



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **PROVIDER PALS, INC, RECEIVES \$110,000 FROM MONSANTO FUND TO SUPPORT PROVIDER WORLD EXPANSION**

Libby, MT (2/9/09) – Provider Pals® today announced it has received \$110,000 from the [Monsanto Fund](#), a private foundation and the philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company, to enlarge and enrich their groundbreaking educational gaming website, [Provider World](#), which is designed to further Provider Pals mission of building bridges of cultural respect and understanding between our rural youth, urban youth, and their natural resource providers. Within *Provider World*, kids can build their own avatar, interact with other students and cultures, and learn about natural resource professions and cultures in a fun, safe, educational environment. The grant will be used specifically towards building and promoting “Farm Town”, one of five towns that surround *Provider World’s* “City Center”.

“We are proud to partner with Monsanto on this very exciting educational effort,” said Echo Venn, Provider Pals Communications Director. “This grant is proof of the Fund’s organizations commitment to agricultural and forward thinking with regards to the educational opportunities available within online gaming.”

“Monsanto is committed to supporting the communities where it does business,” said Deborah Patterson, President of Monsanto Fund. “We are supporting this organization’s effort because it is encouraging cross cultural communication and enhancing the agricultural knowledge of students across the globe.”

*Provider World* renovations will be complete in the beginning months of 2010. [Logon](#) and explore the new agricultural games and features that Monsanto made a reality. Take care of your own cow, maintain your crops, create a buddy list, and shop for your avatar in *Farm Town’s* newly enhanced accessory store!

#### **About Monsanto Fund:**

The Monsanto Fund is the philanthropic arm of the Monsanto Company. Incorporated in 1964, the Fund’s primary objective is to improve the lives of people by bridging the gap between their needs and their resources. The Monsanto Fund is focused on grant-making in four main areas: nutritional well-being through agriculture; science education, primarily on professional development for teachers; the environment, which includes conservation, protection of biodiversity, clean water and restoration of wildlife habitat; and improving the quality of life in communities where Monsanto employees live and work.

Visit the Monsanto Fund at <http://www.monsantofund.org/asp/welcome.asp>.

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