

Like Father, Like Daughter

Making the World A Better Place

Director of Epidemiology Joe Gibson, of the Marion County Public Health Department, is rooted in keeping Marion County residents safe by getting and analyzing data, creating systems and tools so that others can analyze data, designing evaluations, and presenting results. His daughter Lauren has followed her father's lead in giving back to the community and working to create a better, safer world for all of us to live.

Lauren has recently been recognized by the governor of Indiana and by renowned primatologist and conservationist Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) and UN Messenger of Peace. Lauren was one of two youths worldwide to receive the 2011 Jane Goodall Global Leadership Award. The awards were presented at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, Calif., on Sept. 24. This event included a short solo performance by Grammy®-winning artist Dave Matthews.

The event commemorated Dr. Goodall's extraordinary accomplishments over the past 51 years while honoring the work and achievements of individuals and organizations that embody the Institute's mission by taking informed and compassionate action on behalf of all living things. The 2011 Jane Goodall Global Leadership Award winners included:

- Esri for Excellence in Conservation Science; Renée Gunther for Excellence in Education; The Walt Disney Company for Corporate Social Responsibility; The Honorable George Miller, U.S. Representative, California, 7th District, for Excellence in Public Policy; Dave Matthews for Responsible Activism in Media and Entertainment; and Adam Anthony of Tanzania and **Lauren Gibson of Indiana for Roots & Shoots Youth Leadership.**

"I'm very proud of her," said Joe Gibson. "It all flows from who she is. When she was 4 years old, she was identifying birds that I'd hardly heard of. Getting involved with Roots & Shoots has given her an avenue to turn her environmental passion into significant actions."

Lauren, age 17, learned about Roots & Shoots in seventh grade and went on to found the Carmel Area Roots & Shoots (CAR&S) group. During the past three years, the group has completed more than 25 projects ranging from selling lemonade for the Gulf of Mexico oil spill relief efforts to door-to-door canned food drives. In addition, Lauren is an active member of the Roots & Shoots Great Lakes Youth Council and the Roots & Shoots National Youth Council. She also serves as an ambassador to the Canadian Roots & Shoots Youth Leadership Council.

Lauren's biggest success involved creation of the Carmel Green Teen Micro-

Grant Program, which empowers young people to take action by educating and motivating them to identify environmental needs in their community and then helping to fund their projects. Gibson's tireless efforts on behalf of the Carmel Green Team Micro-Grant

Program have garnered \$10,000 in funding, as well as national media recognition.

"I am so blessed to be involved in the Roots & Shoots program and to receive this award," Gibson said. "I am, however, just one representative, a sort of case study of how Roots & Shoots, the Jane Goodall Institute and, of course, Dr. Jane Goodall have impacted so many thousands of others over the years."

INDIANA GOVERNOR'S AWARD

The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program has received the 2011 Indiana Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in the category of Outreach or Education. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Commissioner presented the award to Lauren Gibson during the 19th annual Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts, Inc. conference and exposition at the Lilly Conference Center in Indianapolis.

The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program awards grants to youth-led environmental projects. Since it was developed in 2009, more than 280 students having participated in a variety of community service projects, saving more than \$90,000 for the citizens of Carmel and approximately 100 tons of carbon dioxide from being released each year.

"Although we can quantify some of our results, so much of our program's impact is intangible. The program revolves around the ideas of education and youth empowerment; the effect of these initiatives will be revealed as the current generation of youth grows into a generation of more socially- and environmentally-responsible adults," said Lauren.

ABOUT JANE GOODALL'S ROOTS & SHOOTS

Founded in 1991 by Dr. Jane Goodall and a group of Tanzanian students, the Roots & Shoots program is about making positive change happen—for our communities, for animals and for the environment. With hundreds of thousands of young people in more than 120 countries, the Roots & Shoots network connects youth of all ages who share a desire to create a better world. Young people identify problems in their communities and take action.

Through service projects, youth-led campaigns and an interactive website, Roots & Shoots members are making a difference across the globe. For more information, please visit www.root-sandshoots.org.

