Dear Southwest Region Educators & Staff:

Happy Thanksgiving! It’s time for a break from busy schedules to enjoy family and friends. May you have a wonderful weekend making lots of family memories.

When we get back, many will be busy preparing for annual conference. I’ll plan to see you there.

To assist those who are new or unsure of using RIV, a special RIV Workshop has been scheduled for December 16. See details in Our Connection Page.

Again, enjoy your Thanksgiving weekend! I will be out from November 25 (pm) till December 1.

Sincerely,

Barb Brahm
Happy November Birthdays…

- November 5 Courtney Michael-Program Assistant, Fayette County
- November 7 Linda Newman-Office Assistant, Clark County
- November 8 Godwin Apaliyah, Extension Educator, Fayette County
- November 9 Connie Veach, Office Assistant, Miami County
- November 11 Melanie Hart-Extension Educator, Greene County
- November 13 Rebecca Supinger-Educator/Director, Greene County
- November 15 Pat Holmes-Extension Educator, Montgomery County

All in the Word . . .

Thanksgiving

- for time to be together, turkey, talk, and tangy weather.
- for harvest stored away, home, hearth, and holiday.
- for autumn’s frosty art, and abundance in the heart.
- for neighbors, and November, nice-things, new-things to remember.
- for kitchen, kettles croon- with kith and kin expected soon.
- for sizzles, sights, and sounds, and something special that abounds.

That spells THANKS… for joy of living and a jolly good Thanksgiving.

Aileen Fisher

Congratulations . . .

Congratulations to the following educators recognized at the recent state FCS Conference for the work in leading for the SNAP and EFNEP Programs:

- Pat Brinkman, Fayette County
- Melanie Hart, Greene County
- Jenny Even, Hamilton County
- Nancy Doyle, Montgomery County
- Cheryl Spires, Regional SNAP Specialist
- Margaret Jenkins, Clermont County

Congrats to these FCS Educators who led sessions at the FCS Conference:

- Kathy Michelich, Warren County
- Kathy Green, Butler County

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

- November 24 Campus
- November 25 Logan (am) Vac. (pm)
- November 26 Vacation
- November 27 Holiday
- November 28 Holiday
Excerpted from: The Richest Man in Town

It’s amazing what can happen just by paying attention. Besides, I never thought I would have a life-changing experience at Wal-Mart.

I don’t remember the exact date I met Marty for the first time. Up to that moment, nothing that day seemed particularly important – certainly not what brought me to the store in the first place. Like a lot of people who want to get through a checkout line, my thoughts were on speed, nothing more. The line I was standing in wasn’t moving as quickly as I wanted, and I glanced toward the cashier.

There stood an affable-looking man in his seventies. Slightly stooped and of average build, he wore glasses and a nice smile. I thought, well, he’s an old guy and it probably takes him a little longer to get the chores done.

For the next few minutes I watched him. He greeted every customer before he began scanning the items they were purchasing. Sure, his words were the usual, “How’s it going?” But he did something different – he actually listened to people. Then he would respond to what they had said and engage them in brief conversation.

I thought it was odd, but I guess I had grown accustomed to people asking me how I was doing simply out of a robotic conversational habit. After a while, you don’t give any thought to the question and just mumble something back. I could say, “I just found out I have six months to live,” and someone would reply, “Have a great day!”

This old cashier had my attention. He seemed genuine about wanting to know how people were feeling. Meanwhile, the high-tech cash register rang up their purchases and he announced what they owed. Customers handed money to him, he punched the appropriate keys, the cash drawer popped open, and he counted out their change.

Then magic happened.

He placed the change in his left hand, walked around the counter to the customer, and extended his right hand in an act of friendship.

As their hands met, the old cashier looked the customers in the eyes. “I sure want to thank you for shopping here today,” he told them. “You have a great day. Bye-bye.”

The looks on the faces of the customers were priceless. There were smiles and some sheepish grins. All had been touched by his simple gesture – and in a place they never expected.

Some customers would walk away, pause for a moment, and look back at the old cashier, now busy with the next customer. It was obvious they couldn’t quite comprehend what had just happened. They would gather their things and walk out the door, smiling.

Now it was my turn. As expected, he asked me how I was doing. I told him I was having a good day. “That’s good,” he said. “I’m having a good day, too.” I glanced down at the name tag on his red vest, the kind experienced Wal-Mart cashiers wore. It read, “Marty”.

I said, “It looks like you enjoy your job, Marty.”

He replied, “I love my job.”

Marty told me how much I owed and I handed him some money. The next thing I knew he was standing beside me, offering his right hand and holding my change in his left hand. His kind eyes locked onto mine. Smiling, and with a firm handshake, he said, “I sure want to thank you for shopping here today. Have a great day. Bye-bye.”

At that moment I wanted to take him home and feed him cookies. It was as if Sam Walton had come back from the dead and invaded this old guy’s body.

I left the store, walked through the parking lot and got into my car. On the drive home I couldn’t shake what had just happened. I had been in that store a hundred times and had never walked away feeling like that.

Who was that guy?
RIV Workshop – December 16
A workshop on “How to Work with RIV” will be held on December 16, from 9 am – 3 pm at the Montgomery County Extension Office. Barb Brahm and Brian Raison will be on hand to discuss how to use RIV and where to place various entries.

Bring your laptop and programs/information to enter. Come and stay as long as you like. Lots of hands on time to work on your RIV report.

The workshop is free. Lunch is on your own. To register send an email to Carol Bottoms bottoms.6@osu.edu

Note: Additional sessions will be scheduled in 2015 if there is interest.

2014 YP4H Incentive Program Ends November 30
Be sure to finish tracking your health and wellness activities by Sunday (11/30) and be rewarded for all of your hard work. You don’t want to miss out on earning up to $150 in Amazon gift cards and entry into a grand prize drawing for additional gift cards and a Fitbit Flex. Log in at yp4h.osu.edu.

NEW!! OSU Extension Minority Professional Development Award Application . . .
Due: November 30, 2014
Funds are for use between 1/1/2015 and 12/31/2015. Full terms and conditions are available here.
• Intended to support the professional development needs of Extension employees who consider themselves a minority and wish to expand their knowledge through professional development.
or
• Intended to support the professional development needs of Extension employee who strategically and actively works to support the diversity and inclusion efforts within the scope of his/her work.
All nominations should be submitted to the Extension Minority Professional Development Committee via the web application form. Questions? Contact Cindy Buxton or Kathy Lechman