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One size really does fit all

4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization, offering diverse programs and activities to suit everyone’s interests and passions. In Illinois, 4-H touches the lives of youth in every county, providing a framework for learning new skills while developing lifelong connections and a sense of civic duty.

4-H members belong to local clubs where they learn from one another, gain leadership skills, and volunteer in their communities. Each summer, youth exhibit projects at their county fairs to showcase the skills that they developed throughout the year, and many go on to compete at the state level. Other programming, spurred by the findings of research—like Teens as Teachers (page 6), and livestock judging (page 24)—provides youth with opportunities to fine-tune their interests and talents while developing important life skills.

The Illinois 4-H Foundation mission is to generate financial resources to support Illinois 4-H. Individual donors (like the Berger family; page 11), Illinois 4-H Project Partners (page 8), companies, and friends of Illinois 4-H help the Foundation support statewide programming initiatives as well as scholarships and grants.

Your support is crucial to helping fill funding gaps so 4-H can continue impacting the lives of 4-Hers and their communities. Your gift to the Illinois 4-H Foundation can truly help “make the best better.” CloverSeed highlights the value of your support.

The 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development, organized by National 4-H, shows that 4-H youth excel beyond their peers.

What are 4-Hers about? They are . . .

FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY
to contribute to their communities (grades 7–12)

TWICE AS LIKELY
to be civically active (grades 8–12)

TWICE AS LIKELY
to make healthier choices (grade 7);

TWICE AS LIKELY to participate in science, engineering, and computer technology programs outside of school (grades 10–12);

In addition, girls who participate in 4-H are

TWICE AS LIKELY in grade 10 and NEARLY THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY in grade 12 to take part in science programs compared with girls in other out-of-school activities.
Dear Friends,

How will you remember the summer of 2014? For the ALS ice bucket challenge? For having one of the cooler Illinois State Fairs in recent years? As a summer of low prices for grain and high prices for meat?

I’ll remember 2014 as the summer I pushed the Illinois 4-H Foundation cookie cart around the 4-H exhibition area at the State Fair. I’ll remember the enthusiasm of the 4-Hers talking about their exhibits. I’ll remember the spontaneous conversations that developed through giving a cookie and making a connection.

The mission of the Illinois 4-H Foundation is building relationships to generate financial resources for Illinois 4-H. We accomplish that goal by making connections with you, our supporters, who believe in the value of 4-H, who contribute financially, and who help us make connections with other potential donors. We thank you for your support!

4-H is about being part of a team, about tackling new challenges, about experiencing elation and disappointment, about learning to handle unexpected changes. 4-H provides a training ground for developing the life skills so important to functioning well as an adult. You may agree with me that engaging more youth in the 4-H experience is a definite plus for society as a whole.

4-H in the 21st century may look different from your own time in 4-H, but the core values remain constant. Think about the 4-H pledge and what it means for individuals and communities. Incorporating these values into their lives will benefit youth across the 102 counties of Illinois. With your assistance in raising funds to support Illinois 4-H, we can do more to help more youth.

Offer someone a cookie and tell your 4-H story. The conversation that evolves may take turns as spontaneous and unexpected as those at the State Fair.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Clark
Chair, Illinois 4-H Foundation Board of Directors

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Dear 4-H Supporters,

Your generous gifts to the Illinois 4-H Foundation are touching the lives of 200,000 youth, 20,000 volunteers, and 102 Illinois counties each year. In the majority of Illinois counties, one of every seven youths is a participant in 4-H.

Did you know that 15 percent of adults in the U.S. have belonged to a 4-H club, attended 4-H camp, or been involved in a 4-H club or program at school or in their community? If you are a 4-H alum, chances are you have strong positive memories of your experience. Perhaps you still have your record book or remember begging your mom to let you go to 4-H camp.

If you still believe in the 4-H values—Head, Heart, Hand, and Health—and the pledge seems just as relevant to your life today, we invite you to connect with Illinois 4-H. Make a financial donation. Volunteer in a local 4-H program. Promote 4-H by wearing a pin. Add 4-H to your Facebook or LinkedIn profile. About a third of our 4-H alumni currently support the 4-H program that had an impact on their life.

My own favorite 4-H memory as a youth? Giving my first talk, at age 9, to the Scott-U-Need-Us 4-H Club meeting. My topic was handwashing a sweater. It was supposed to be a team demonstration, but my partner did not show up; given the option to wait a month, I chose to proceed with the demonstration. Thanks to the adults in my life, I was well prepared.

As an adult, my favorite memory as a program leader for Illinois 4-H is expanding the 4-H experience to new audiences, specifically leadership experiences for teens in metro areas and minority populations in rural areas.

Thank you again—and again—for your continued support of Illinois 4-H!

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Clark
Chair, Illinois 4-H Foundation Board of Directors

Dr. Denise Oberle
Assistant Dean and Director, 4-H Youth Development University of Illinois Extension
Dear Friends,

It has been another remarkable year for the Illinois 4-H Foundation. We are celebrating not only our 60th anniversary, but also a 23% increase in financial contributions, totaling $276,000, to statewide 4-H initiatives and county work. This increase was the result of over 2,000 generous donors. Thank you for providing so many opportunities for Illinois 4-Hers!

Let me share a few highlights of the opportunities made possible by your gifts:

- 145 grants totaling over $115,000 awarded to county 4-H programs
- 32 state scholarships of $1,000 each to deserving 4-Hers
- Broadening our 4-H Teens as Teachers initiative with the help of 24 generous Illinois 4-H Project Partners. (And welcome to our newest partner, Alliance Contractors, Inc.)
- Hosting more than 900 guests at the 13th annual 4-H Family Event at the Illinois State Fair

Over the last 60 years, members of the Board of Directors and the Foundation staff have come and gone, but one thing has remained constant: All of these individuals have worked diligently together to build relationships to increase the financial support of Illinois 4-H programs. Today the Illinois 4-H Foundation is stronger than ever, the result of our ever-expanding community of friends and partners, people who donate time, resources, and talent in support of our important mission. We are excited to welcome over 400 new donors to the Foundation this year.

My sincere thanks to you for your part in a milestone year of financially supporting the 200,000 Illinois youth who grow through 4-H development programs. Without the contributions of so many over these 60 years, we would not have been able to affect the lives of so many young people. I hope you will take some time to read through this year’s CloverSeed and to experience, through words and photos, some of the great opportunities Illinois 4-H can provide thanks to our dedicated supporters!

With warmest regards,

Angie Barnard
Executive Director, Illinois 4-H Foundation
The Illinois 4-H Foundation
Board of Directors is a group of dedicated individuals from across the state who care deeply about supporting Illinois 4-H. With their time, connections, and expertise, they aid the Foundation’s fundraising, marketing, and communication efforts.

The board also helps bring together new individuals, corporations, and organizations to support the Illinois 4-H mission: empowering youth to reach their full potential while working and learning in partnership with caring adults. To become one of the caring adults serving on the Foundation board, call 217-333-9295 or email illinois4hfoundation@illinois.edu.

206 volunteers have served as Foundation board members over the past 60 years.

The 18 current members of the Foundation board have logged a total of 1,258 volunteer hours in 2014. (That averages 70 hours per board member!)

Front, from left: Paul Hadden, Cook County; Beverly Haselhorst, Stephenson County; Kevin Carey, Grundy County; Jerry Hicks, Sangamon County; Lila Jeanne Eichelberger, honorary board member, Champaign County; Jan Sibley, Cook County; Sharon Scherer, Monroe County; Rachel Tillman, youth representative, Effingham County. Back: Karl Barnhart, corporate adviser, Sangamon County; Cheryl Wormley, McHenry County; Jim Schmidt, McLean County; Sharon Tenhouse, Adams County; Steve Launius, Washington County; Dean West, Saline County; Roger Clark, Cook County; Barbara Rundquist Clark, chair, Cook County. Not pictured: Jessie Crews, University of Illinois Extension youth development staff, Clark County; Emily DeSchepper, youth representative, Knox County; George Czarap, ex officio board member, associate dean and director of U of I Extension; Denise Oberle, 4-H assistant dean and director; Meg Cline, ex officio board member, associate dean of advancement.
Learning by doing

Teens discover interest in STEM by teaching other youth

Somewhere between fourth grade and high school graduation, many students lose their interest in science, and they go on to choose careers outside of science, technology, engineering and math—the fields known together as STEM.

With support from our Illinois 4-H Project Partners, 4-H is providing programs to recapture youths’ interest and prepare them to be leaders in STEM and other careers.

One initiative, called Teens as Teachers, trains 4-Hers to provide other youth—more than 2,500 in 2013 and 2014—with high-quality educational experiences, many related to STEM fields. The program embodies the 4-H motto: learning by doing.

Teen teachers learn by actively presenting material, while their students learn through fun, hands-on activities like extracting DNA from fruit. Teachers and students alike are exposed to new subjects, such as nutrition and robotics, that could develop into new 4-H projects, hobbies, or even careers.

“4-H teen teachers make a difference in their community by teaching and inspiring younger youth,” said Lisa Bouillion Diaz, an extension specialist in technology and youth development. “They serve as role models, expand their knowledge by working with experts in things they like to do, and get practical training that they can use in college, in a career, and throughout life.”

T’hara Galbreth, a junior at Springfield High School, wanted a career as a teacher. She thought Teens as Teachers would be a great opportunity to interact with kids and gain hands-on experience in her chosen field. And it was—but now she wants to become an obstetrician or pediatrician instead, and the program has helped her realize that she can achieve that goal.

“This program has excited me about science. I gained public speaking skills and experience interacting with kids,” Galbreth said. “I recommend Teens as Teachers because participating in different STEM activities helps students know what they want to do after college.”

This program is especially beneficial for youth from low-income metro communities, said Erica Austin, an extension educator in 4-H youth development.

“Springfield, Illinois, has a history of generational poverty,” Austin said. “Lack of education and low-paying jobs often keep families from achieving the American Dream. Metro
Youth develop team-building skills through Teens as Teachers.

Youth are not given the tools or resources needed to obtain jobs that can help stop this generational lack.

Metro youth look up to teen teachers as role models who look like them and have had similar life experiences, Austin added. Together they can discover the myriad of STEM careers open to them.

“They are broadening their horizons to want more in life than the circumstances surrounding them,” Austin said. “Now they have the mindset to become engineers, biochemists, biologists, veterinarians, medical doctors, computer scientists—careers they thought were unreachable that they can now aspire to.”

Through a fund made possible by Illinois 4-H Project Partners, extension educators held a training retreat and a celebration event for teen teachers and have been able to provide t-shirts, gift cards, and other recognition items.
Project Partners give to grow

Project Partners are companies and organizations that contribute $2,000 annually to support educational and leadership opportunities for thousands of 4-Hers across the state. Their financial support helps youth in 4-H grow up to become leaders and civic-minded citizens.

Illinois 4-H Project Partners include these organizations:
- Archer Daniels Midland (ADM)
- AgriGold
- Alliance Contractors, Inc.
- AT&T Illinois
- BRANDT Consolidated
- Busey
- Caterpillar
- COUNTRY Financial
- DuPont Pioneer
- Farm Credit
- GROWMARK
- Illinois Corn Marketing Board
- Illinois Farm Bureau
- John Deere
- LG Seeds
- Midwest Dairy Association
- Monsanto
- Paul A. Funk Foundation
- Prairie Farms
- Rural King
- Soy Capital Ag Services
- US Bank
- Wyffels Hybrids

Would you or your organization like to join this influential group? If so, contact the Illinois 4-H Foundation at Illinois4hfoundation@illinois.edu or 217-333-9295.
Growing up in Fulton County, Kaity Spangler says, she was fully immersed in 4-H; she followed a long family tradition with the Checkrow Volunteers 4-H Club.

“My grandmother has been the 4-H leader in my club for 42 years,” said Spangler, a major in agricultural leadership and science education at the University of Illinois. “I grew up following my cousins around at livestock shows. My hand-me-down t-shirt collection was full of 4-H clovers, and it was the biggest deal when I turned 8, because that meant that I was finally able to join 4-H.”

Now a member of the Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team (YLT), Spangler has the chance to give back over the next two years to the organization that has given her so much. Those on the YLT, which represents some of the state’s top 4-H members, review 4-H curriculum, present at conferences, plan programs, and support Illinois 4-H in countless other ways.

“I hope to use my positive attitude to unite members of Illinois 4-H in an effort to achieve our mission of ‘making the best better,’ “ Spangler said. “I am so grateful for our Illinois 4-H Project Partners, who help us accomplish that mission with their continued support. Their impact has made a huge difference for the organization.”

With Project Partners’ support, YLT members received the book 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player, which they discussed during their training. Project Partners also support Speaking for Illinois 4-H (SFI4-H), a key program through which the YLT teaches 4-Hers how to share the program’s importance with elected officials, civic groups, volunteers, and donors.

“YLT and SFI4-H members apply the skills they gain from these activities in other 4-H programs, as well as in their communities and careers.

“My work ethic, drive, and determination have been developed because I took advantage of the opportunities within 4-H, with others there to guide me along every step of the journey,” Spangler said. “As a member of YLT, I have the opportunity to leave a positive mark on Illinois and National 4-H and to show gratitude to 4-H for helping me grow into a leader. I plan to use what I learn in these next two years so I can continue to make a difference ‘in my club, my community, my country and my world.’ “

The 2013–14 Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team gathers to thank the groups and individuals who provide services and funding for 4-H programming, including the Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference and the Speaking for Illinois 4-H program.
Rising to the challenge
4-H teams put their culinary skills to the test

The timer starts its countdown, signaling four teams that they have 40 minutes to turn mystery ingredients into delicious, nutritious meals.

But it’s not an episode of Iron Chef; it’s the new Illinois 4-H Food Challenge.

“The youth gained confidence in experimenting with food combinations,” said Jamie Boas, an extension educator in 4-H youth development. “This enabled them to take ingredients they may not have encountered, such as pesto or an avocado, and figure out how to pair them with other foods available to them.”

The teams were scored on their knowledge of nutrition and serving sizes and their skills in food preparation and food safety, as well as on their food’s appearance, quality, and presentation.

At the competition, held in May at Monticello High School, the Iroquois County Culinary Country Chicks took home first prize with their “five-alarm fajita” and beans and rice. Team members were Anamieka and Rebekah Putz of Martinton and Rhianna Cyr of Chebanse.

“Good healthy choices are important,” said Anamieka, who led the team with her years of 4-H food project experience. “We got a better perspective on the nutrition each product gives us. They really tried to bring a lot of fruits and vegetables into the competition. They got us to think about them and to make dishes geared more to vegetables than to meat and to consider different ways we can add protein to our diets through beans instead of chicken.”

With the help of Rebekah, the team’s self-described “nutrition anthropologist,” the three accurately described the nutritional content of their meal and used research to price their dish for a restaurant.

The second-place finishers—the Champaign 4-H Tastebud Tuesdays—created “Quesadilla Paradise.” The two teams from Monticello High School tied for third place, with a stir-fry dish featuring a savory glaze and a southwestern-inspired entrée.

As encouragement to stay active in the kitchen, challenge participants each received a piece of cooking equipment to take home.

In just 40 minutes, participants in the Illinois 4-H Food Challenge turned ingredients into culinary delights.

The Illinois 4-H Food Challenge, an Iron Chef-style competition, is made possible by volunteers who donate their time and talent to create a new generation of health-conscious chefs.

Did you help make this program possible?

If you bought Favorite Recipes of Illinois 4-H Through the Years, you supported the Illinois 4-H Food Challenge. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook provided aprons for all participants, cooking kits with kitchen tools and equipment, and ingredients for team practices and the final competition.

Wish you had a copy? It’s not too late! See the back cover for cookbook ordering information.

You can also support the Food Challenge by serving as a coach or guest speaker, or by volunteering to start a Food Challenge in your area. Organizers are also looking for commercial kitchens to tour so participants can learn from professional chefs. Contact Jamie Boas at 217-333-7672 or kleissjm@illinois.edu.

Through creative new programs, 4-H is continuing to expose youth to classic 4-H topics and values, like food preparation and safety, leadership, and public speaking.
In a lasting family tribute, five cousins have come together from across the United States to support an organization that their family deeply cared about.

“The Ruth and Donald Berger Family Memorial 4-H Fund is a means for the Donald Berger family name to live on in a constructive way that helps others,” said eldest cousin Barbara Schneider, of Naperville, Illinois. “It is a generational gift in memory of my aunt and uncle and their two children, Dick and Carolyn. We hope that this endowment will affect lives in positive ways for years to come.”

Schneider, along with her sister, Nancy Bennett of Brentwood, California, and cousins Janis Gonzales of Santa Fe, New Mexico; Susan Scheppel of LaGrange, Illinois; and Robert Osterland of St. Petersburg, Florida, collaborated to create the Berger Fund, which will provide unrestricted support of the Illinois 4-H youth development program.

“Farming was so near and dear to Donald and Ruth’s heart, and the kids were so active in 4-H,” Schneider said. “This memorial seemed like the perfect way to honor their family.”

The Bergers farmed in rural Naperville, in DuPage County, raising cattle, hogs, sheep, and chickens. Both Dick and Carolyn were active in 4-H, and Dick was also a member of the National FFA organization, then called Future Farmers of America. In 1972, Donald and Ruth relocated to Somonauk, in DeKalb County. Donald passed away in 1999; Ruth continued farming there until her death in 2013.

“Dick always loved the farm and raising his farm animals. He was proud of his steers and his pigs,” Schneider said. “He was funny and loved a good joke. He was hardworking around the farm.

“Carolyn was one of those kids who was good at everything,” Schneider said. “Everything she did in 4-H, she did well. We still have some of the sewing projects she completed when she was 12 and 13. Her work was beautiful and meticulously done. Carolyn was an excellent student and a very sweet girl.”

Through 4-H, Dick and Carolyn developed a camaraderie with kids who had rural roots and similar values.

“They went to Naperville schools, which had a mix of city and country children,” Schneider said. “I think participation in 4-H gave them a way to identify and bond with other farm kids.”

In 1964, Dick, 16, and Carolyn, 13, were driving to the DuPage County Fair with their 4-H projects. They never made it. Carolyn had her cooking project, a cake, balanced on her lap when her brother lost control of the truck and crashed into a telephone pole.

The Berger family will never know the events that led up to the crash, which killed Dick immediately. Carolyn was thrown from the truck and suffered brain damage that left her paralyzed and without speech. She died 13 years later from complications related to the crash. At Dick’s funeral, Schneider remembers the church being packed with row after row of kids wearing 4-H t-shirts and FFA’s signature blue corduroy jackets.

The cousins could think of no better way to honor the memory of their family members than to support an organization that meant so much to each of them.

“My Aunt Ruth was extremely generous, and we wanted to make sure that we honored that,” Schneider said. “When we cousins were together after my aunt’s funeral, the idea of some type of memorial was suggested. Each of us was in favor of this, and Nancy researched organizations that might represent the family. We chose 4-H because of the joy it brought the Bergers and because it continues to represent the ideals for which they stood.”

By creating a fund for unrestricted support of Illinois 4-H youth development programming, the cousins will support new initiatives that are developed in the coming years. This permanent endowment will serve generations of 4-Hers, helping them to “meet their dreams.”
Any better and he’d have been perfect.

In a full day of shotgun trap competition, Darren Hawkins of Grundy County missed just one clay target. At the Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports State Shoot, held in May at the Brittany Shooting Park in Bunker Hill, Hawkins hit 74 of his 75 targets to take first place in the shotgun division.

The competition was the first statewide contest held since the Illinois shooting sports program began in 2009. One of the fastest-growing project areas for Illinois 4-H, shooting sports include small bore rifle, air rifle, shotgun, compound bow archery, and recurve bow archery.

“The concept that ‘the whole is only as good as the sum of its parts’ best describes Illinois 4-H shooting sports,” said Dan Dawson, an extension educator in 4-H youth development. “It has been true since the program’s inception, and it is only getting stronger as we progress.”

Everyone should know how to properly handle a gun, believes Cally Diss, a 14-year-old 4-H member from LaSalle County who has been in the program for two years. In addition to rifle, Diss competes in archery; she also shows poultry and cows in her local 4-H program.

Edwards County 4-H member Tyce Thompson admitted he was nervous for this first state shoot, but his scores improved steadily over the seven hours of competition. Thompson, in his third year of shooting sports, said he came because he enjoys any opportunity to practice.

“Success in shooting sports is 90 percent mental discipline,” said Don Wulf, one of the state’s nationally certified rifle instructors and rangemaster for the contest. “You have to forget what you just did and think of every shot as your first shot of the day.”
At the Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports State Shoot, 4-Hers learn to stay right on target with the help of many dedicated volunteers.

Thompson’s teammate Savanah Summerfield, 17, placed fourth, shooting with 84 percent accuracy. Summerfield said she began shooting at a young age and that it’s something she and her father do together. The two have a friendly competition, and the teenager noted she ended the season with one more goose and one more quail than her father. She exhibits about 15 additional projects as a member of the Wabash Ramblers 4-H Club.

Kurt Wagenbach of Peoria said that in addition to the fun, the 4-H Shooting Sports project teaches safety and discipline with firearms. His brother, Korbin, also competed, both of them in the shotgun division.

Trey Williams, 14, of White County, just made the age requirement for the contest. His team drove 300 miles round trip to compete. The team works with the local rifle club in Carmi to practice.

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Shooting Sports, a program offered in 96 of the 102 counties in Illinois, relies heavily on volunteers to train youth. Volunteers must complete 15 hours of training in their specific discipline and pass screenings and certification before they can work with 4-H members.

Almost half of the special interest (SPIN) club grants funded by the Illinois 4-H Foundation are used by shooting sports and robotics clubs. Since these two project areas involve equipment with high price tags, the Illinois 4-H Foundation grants help ensure that youth in many Illinois counties can participate in learning experiences that might not otherwise be possible.

The Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports delegates to the national competition will also be supported by the Illinois 4-H Foundation. To support Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports, contact the Foundation at or 217-333-9295.

Dawson also praised Larry and Carole Mohr, owners of Brittany Shooting Park, for their generous support in this first state shoot. The Mohrs welcomed 4-Hers back in October to compete in the fall Illinois 4-H contest. The top four competitors in each discipline may be invited to represent Illinois at the National 4-H Invitational in June in Grand Island, Nebraska, based on their scores at the October state competition.

Both meets followed the strict guidelines established by the National 4-H Shooting Sports program. 4-H members had to be at least 14 by January 1, 2015, and part of a local 4-H shooting sports club to compete.

To volunteer with a 4-H shooting sports club in your community, contact Dawson at or 217-726-9224.
Through 4-H Feeding and Growing Our Communities, 4-Hers and adults learn about hunger and food security in their communities and make real progress in addressing this critical issue. In 2013, the program’s first year, more than 1,000 youth along with 384 adults grew over two tons of fresh produce in 4-H community gardens to support local food pantries, soup kitchens, and other organizations serving families in need.

“This endeavor has provided youth many opportunities to learn about an issue silent for many of them—the issue of hunger,” said Bill Million, an extension specialist in 4-H youth development. “4-H members and families have realized that they can be part of the solution, and by joining forces with others, they can reduce a critical need. 4-H members also learn valuable skills to produce food and learn how their efforts are providing much-needed fresh produce for their families and others in their communities.”

Illinois was one of five pilot states that received resources for this program from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation “4-H Invest an Acre” effort through the National 4-H Council.

As news of the success of the program spread, other community members and organizations joined the effort, volunteering and providing over $18,150 in financial and in-kind donations.

Illinois 4-H alumna Evelyn Brandt Thomas, co-founder of Brandt Consolidated, contributed $20,000 to 4-H Feeding and Growing Our Communities at a critical time, when the program would no longer be receiving national support, even as interest and community support grew.

“With Thomas’s gift, 4-H was able to continue to offer challenge grants to clubs who wanted to be part of the hunger solution,” Million said. “Funding has provided for the start or continuation of community gardens, weekend backpack programs for youth, meal-packaging events with Illini Fighting Hunger, and assistance to local food banks and food pantries.”

Thus far in 2014, over 900 youth and 340 adults have devoted more than 7,355 hours of service to addressing hunger in their communities.

4-H Feeding and Growing Our Communities also supported the ConAgra 4-H Food Smart Families summer nutrition program in 2014, which enables 4-H youth ambassadors to empower their peers and communities through nutrition education and skills in cooking and grocery budgeting.
With support from Thomas and ConAgra, 194 teens were trained and taught lessons to 1,801 youth. An additional 3,497 family members benefited as youth in participating counties were introduced to farmers markets to show how their families could access locally grown produce to enhance their meal planning.

Nine 4-H clubs and community groups raised over 5,600 pounds of produce in community gardens in 2014, resulting in an estimated economic impact of $10,621 for families who received the produce.

“Because hunger knows no season, the need for relief continues in many communities,” Million said. “Additional funding is always welcome, as seed money for community responses is often lacking. Oftentimes we have the human capacity to address an issue but lack dollars to support the ideas of 4-H clubs wanting to use their ‘hands to larger service.’”

With new donor support, Illinois 4-H can expand meal-packaging events around the state, offering more 4-H clubs an opportunity, through Illini Fighting Hunger, to assemble meal packets that stay in their communities to assist families in need. “With funding received through the 4-H Foundation we can offer matching dollars to enhance local contributions from individuals and civic organizations interested in fighting hunger along with their local 4-H clubs through these meal-packaging events,” Million said.

“Increasing the desire of 4-H members to give back to their communities is one of the components of the program,” Million said. “Providing opportunities where youth can demonstrate generosity by offering service to others is an important aspect of youth development. With almost any community service opportunity comes a need for financial assistance. Gifts to the Illinois 4-H Foundation go a long way to providing that financial boost clubs often need.”
What could you create from paint sticks, paper clips, and motors and wheels salvaged from broken toys? For many of us, the answer is probably not much. But Illinois 4-Hers put materials like these to use through robotics, a 4-H project area where youth learn basic engineering and robotics concepts, often in a robotics club.

In the 4-H Junk Drawer Robotics series, youth learn basic physical science concepts, like friction and electromagnetism, using basic household items. By building marshmallow catapults, 4-Hers learn about fulcrums and mechanical advantage.

In the 4-H Robotics Platforms series, youth learn to build and program Lego Mindstorms robots to solve simple robotic challenges, such as picking up and moving objects.

Many clubs participate in the Illinois 4-H State Robotics Challenge, held every spring at the University of Illinois, where youth work together to solve tasks. They must share ideas and test and revise solutions as they design their robot and its field to accomplish certain goals.

This year, teams were able to use more than one robot or computer-controlled device to accomplish the tasks in the challenge, much like a factory, warehouse, or farm has multiple computer-controlled devices communicating with each other.

Teams are conference-judged on their robot design. They describe to the judges how and why they designed their robot as they did and answer questions to show their knowledge of mechanical and programming concepts.

“Teams are also given a teamwork task, and the judges observe how well they work together to attempt to complete it,” said Robert Smith, an extension educator in robotics. “The goal is not to actually complete the task but to work well together. This team conference judging develops critical leadership and communications skills, which are essential for a 21st-century workforce.”

At the Robotics Challenge, youth learn from demonstrations done by high school teams, university departments, and clubs that represent the U of I College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and College of Engineering.

High school robotics clubs develop leadership skills and give back to their communities by mentoring younger clubs and holding workshops for youth, which also helps develop a pipeline for new team members.

These demonstrations and workshops help youth explore various STEM—science, technology, engineering, and math—opportunities available to those who continue their involvement in 4-H robotics and other science activities, Smith said.
“Of youth who participate in Illinois 4-H robotics, 75 percent report they would like a job related to science, and 96 percent say they like science,” Smith said. “The majority of graduating seniors who participate in robotics through high school go on to college and major in science or engineering.”

You can help foster 4-Hers’ interest in STEM fields by mentoring a club or helping organize a tour of facilities where computer-controlled equipment is used in manufacturing, processing, or farming. Robotics is a relatively expensive project area, so clubs are also always looking for financial support from individuals, companies, and grants.

A 4-Her experiments with electrical circuits at the Illinois 4-H State Robotics Challenge.

Julia Taraszewski, 4-H Teen Teacher and Extension Council member in Decatur, launches her rocket as part of National Youth Science Day’s “Rockets to the Rescue!” challenge.

“NYSD is a fun, interactive learning experience that engages thousands of youth across the country in conducting a shared experiment,” said Lisa Bouillion Diaz, an extension specialist in technology and youth development. “It’s all about getting kids excited about science. We want them to experience and be exposed to diverse careers in science, technology, engineering, and math and see how science is important to addressing real-world problems.”

Employing engineering concepts, 4-Hers created a rocket prototype out of PVC pipes, paper, tape, and other common materials to deliver food from one location to another. In addition to engineering the rocket, they had to consider its launch angle and how much force to apply to get it to its landing site. After testing the rocket, the 4-Hers were encouraged to modify and improve its design.

NASA astronaut and Illinois alum Colonel Mike Hopkins partnered with Illinois 4-H to welcome youth participating in the 2014 NYSD experiment. In his welcome video, Hopkins mentioned the importance of his aerospace engineering education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and how this field of study is important to solving today’s problems, such as disaster response to remote areas—like the island in Rockets to the Rescue!

Illinois 4-H Science Ambassadors lead NYSD experiments across the state to introduce youth of all ages to diverse and exciting science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. You can help them reach more youth by hosting an NYSD event. Contact Diaz at ldbiaz@illinois.edu or 217-333-0910 to find out more.
Volunteer uses sewing skills to help 4-Hers help others

While teaching the techniques for cutting out patterns and sewing straight seams, Ann Brodsky also teaches members of the Spinning Bobbins 4-H Sewing SPIN Club the importance of giving to others.

To bring comfort to the children of deployed military parents, the club members sew vests for teddy bears that are given to the children before their parents are deployed. A pocket hidden inside the vest allows the parent to insert a note of encouragement and love.

Ann has watched her members grow and develop since joining the SPIN club. Members who were shy and timid in the beginning have matured into reliable and enthusiastic young people. The club members want to learn, and they now contribute new ideas and their own creativity to the projects they are making. "It's great seeing the kids grow and become the people they are meant to be," Ann said.

Ann leads by example. She has volunteered with 4-H for over 13 years and was a 10-year club member in Christian County. She freely shares her time and expertise with the sewing club and with others in her community.
Debbie Kennedy’s energetic personality and passion for horses make her an effective volunteer for the Giddy Up & Whoa 4-H Equine SPIN Club. Debbie’s desire to teach and work with young people motivated her to volunteer her time and expertise to the equine club.

Debbie’s barn is home to six rescue horses, all of which have experienced neglect or abuse. Debbie says that the 4-Hers and the horses share a bond that creates an understanding between them. “Everyone has a story, and each child brings their story to the barn,” Debbie said. “The horses are accepting and don’t judge.”

Over the course of the club’s life, Debbie has witnessed remarkable life changes in her members. They have gained confidence not only around the horses, but within themselves as well. “You pair an 8-year-old up with a thousand-pound animal and discover what a kid is really capable of,” she said.

The success of SPIN clubs has also generated external grant dollars to support SPIN volunteer resource development and provide financial support for SPIN clubs statewide.

Additional funds are important to supplement grants to keep SPIN clubs affordable for all youth. To support SPIN clubs or to learn more about volunteering, contact Weese at mweese@illinois.edu.
Today’s 4-Hers, tomorrow’s leaders

Generous gift will expand youth leadership opportunities

“Youth who are valued as an asset can do amazing things,” said Denise Oberle, 4-H assistant dean and director. Illinois 4-H has newly expanded the opportunities for teens to be amazing leaders in six distinct roles: planning, promoting, teaching, advising, advocating, and mentoring.

Thanks to a generous gift of $15,000 from Chuck and Helen Ruth, the Foundation is able to prepare youth to fill these leadership roles. The Ruths’ funding will support training expenses associated with preparing teens for mentoring and advocating roles.

Chuck and Helen believe in the importance of youth taking on leadership roles, particularly during adolescence, Oberle said, to address the fact that only one of four youth is on a thriving trajectory upon reaching reach high school.

“The youth of today are tomorrow’s leaders,” said Chuck Ruth, founder and owner of Alliance Contractors, Inc. “We hope the 4-H leadership program will mentor them toward greatness.”

“Three ingredients combine to cause a youth to thrive: a spark, three champions, and opportunity,” Oberle said. “Teens identify their spark as a skill or talent, a commitment or cause, or a personal quality, like being a good leader. Champions are the adults who fan the flame of a spark—someone like a 4-H leader.”

Leadership opportunities include the six distinct roles that Illinois 4-H is creating for youth:

- **Planning.** Teens improve 4-H in their county or state by working with staff to carry out shows, camps, contests, service opportunities, and events. These teen leaders have a voice in what happens in their county 4-H program.

- **Promoting.** Youth of any age can share their passion and knowledge about 4-H by giving a speech, talking with prospective members, or sharing their story with an adult. Presenting a positive image of 4-H is their main responsibility.

- **Teaching.** Teaching is a powerful way to grow skills in listening, decision making, and communicating. Teen Teachers plan and lead a progression of lessons for younger youth.

- **Advising.** Adults and youth are partners, serving to inform decision making. Teens might serve on a committee or council that helps guide the local or state 4-H program or serve as a 4-H representative on a fair board or community advisory council.

- **Advocating.** Teens have a voice in making positive change as advocates. They work with local leaders and government officials to improve their community, while gaining skills in research, analysis, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork.

- **Mentoring.** As mentors to others, teens teach important life skills, providing opportunities to try new things and have fun. By being positive role models, teens increase their own levels of leadership and responsibility as they help others.

Illinois 4-H Foundation will expand youth leadership roles with a generous donation from Chuck and Helen Ruth.

Teens as Advocates, for example, engages teens with their communities, providing them an avenue to voice concerns and take action. The goal is for them to identify community issues and work with their peers in partnership with adults to create positive change that impacts a whole community.

In learning to be advocates, youth connect with community leaders or local government to improve their neighborhood or community. Teen advocates develop valuable skills when they realize that adults value their opinions on local issues. “I was surprised that anyone would really listen to our ideas, because we are just kids,” said Wyatt Newberry, a 4-H teen advocate in Hancock County. Newberry worked with other teens to educate the Carthage Park Board on the positive impact a Frisbee golf course would have in their community.

“Creating opportunities for youth to share their voices in local community issues is a positive experience for both communities and youth,” said Pat
McGlaughlin, an extension specialist in 4-H youth development. “Youth become more engaged in local communities when they realize that adults care and value their opinions, and the communities gain a valuable perspective of current issues and local needs.”

Through Teens as Mentors, teens actively mentor younger youth. As positive and supportive role models, teens build their own leadership and responsibility skills as they help youth learn important life skills, try new things, and have fun. Participants also develop mentoring and coaching skills with the help of adults who support the Teens as Mentors program.

“Being a camp counselor has given me an immense love and respect for kids,” said Charlie Decker, who mentors youth at 4-H Memorial Camp. “I have learned so much from my campers, but more importantly, I have learned how to more effectively talk and listen to them. Counselors connect with campers, which helps the campers grow in self-confidence.”

Decker says learning how to effectively converse with children has helped him be more effective at conversing with adults as well. Negotiating disagreements, working with homesick kids, and getting campers engaged in activities are a few of the challenges that camp counselors navigate each day. These experiences stimulate the development of positive life skills that teen mentors will use not only in their camp experience, but also in their day-to-day life.

“It’s all about communication,” Decker said. “We learn how to make a small society run inside of camp, and we then apply those lessons and principles to society at large.”

Think back to when you were a teenager. Did you have the opportunity to initiate youth-led activities with little input from adults? Ever get to be a decision maker on an equal footing with adults? Ever experience the feeling of being the one in charge? To support these opportunities for youth to take charge and make positive impacts in their communities, contact the Illinois 4-H Foundation at Illinois4hfoundation@illinois.edu or 217-333-9295.
New programs broaden Extension’s outreach

A new partnership among University of Illinois Extension, the dean of the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), and the university’s Office of the Provost is providing new programs for Illinois communities and their youth.

“Extension has a long and proud history working with the College of ACES,” said George Czapar, Extension’s associate dean and director. “With this initiative, we have developed new collaborations with faculty and staff from the entire University of Illinois campus.”

The projects were selected from a pool of 71 pre-proposals from 16 colleges, institutes, and other units. “The high interest indicates that many are eager to participate in Extension’s outreach mission,” Czapar said.

Of the funded projects, one proposal involves 4-H, and three others include opportunities to collaborate with 4-H members, said Denise Oberle, 4-H assistant dean and director. “4-H is viewed as a conduit for bridging the resources on campus to the youth in our state.”

4-H Computing Connections
Over 2,300 Illinois 4-H members enrolled in robotics will have the opportunity to learn computation skills from U of I computer scientists and educators. Computation skills go beyond robotics and will likely attract new youth to 4-H computing SPIN (Special Interest) clubs.

Illinois Digital Innovation Leadership Program
Imagine a 4-H club spending the day in a mobile lab that provides an exploratory space for computer-aided design, audio/video production, data visualization, and 3D printing. Some of these finished projects may make their way to 4-H fairs and exhibitions. Initially, the university’s Graduate School of Library and Information Science will be installing “Makerspaces” in Peoria and Champaign and at the southern tip of Illinois.

Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products: Extending Knowledge and Mitigation Strategies
Working through county Extension offices that express interest, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center will host medicine take-back, community education, and wastewater test programs across the state. 4-H clubs might get involved in these community service projects, or 4-Hers may decide to be youth advocates to address issues like drinking water contamination or medication abuse and misuse.

An Artifact Speaks
Through Extension’s online resources, the campus Spurlock Museum will provide youth with a basic understanding of how artifacts communicate to spur interest in social science and language as well as social equity and cultural understanding.

Building connections between youth and college campuses through these programs will support the 4-H goal for 90 percent of 4-H graduates to pursue higher education after high school.

You can help 4-H achieve this goal by supporting these initiatives and helping raise the funds needed to provide other cross-campus extension programs. Get involved with these exceptional programs by using the digital lab, learning more about proper disposal of pharmaceutical drugs, and encouraging youth to join 4-H robotics and computation SPIN clubs.

“All land-grant universities have a responsibility for research, teaching, and outreach,” Oberle said. “Illinois 4-H is the premier youth development outreach program at Illinois. The reach of Illinois 4-H into every county and every community of our state is an asset to faculty members who have an interest in civic engagement.”
Yesterday’s 4-Hers, today’s leaders

The Illinois 4-H Foundation recognized the exceptional contributions of four former 4-H members at the ACES College Connection, held September 6 in Champaign.

The Illinois 4-H Alumni Award recognizes an elite group of individuals for their outstanding career accomplishments and leadership in civic, community, and professional activities.

Craig Bidner was a 10-year member of the Danvers Industrial Youth and the Rugged Rambler 4-H Clubs in McLean County. Today he is the owner and CEO of Nikco Sports in Chesterfield, Missouri. In 2009, Craig and his wife, Joy, began the Gateway Gang 4-H Club in St. Louis as a way for their two children and other youth to benefit from the 4-H experience. They continue to be the club’s leaders today. “4-H was a learning opportunity and a foundation that our family built on to succeed in life,” Bidner said.

Daniel Kelley was a 10-year member of the Linden Lead ‘Em 4-H Club, also in McLean County. Today Kelley is a grain farmer near Normal and recently served as the president of the GROWMARK, Inc., board of directors, from 1995 to 2013. Kelley said he clearly remembers the inspiration and insight of his 4-H leader, Clarence Ropp. Upon Ropp’s retirement, Kelley volunteered as an assistant leader to help Ray Ropp with the club. Twenty-three years later, Kelley stepped down. Kelley expressed his pride in being a part of the 86-year-old Linden Lead ‘Em 4-H Club’s legacy.

Philip Nelson was a 10-year member of the Miller Township 4-H Club in LaSalle County. Nelson is a fourth-generation owner and operator of the grain and livestock farm where he grew up. His early 4-H experiences provided him with valuable leadership skills and laid the foundation for his life of service to the agriculture industry. He served as vice president of the Illinois Farm Bureau from 1999 to 2003 and as president from 2003 to 2013. Nelson has used his leadership roles within the organization to serve as a tireless advocate for 4-H.

The Friend of 4-H Award is an annual recognition of a person or organization whose leadership, actions, and support have contributed to the involvement and promotion of statewide Illinois 4-H Youth Development programs.

Richard Knipe, a retired beef animal systems specialist with University of Illinois Extension, received the 2014 Friend of 4-H Award. Knipe spent eight years as coordinator of the Illinois 4-H Livestock Judging Program and coach of the state 4-H judging team building a volunteer coaching system that drives the development of some 2,000 Illinois youth annually. When ethical behavior in 4-H livestock shows became an issue in the late 1990s, Knipe helped to develop a series of 4-H and FFA quality assurance and ethics clinics. Richard is the co-founder of Riverside Research’s MarketMaker.
Today’s youth will face the responsibility for achieving food security for the nine billion people expected to inhabit Earth by 2050. The National 4-H Council and Monsanto are partnering to provide interactive activities that will excite youth to meet this challenge through careers in agriculture and science.

Led by Illinois 4-Hers, the Fish Farm Challenge activity is a 4-H Ag Innovators Experience, presented by Monsanto. Youth work in teams to engineer a food-distribution system that evenly dispenses soy-based fish food pellets over a mat representing a fish farm tank.

The youth’s ideas can be applied to aquaculture tanks on working tilapia farms, which will be a key source of protein for future generations.

“Population trends project the world population to grow by two billion in the next 40 years, requiring a 70 percent increase in food production to feed the world,” said Dan Jennings, an extension educator in 4-H youth development in animal systems. “National 4-H Council and Monsanto partnered to develop an experience to respond to this challenge by stimulating youth interest and involvement in agriculture and science.”

The Fish Farm Challenge was part of the activities offered at 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello in June and July.

Their supporters erupted in cheers as the Illinois 4-H Livestock Judging team was announced as the 2014 champions of the National 4-H competition in Louisville, Kentucky.

The five team members embraced. After training all fall, they had competed against and bested teams from 31 states. But the journey to this moment began more than a decade earlier.

“My family has been showing livestock for as long as I can remember,” said Tyson Schulte, a Milan native and member of the championship team. “When I was 8, I started showing cattle at the Illinois State Fair. Then I switched to showing hogs when I was 10, which I continue to show through the present.”

The other team members have similar stories. Each has a family legacy of showing and competing in livestock competitions at local and state fairs. All transitioned to competing for themselves, and they continued for almost a decade.

Finally, in 2013, the five individuals progressed to the qualifying competition at the University of Illinois. It was there that they were chosen as the best livestock competitors and formed the Illinois 4-H Livestock Judging team.

In addition to Schulte, the team members are Carson Hank of Aledo, Gabrielle Lemenager of Kankakee, Rob Johnson of Niantic, and Amy Loschen of Kankakee. Together they placed 1st in swine, 2nd in cattle, 2nd in sheep and goats, 3rd in oral reasons, and 1st overall.

Individual honors went to Lemenager for 3rd-high individual overall in the contest. She was also 1st in cattle, 6th in swine, and 12th in oral reasons. Johnson finished 2nd in swine, 4th in cattle, and 5th-high overall individual. Schulte placed 8th in sheep, 10th in swine, 11th in oral reasons, 12th in cattle, and 6th overall. Loschen was high individual in swine, 2nd in sheep, 9th in oral reasons, and 7th overall. The team was coached by Illinois graduate student Chance Meteer.

In addition to being named national champions, the team qualified to represent as the competing team for the United States at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh, Scotland, which took place in June.
After their win in Kentucky, the team was praised by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn. “In Illinois, we know the best when we see it. Our judging team, the best in the nation, will soon show the world that we not only produce the best crops and livestock, but we also turn out some pretty impressive and talented young leaders as well. I join the entire state of Illinois in wishing the livestock judging team the best of luck in Scotland.”

“This is a great opportunity and an honor for us,” added Meteer. “These kids worked all fall for the competition in Kentucky. When we won, it was a huge privilege for us to be asked to represent Illinois and the United States at the Royal Highland Show.”

The Illinois 4-H Foundation sponsored the team to compete at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Competition. The Foundation also partially supported the team’s trip to Scotland to compete at the Royal Highland Show.

The Illinois 4-H Livestock Judging team won the 2014 National 4-H contest in Louisville, Kentucky. Pictured (from left): Carson Hanks, Mercer County; Gabrielle Lemenager, Kankakee County; Rob Johnson, Sangamon County; Amy Loschen, Kankakee County; Tyson Schulte, Rock Island County; and Chance Meteer, the team’s coach.

Fulton County 4-Her awarded Illinois 4-H Livestock Scholarship

The Illinois 4-H Livestock Scholarship, sponsored by LA-CO Industries, recognizes an outstanding 4-Her who was enrolled in livestock projects for a minimum of three years and plans to pursue a career in the agricultural sector.

This year, Fulton County 4-Her Ryan Spangler earned the $1,000 scholarship. During his 11-year 4-H career, Spangler served as club president for two years, raised his county’s Grand Champion ewe, and earned multiple showmanship awards. He plans to study agribusiness at Western Illinois University before going on to raise sheep and sell seed corn and agrochemicals.

Ryan Spangler received the Illinois 4-H Livestock Scholarship.
The Illinois 4-H Foundation annually recognizes one 4-H volunteer in every county as a Hall of Fame winner, honoring exemplary service to the Illinois 4-H program. This year marked the 10-year anniversary of the award. The 66 recipients were honored at the 4-H Family Event held in August at the State Fair. Each inductee receives a commemorative medallion and has been added to the virtual 4-H Hall of Fame (go.illinois.edu/IL4H_Hall_of_Fame).

“These long-time volunteers fully embody what 4-H strives to instill in youth,” said Angie Barnard, director of the Foundation. “They are caring, dedicated, generous leaders, and the Illinois 4-H Foundation is extremely proud to be able to provide this honor to thank each of them for their service.”

Each year, the Illinois 4-H Foundation recognizes a 4-H family that has substantially benefited from 4-H and has been an advocate for the Illinois 4-H program over multiple generations. This year, the Harry and Mabel Pratt Family, of Livingston County, received the Family Spirit Award at the 4-H Family Event held Saturday, August 9, at the State Fair. In total, 49 individuals have achieved 367 years of 4-H membership over the course of four generations. They have also contributed more than 440 volunteer hours to 4-H.

To be nominated, a family must have three generations of representation; 15 different family members (including in-laws) who have been either 4-H members, leaders, or volunteers; and 100 cumulative years of 4-H membership or volunteerism.
Illinois at National 4-H Dairy Conference

Each year, Illinois is represented by two Dairy Project State 4-H Award Winners at the National 4-H Dairy Conference, where they learn about the production, processing, marketing, and use of dairy products as well as career opportunities in the dairy industry. With support from the Illinois 4-H Foundation, 4-Hers Emma Schwoerer of McLean County and Rachel Koehn of Will County attended the conference with Andrea Schwoerer, who chaperoned the group. The event was held at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in conjunction with October’s World Dairy Expo.

State 4-H Award winners represent Illinois at National 4-H Congress

In 2013, 25 members represented Illinois at the National 4-H Congress. These finalists were chosen as State 4-H Award winners in one of nine award areas, which include achievement, community involvement and global awareness, engineering and technology, and personal development, among others. At the 92nd National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia, Illinois 4-Hers participated in leadership workshops, hands-on service projects, and local tours, and they heard from inspiring speakers and entertainers during the meeting’s plenary sessions.

Through your donor support, the Illinois 4-H Foundation provided each delegate with $750, which is half of the cost to attend the National 4-H Congress.

Six 4-Hers attend 2014 National 4-H Conference

At National 4-H Conference, Illinois 4-Hers join together with youth from across the country to learn about civic engagement. In April, six Illinois 4-Hers attended the conference at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. In addition to participating in workshops and roundtable discussions, delegates brief federal agencies and partners on a specific youth-related issue and meet with federal legislators to discuss Extension and 4-H programming.

When the delegates return to Illinois, they put their new skills into action while working on a special project of their choosing. This year’s delegates worked on individual projects that ranged from working with 4-H military youth to teaching younger youth about nutrition.

The Illinois 4-H Foundation supports 4-Hers who attend this conference by funding their conference registration, flight, and accommodations.

2014 National 4-H Conference delegates (from left): Angelica Lebron, Will County; Shelby Ledbetter, Rock Island County; Cameron Parks, McLean County; Justene Jennings, DeKalb County; Emily DeSchepper, Knox County; and Lauren Parks, McLean County.
4-Hers visited DC for Citizenship Washington Focus

Illinois 4-Hers strengthened their communication, leadership, and citizenship skills during Citizenship Washington Focus, a week-long conference for 4-Hers ages 14 to 19.

While in DC, 22 Illinois 4-Hers learned the importance of civic and social responsibilities as they developed into better citizens and leaders through hands-on learning set in the historical backdrop of the nation’s capital. Delegates met with federal legislators and toured many popular museums and historical sites.

Costs for the trip were kept low thanks to generous funding from the John Clyde Spitler & Walter M. Johnson Scholarship Fund and other individual donations to the Illinois 4-H Foundation.

During Citizenship Washington Focus, Illinois 4-Hers visited the National World War II Memorial, which is dedicated to Americans who served in the armed forces and as civilians during World War II.

The group toured many historical sites, including Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia.

At Citizenship Washington Focus, 4-Hers met with Congressman John Shimkus (center), U.S. Representative for the Illinois 15th congressional district.
The 4-H Legacy of Leadership

The 4-H Legacy of Leadership scholarship recognizes outstanding high school seniors and 4-Hers completing their final year of membership. The scholarship is awarded based on lifelong 4-H accomplishments, leadership, community service, and educational goals.

More than 67 4-Hers have earned this $1,000 merit-based scholarship since its inception in 2003. This year, the Illinois 4-H Foundation named six Legacy of Leadership Scholars at the Illinois 4-H Foundation Family Event during the Illinois State Fair.

Annie Geitner is a 10-year member of the Delong Livestock Club of Knox County. She is attending the University of Illinois in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, where she plans to study food science and human nutrition with a concentration in either dietetics or food science. “Due to her involvement in the 4-H food, nutrition, and health curriculum, Annie has decided to pursue her interest in helping others achieve healthier living,” said Denise Oberle, 4-H assistant dean and director.

Codie Geisz, a nine-year member of the Top Notchers 4-H Club, is attending Kirkwood Community College. “With the help of 4-H, Codie found her love of cooking and the science involved in preparing food,” Oberle said. Upon graduation, Codie wants to educate consumers on where their food comes from and how it is produced and even open her own business.

Paige Logan is a member of Lit’l Bit Country 4-H Club and Effingham County 4-H Youth Ambassadors. Paige is pursuing a degree in communications disorders and sciences at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. “Through her community service,” Oberle said, “Paige realized her passion to help others.”

Josephine Needs is a nine-year member of the Pouncing Panthers 4-H Club and LaSalle County 4-H Federation. She is a freshman at Wheaton College studying music and applied health science. Josephine plans to combine her love of music and passion for helping others by using music in therapy as a medical speech pathologist.

Lauren Parks is a 10-year member of the Homespun and Stylistics 4-H Clubs of McLean County. Lauren is attending Heartland Community College to earn an associate’s degree in science. She plans to transfer to a four-year university to complete a degree in elementary education. “Lauren hopes to become a schoolteacher and share her love of learning with children,” said Oberle.

Ryan Spangler is an 11-year member of Checkrow Volunteers 4-H Club in Fulton County. Ryan attends Spoon River Community College and will receive his associate’s degree in agribusiness in 2015. He plans to transfer to Western Illinois University to study agribusiness with the intention of continuing to raise sheep and sell seed corn and agrochemicals.

The Legacy of Leadership scholarships were provided through generous donations from Lila Jeanne Eichelberger, Farm Credit Illinois, Keith Parr, Tim and Belinda Carey, the Nellie R. McCannon Trust, and Nann Armstrong, said Angie Barnard, director of the Illinois 4-H Foundation. To learn more about this prestigious scholarship or download an application, visit go.illinois.edu/IL4H_Legacy_of_Leadership.
Annual Report on Giving

“For it is in giving that we receive.” – Francis of Assisi

The Illinois 4-H Foundation would like to thank the many individuals, businesses, trade associations, and organizations that provide financial support for our 4-H programs. Your support is the reason we can continue to fund outstanding 4-H opportunities in Illinois that give our youth opportunities to grow, learn, and succeed. The following contributions—each one important and appreciated—were made between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

**Individually**

### $5,000+

**Cook County**
Mark and Susan Scheppler

**DuPage County**
Barbara Schneider

**McHenry County**
Charles and Helen Ruth

**McLean County**
Eugene Funk III

**Sangamon County**
Evelyn Branahl Thomas

**California**
Nancy Bennett

**Florida**
Robert Osterland

**Indiana**
Richard McFarland

### $2,500–4,999

**Champaign County**
Ira and Rebecca Lynn Weisel Wachtel

**Kendall County**
Nannette Armstrong

**McHenry County**
Jim and Cheryl Wormley

**Indiana**
Monica Masten

**Maryland**
Kristina Herriott

### $1,000–2,499

**Champaign County**
George and Nancy Daigh

Lila Jeanne Eichelberger
Sheri Seibold

**Cook County**
George and Barbara Rundquist Clark
Roger Clark
Paul and Kristen Hadden
Christine Wicklein and Theodore Schwartz

**DuPage County**
Keith and Lissa Parr
John and Anne Zick

**Grundy County**
Kevin Carey
Tim and Belinda Carey

**Henry County**
Wilbur Nelson
Bill and Jane Wylffels
Robert and Vicky Wylffels

**Johnson County**
Jeffrey and Kim Martin
Glenn and Phyllis Webb

**McHenry County**
Louise and David Rogers

**Menard County**
Mary Kay Frank-Tasset

**Sangamon County**
Karl and Heather Barnhart

**Stephenson County**
Pete and Beverly Haselhorst

**Tazewell County**
Gregg and Cindy Sauder

**Will County**
Stephen and Judy Francis

**Winnebago County**
Nester Asner and Carrie Sharkey

### $500–999

**Bureau County**
Ron and Denise Oberle

**Cass County**
Charles Taylor II and Judith Taylor

**Champaign County**
Matt and Angie Barnard
Stephen and Marni Rappart
Andrew Edwards
Deb Eisenmann
William and Anita Million
Delmar and Phyllis Wilken

**Cook County**
Sandra Lignell

Michael and Alee Lynch Gunderson

**Iowa**
Carol and Patsy Thrivett Bolen

### $250–499

**Adams County**
Arthur and Sharon Tenhouse

**Boone County**
Lon Hoegberg

**Bureau County**
Stephen and Julie Danielson
Douglas and Patricia Wiggim

**Carroll County**
Walter and Lavonne Nelson

**Champaign County**
Douglas and Mary Bauling
Mary Hoffman
Lora Mae and Kenneth Kesler
Jo Menacher
James and Carol Neilson
Richard Schicht
Rodney Stoll

**Vermilion County**
Richard Schlacht

**White County**
Roger and Ranelle Hubbele

**Arizona**
Frank Graham

**Colorado**
Ralph Ziegler

**Georgia**
Larry and Ann Gerdes

**Indiana**
Ross and Nancy Muehling

**Vermont**
James Parochetti

**Virginia**
James Parochetti

**West Virginia**
Linda Kutilek and David Pyle

**Annual Report on Giving**

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James and Joyce Jensen
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John and Edith Massey
Gene Pessman
Stacy and Cynthia Peterson
Vera Shatze
Douglas and Abigail Temple
Leola Woodworth
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Joseph and Angelina Caffarin
Dale Cooper
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Stacey Henneman
Karen Sue Marsh
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William and Margaret Smith
Allen and Valerie Stabenow

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$5,000+
Alliance Contractors, Inc.
AT&T
Best Buy Children’s Foundation
Caterpillar Foundation
The Chrysler Foundation
1st Farm Credit Services
IAA Foundation
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Illinois Farm Bureau
John Deere Foundation
McLean County Farm Bureau
National 4-H Council
Pfizer Foundation

$2,500–4,999
AgReliant Genetics, LLC
Albert K. Krause, Jr. Family Trust
Champaign County Surplus Store, Inc.
COUNTRY Financial CC Services, Inc.
DuPont Pioneer
General Mills Foundation
The GROWMARK Foundation
Midwest Dairy Association
Wyffels Hybrids, Inc.

$1,000–2,499
AgriGold Hybrids
Brandt Consolidated Inc.
Bussey Wealth Management
Clark County 4-H Foundation
Clark County 4-H Leaders
Farm Credit Illinois
Glenn Webb Family Farm
LA-5 Industries, Inc.
Land of Lincoln Purebred Livestock Breeders Association
McLean County Sportsmen’s Association
Monsanto Company

$500–999
Baudino Farm & Trucking
Big R Stores

C & R Transfer, Inc.
Cargill, Inc.
Channel Seed
Commerce Bancshares Foundation
Community Foundation of the Quincy Area
Dahn Enterprises, Inc.
DuPage County Farm Bureau
Effingham Equity
Elite Tool and Wire
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
The Fresh Market
Illinois Association of Junior High School Councils
Illinois Park Producers Association
Land O’ Lakes Foundation
Meier Brothers Tire Supply, Inc.
Psychological Assessment Resources, Inc.

$250–499
Alpine Bank & Trust Company
Ashkum Chargers 4-H Club
Ashkum Go-Getters 4-H Club
C&H Builders, Inc.
Custom Flooring & Interiors, Inc.
Danforth Blue Ribbon 4-H and Cloverbud Club
Diekemper Brothers, Inc.
GMS Laboratories, Inc.
Gray Cemetery Trust
Harvard Farmers Market
Illinois-Iowa Detachment Marine Corps League
Kankakee Community College
Mayrowe Auction Co., Inc.
The Northern Trust Company
Owings Ag Service
PNC Foundation
Premier Cooperative, Inc.
Rocky Road Power, LLC
Rossville Packing Company, Inc.
Share Foundation
TJX
United Technologies Corporation
Westchester Group Investment Management, Inc.

$100–249
A & P Holistic Bodywork & Massage
Abbott Fund
Abe Lincoln Appraisal Service
Adlit Farms
AI Enterprises 2000, Inc.
Android Industries Belvideura LLC
Arends Brothers, LLC
Arends Hogan Walker LLC
Bank of Modesto
Barnard Farms
Baskets by Deb Tilbury
Bergschneider, LLC
Bock & Associates
Book Farm
Brendel Architects, LLC
Carrollton Farmers Elevator Co.

CloverSeed WINTER 2014 37
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Carroll County 4-H

Curtis Keim

Warren County 4-H

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Marvin and Debrah Hobbs

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Cheryl Worley

Mary Straub

Patricia and Ronald Hartmann

Eric Yoder
Lori Yoder

Memorials

Antoinette Amigon
Roanoke, Illinois
March 26, 1929–
March 27, 2014
Christina S. Lilja

Francis Barnes
Wyoming, Illinois
February 6, 1939–
March 31, 2014
Stacey Henneman

Scott and Sandra Ehle
Bob and Jan Fennell
Patrick Finnegan
Eugene and Joanne Gill
Josephine Holtenbery
Elise Leak
Michael and Diane McDaniel
Kenneth McGravey
Debra Barnes-Owens
Robert and JoAnn Palmer
James and Jeanette Pritchard
Sherry Rockwell
Stephen Schaffer
Gordon Stagg
Bradley and Christine Uken

Helen Francis Boggan
Wilmington, Illinois
November 1, 1919–
April 11, 2013
Annabelle Burgland
Stephen and Judy Francis
Sandra Orbaugh-Olson
Debra and Dale Stocker

Marcella Scott Brown
Bedford, Texas
November 28, 1929–
February 8, 2014
Michael Brown
Thomas and Judy Weber

Shirley Clark
Mahomet, Illinois
May 9, 1927–May 1, 2014
Louise and David Rogers

Belle Drake
Urbana, Illinois
May 13, 1974–July 25, 2004
Harold and Nancy Drake

Mary Harris
Champaign, Illinois
December 7, 1934–
February 3, 2014
Sheri Seibold
Dole and Debra Stocker

Wayne Heberer
Belleville, Illinois
May 6, 1937–
September 10, 2013
Julia Heberer

Lowell Keim
Mt. Carroll, Illinois
January 22, 1918–
March 15, 2014
Scott and Nancy Armbrust
Stacey Henneman
Daniel and Constance Homickel
Christopher Keim
Norma Mackey
Karen Marsh
Gene and Kay McCoy
David and Nancy Mass
Greg and Marcia Schueller
Ruth Strauch

Mary Leon Kepley
Ingham, Illinois
November 13, 1928–
September 28, 2013
Vivian Horn

Cisco Systems Foundation
City Slickers Farm LLC
Claytonville 4-H Club
Close Farms
Cloverdale Maidens 4-H Club
Crescent City Barn Bangers
Diamond B Farms
Donovan Ag 4-H Club
EC & JR Farms
Edgar County Bank & Trust Company
Erdman Dairy, LLC
Ernest G. Potter, Ltd. Certified Public Accountant
Evergreen Park American Legion Auxiliary Unit 854
First National Bank of Brownstown
First State Bank of Beecher City
Ford-Haasquis Sharpshooters
Franklin Display Group
Groskreutz Schmidt Abraham
Herdman Brothers Tire Service
M. Davis Management, Inc.
Haycraft Enterprises, Inc.
Hillside Stock Farm Holders, Inc.
Horse Creek Outfitters Inc.
Horse Quest Unlimited
Hylton Farm Polland-Ilinois Extension Professionals
for Youth Education
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Lamb and Wool Producers, Inc.
Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, Inc.
Illinois Wool & Fiber Mill
J B Esker and Sons Inc.
Concrete Construction Company
Kleinit Farms
Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation
Kraft Foods Inc.
L&M Commodities, Inc.
Laborers International Union of North America Local Union #677
Lash Farming, Inc.
Law-Rae Manor Dairy Farm
Lee County Extension Foundation
Lindgren Enterprises, Inc.
Logan Avenue Self Storage
M Davis Management Company, Inc.
Mark Wills Pioneer Seed
Marley Pork Farms, Inc.
McCall Feed, Inc.
McGrew Brothers
McGrew Feedlot Equipment
Meier Brothers Tire Service
Mercer Valley Irrigation
Memlife Foundation
Milford Sugar Creek 4-H Club
Mills Grove Challengers 4-H Club
Mixer Lumber Company, Inc.
Monroe County Farm Bureau
Monsanto Seed
Motorola Solutions Foundation
NDK America, Inc.
Ollman Ernest Martin
Architects
Onarga Pride
The P.A.T.C.H. Foundation – Painters & Allied Trades for Children’s Hope
Pence Oil Company
Pizzio Palace of Gilman
Ponderosa 4-H Club
Porcine Partners
Prairie Fire 4-H Club
Prospect Bank
R & D Walker Farm
Rochester State Bank
Rockford Linear Actuation, Inc.
Schmidt’s Pizza Palace
Shoup Manufacturing
Company
Sorrells Farm Supply, Inc.
Steiner Furniture
Stillwell Farms
Swedish American Hospital
T. Rowe Price Foundation
Nancy G. Thrall
Walter Brothers
Watseka Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep
WM. Beck Auction & Realty
Woodworth Kountry Klovers
4-H Club
$1–99
Abbe Insurance, LLC
Allaman Angus Farms
Ameren
B and Company Designs
Bahns Equipment, Inc.
Bayer Home Center
Bar-Mac Farm
Beecher City Journal & Mudshark Studios
Beeler Farms
Behrends Farm & Home
Beyers Farms
Borgo Farms, Inc.
Bork Family Trust
Brad Peters Agency, Inc.
The Branded Barn
Brooks Farms
Brown Farms
Buckley State Bank
Butzow Welding
Carroll Service Company
Casey’s General Store #1026
Chebanse Little Ducks 4-H Club
CIF Rail
Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Clover Leaf Farm
Compass Insurance Partners
Cook County’s Incredible Bikers
Coon Creek Sod Farms
Coordinated Financial Services, Inc.
Covenant Animal Clinic
CrapTech Consulting, Inc.
Crossroads Cloverbuds
Danforth Blue Ribbon 4-H & Cloverbuds Club
David Carroll, Inc.
E. Knodle Farms, Inc.
Far Property Services Inc.
Feed-N-Time Feeds
First National Bank of Steeleville
G & E Roskamp, Inc.
Garfield Lounge
The Gathering Shop
Gilman Victory 4-H Club
Gray Farm Productions, Ltd.
Green Apartments
Griswold Feed & Pet Supply
Haley Bros. Contracting, Inc.
Hartmann Farms, Inc.
Harvest Sunset Candle
Helen Eriney Cone, Inc.
Heritage Farms Grain & Dairy, Inc.
Heritage FS, Inc.
Hobbs Angus
Husmann Family Trust
IBM Matching Grants Program
Illiana Backyard Fun, Inc.
Illinois Heartland Decorative Artists
Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team
Iroquois Cafe
J & J Farm Account
James L. Akers Farm
Jansen Cable Construction, Inc.
John Deere Foundation
Johnson & Sons, Inc.
K & K Truck Plaza & Restaurant
Kentland Farms
KingDanforth Agency, Inc.
Knapp & Steiner True Value Hardware
Knolts Ltd.
The Laff
The Longbranch
Luke’s One Stop
Manny’s Saloon & Grill
Maple Lane Farm
Marion M. Edin Insurance
Meyer Davis Farms
Monical’s Pizza
Mutch Farms, Inc.
Network for Good
Otson Acres
Otter Creek Acres
Oxford Enterprises Production Office
Paulin Farm
Prairie Champions 4-H Club
Prairie Lands Quilts
Professional EyeCare Center
ProHarvest Seeds, Inc.
Rick Meyer Auto Body & Pickup Accessories
Rippelmeyer Farms Inc.
Rock Island County Association for Home and Community Education
Ron Schmidt Farms, Inc.
Scheid Diesel Service Company, Inc.
Schippers Show Swine
Schmidt Electric/Square D. Foundation
Schaff Farm Service Inc.
Schoolman Farms II
Schhoeney’s
Schumacher Electric
Seed Source LLC
Shady Ridge Farm
Sheila’s Sunny Bloomers
Spoon River Bowl, Inc.
Spring Point Rebels 4-H
State Bank of Speer
State Street Salon
Tazewell County County Association for Home and Community Education
US Bank National Association
Van-Oka Farms, Inc.
WAB Insurance Agency, Inc.
Wal-Mart
Walton & Haarmann Vet Clinic
Warren County
Wayne Cruise Farms
Wells Fargo Foundation
Welsh Brothers
Wm. Nobbe & Co.
Wright Farm’s Show Pigs

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An endowment can be created to continuously benefit a 4-H initiative or county 4-H program with a minimum gift of $15,000.

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4-H Citizenship Memorial Award Fund
4-H Dairy Judging Contests Endowment Fund
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4-H Endowment Fund
4-H Equine Excellence Endowed Fund
Farm Credit Services of Illinois Endowed Fund for the Annual Support and Sponsorship of the Illinois 4-H Project Partners Program
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Thank you to the following individuals who have included the Illinois 4-H Youth Development Program in their estate planning.

John and Beatrice Bagby
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Diane Schroeder
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Phyllis Summers
Susan and Ronald Warsaw

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This report recognizes all donors who have generously supported the Illinois 4-H Foundation through their financial contributions from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of information.

In the interest of economy, computerized methods have been used wherever possible in compiling names. Please forgive any errors or omissions that may have occurred. We ask that you notify the Illinois 4-H Foundation of any mistakes so that we can correct our records. Thank you.

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Many of us have been impacted by 4-H, its members, and its volunteers. Tell us about how you felt when you got that first blue ribbon or made your first presentation. Reminisce about the cooking project that didn’t go according to plan. Tell us the feelings of giving back to your community. Share your 4-H story with the Illinois 4-H Foundation at 4hfoundation.illinois.edu/former-members and inspire today’s 4-H members who are still making their own memories.

4-H cookbooks are available!

You don’t have to be in the 4-H Chefs Cooking Club to try out great 4-H recipes. Favorite Recipes of Illinois 4-H Through the Years features 150 quintessential 4-H recipes from the past 60 years. These recipes were gathered from 4-H food project books. Buy your copy online at 4hfoundation.illinois.edu or at your local Extension office. Orders can also be placed by phone at 217-333-2007.