

## **Part of company's "Learners to Leaders" program Smithfield Foods donates \$75,000 to Milan C-2 School**

Milan, MO (January 15, 2008) - Smithfield Foods, Inc. on Monday donated \$75,000 to the Milan C-2 School District's Learning Resource Center as part of the company's Learners to Leaders™ program.

The money is scheduled to be used to provide the library with additional resource material such as books, encyclopedias, computer software and software for English Language Learners (ELL).

During the presentation at the Learning Resource Center Monday, Dennis Treacy, vice president of environmental and corporate affairs for Smithfield Foods, said, "We're passionate about creating a better future through education, and the employees of Smithfield Foods and our independent operating companies are committed to making a difference in the communities where we live, work and raise our families.



Smithfield Foods presents Milan C-2 with \$75,000 check - Dennis Treacy (second from left) Vice President Environmental and Corporate Affairs for Smithfield, is presenting a mock check for \$75,000 to Superintendent Bill Lewis and Travis Ford, Consumer Education Coordinator for the Missouri Attorney General's Office. Also pictured are Gene Cook, left, Farmland Foods plant manager at Milan; Jason Helton, Premium Standard Farms Public Relations, and Jim Howard, Sullivan County Commissioner.

"We hope that our donation to the Learning Resource Center will help Milan students fulfill their potential and in turn strengthen the local community," Treacy added.

Farmland Foods, a Smithfield Foods independent operating company, has a facility in Milan.

Founded in 2006, Smithfield's Learners to Leaders program is a national educational alliance that strengthens communities by providing individuals with learning opportunities that inspire them to become tomorrow's leaders. The alliance goal is to help reinforce what organizers believe is the most critical part of any community's foundation, the education of its residents. Learners to Leaders is funded by the Smithfield-Luter Foundation.

With sales of \$12 billion, Smithfield Foods is the leading processor and marketer of fresh pork and processed meats in the United States, as well as the largest producer of hogs. For more information, visit [www.smithfieldfoods.com](http://www.smithfieldfoods.com).

## EDITORIAL

### Learners to Leaders

We attended Smithfield Foods' presentation of a \$75,000 check to Milan C-2 School District's Learning Resource Center Monday as part of the Company's Learners to Leaders™ program.

The money is scheduled to be used to provide the library with additional resource materials such as books, encyclopedias, computer software and software for English Language Learners (ELL).

Smithfield presented us with a press kit that we want to quote from regarding this program which should benefit our school, its students and education in the community.

Smithfield said: "We're in a position to inspire minds and inspire change-but we can't do it alone. Learners to Leaders is the collaborative effort of Smithfield Foods, our independent operating companies and local education partners.

"We believe education is a key to strong, growing communities. Learners to Leaders can benefit any community where the employees of Smithfield Foods and its independent operating companies live, work and raise families." This includes the Farmland Foods plant in Milan and elsewhere in Sullivan County, where schools receive sizeable tax revenues from the operations.

"Learners to Leaders focuses on people from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the desire to succeed, but don't yet have the skills to overcome their challenges-whether academic, social or economic. These often include first-generation college-bound students, low-income or minority individuals.

"We want to inspire change in the best possible way. Working with a local educational partner, each Learners to Leaders program is designed to meet the community's specific need."

Individual programs may focus on (but are not limited to), • High school graduation • Postsecondary education • English as a second language • Mentoring • School nutrition • Leadership enhancement • Culture and the arts.

These Smithfield funds will benefit Milan C-2 Learning Resource Center and the students at Milan C-2, and the community should be appreciative to them for this input and what will come in the future.