Just the opposite, of course, is the purpose of Leadership Jackson County, which has been under the steady and successful guidance of Ann Windley for the past 12 years. Leadership Jackson County is a program aimed at developing and encouraging community leaders.

This year's class got off to a strong start, tackling six community needs as outlined by local service agencies, including Girls Inc. of Jackson County, Turning Point and Seymour Department of Parks and Recreation.

Some of those projects are already reaping benefits, including the team project that is collecting old cell phones for Turning Point, the community's shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Leadership Jackson County provides a vital service to our community as it helps prepare our future leaders.