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## Leaders graduate

By **JANUARY WETZEL**

Craig Luedeman looked quite comfortable dressed as '60s horror movie host Sammy Terry.

Playing the role of a drunken husband and father, however, was quite a stretch for Richard Bicknell.

But a little humor, creativity and willingness to step out of character went a long way for members of this year's Leadership Jackson County class.

After spending nearly a year working on community projects, the class presented the results to the public Thursday morning at the Jackson County Education Center in Seymour. Projects ranged from the development of a cemetery brochure listing all cemeteries in the county to the planning of a community celebration for the 30-year anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"This is the culmination of a lot of time, hard work and energy put into projects to benefit community agencies," Leadership executive co-director Ann Windley said. "We encourage creativity, diversity and just having a different way of getting things across."

In its 24th year, Leadership Jackson County classes are made up of individuals sponsored by local businesses, organizations and service groups. This year's class had 23 graduates and the theme was "Leading with Passion."

Kent Ford with Rose Acre Farms, Luedeman and Jeff Morning with Schneck Medical Center started off Thursday's program with their project presentation, "What Lies Beneath."

The group developed a brochure for the Jackson County Tourism Bureau that lists and provides information on the many cemeteries in Jackson County.

"By studying the cemeteries, we learned a lot about the people who lived here," Ford said. "We worked with the genealogical society to compile the stories of those cemeteries and created a pamphlet for people who might be looking for their ancestors."

As part of their presentation, the group also created a PowerPoint presentation that featured pictures of tombstones from local cemeteries.

Bicknell, along with teammates Jo Ann Atkins of Cummins Industrial, Marilyn Cox of READ Jackson County and Melissa Dick of Bridgepointe Goodwill, worked to develop a Web site and brochure for Anchor House.

For their presentation, the group decided to do a skit showing what Anchor House executive director Deb Bedwell might see on an average day. Bedwell even got involved by playing Bicknell's wife, as the two were seeking shelter and assistance from Dick, who portrayed Bedwell. "We learned so much so quickly about the services of Anchor House and what an impact it and Deb have on our community," said Cox, who played the narrator. "This has been an eye-opening project for me and I'm glad I got to be a part of it."

2006 Leadership Jackson County Projects

What Lies Beneath— Development of a cemetery brochure for the Jackson County Tourism Bureau listing all cemeteries in Jackson County.

Kent Ford, Craig Luedeman and Jeff Morning



Melissa Dick of Bridgepointe Goodwill, Deb Bedwell, executive director of Anchor House, and Richard Bicknell of Jackson County Bank act out a scene in their skit 'Homeless to Hopeful' during their Leadership Jackson County project presentation Thursday. (Tribune photo by January Wetzel)

What to Know about Drugs and Alcohol in Jackson County — Development of a database of statistics concerning drugs and alcohol use in Jackson County for the Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

Kathy Hackman, Craig Hayes and Matt Thompson

Homeless to Hopeful — Development of a Web site and brochure for Anchor House

Jo Ann Atkins, Richard Bicknell, Marilyn Cox and Melissa Dick

Little Moments, Big Magic — Planning for a community celebration for the 30th anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters

Jane Hays, Ruth Ann Hendrix, Rose Krout, Lori Miller and Mary Freeman

Color Me History — The creative development of a coloring book of county history for the Jackson County Public Library to be distributed to area fourth-graders

Melissa Atwood, Keith Campbell, Katie Kaufman and Jane Schepman

Project Web: Get Caught — Development of a Web site for the Jackson County Chapter of American Red Cross

Lisa Ferguson, Rick Grant, Marc Lahrman and Kathi Combs