



VANTAGE

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4-H RENEWABLE ENERGY CAMP PREPARES YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE

Since 2010, 4-H participants at 4-H Renewable Energy Camp have explored ideas, research and opportunities in the field of energy as it relates to natural resources and agriculture.

The 2015 4-H Renewable Energy Camp, held July 6-10 at Michigan State University, was sponsored in part by the **Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative and the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.** Gifts to 4-H Renewable Energy Camp support the Science Literacy priority area for *The Campaign for Michigan 4-H's Future*.

During the camp, the 39 youth participants aged 13-19 learned about solar, wind and bioenergy, heard from experts in the field and visited renewable energy production sites.

"The youth spent five days exploring ideas, research and hands-on opportunities in the field of energy," said Insa Raymond, MSU Extension educator responsible for 4-H Renewable Energy Camp. "They interacted with leading scientists and engineers at MSU and in the industry, who provided insights into the latest innovations in biofuel production and technology and other alternatives to fossil-based fuels such as solar and wind energy. The field of renewable energy and related technology and career opportunities are growing and changing fast. At the Renewable Energy Camp, youth were exposed to degrees, jobs and career opportunities within this exciting new field."

The teens visited companies that are taking the latest discoveries of science and turning them into real products that have impact in local communities and around the world. They toured and did hands-on activities at Carbon Green Bioenergy, Kellogg Biological

Station, HomeWorks and a substation specializing in the transfer of wind energy.

Natalie Modrich, St. Clair County 4-H'er, has attended the camp three times and will serve as a teen adviser in 2016.

"4-H Renewable Energy Camp is a week filled with non-stop knowledge, hands-on interaction and idea sharing with people from all over Michigan – sometimes even other states," Modrich said. "It's a very beneficial and educational yet fun week that is well worth part of your summer vacation."

Youth also conducted experiments, made biofuel, designed and tested wind turbines, and designed and raced solar-powered cars. Participants were also granted access to many of the resources that the MSU campus has to offer, including many lab tours and faculty presentations.

"My favorite part of 4-H Renewable Energy Camp is the hands-on activities we complete while meeting new people. My first time attending camp, at only 13 years old, I used technology in the labs that I could have only dreamed about," she said. "Making biofuel for the first time throughout the duration of the week was very educational. I had no idea so many tests had to be done before it went to market.

"We take a plethora of field trips in such a short amount of time; as a result, we are able to experience many real-world scenarios of how renewable energy is affecting our lives every day," Modrich said.

"My biggest take-away from camp is how much using renewable energy will benefit our future. For example, cutting

See Renewable Energy Camp, page 3



Participants at the 4-H Renewable Energy Camp, held July 6-10, 2015, visited the HomeWorks Community Solar Garden in Portland, Mich. to learn about solar energy.

FOUNDATION MEMBERS ELECT TRUSTEES

Board elections were held during the Michigan 4-H Foundation annual membership meeting Oct. 2.

Trustees are volunteers who serve as community advocates for 4-H and lead and manage the operations of the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Pamala R. Babbitt, of Muskegon; **Mary F. Draves**, of Midland; **Jennifer Vincent Kiel**, of St. Johns; and **Michael T. Wehner**, of Pigeon, were re-elected to three-year terms on the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees.

Sheila Wade Kneeshaw, of Detroit; **Loren G. King**, of Burr Oak; and **Alondra G. Alvizo**, of Dearborn Heights, were elected as trustees. King and Alvizo fill two of three positions on the foundation's board held for young people between the ages of 16 and 22.



Sheila W. Kneeshaw

Kneeshaw joins the board as the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association (WNF&GA), Michigan Division representative, a position most recently held by Claudia Scioly and a tradition that began with the incorporation of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Kneeshaw serves as president of the Indian Village Branch,

WNF&GA. Before retiring and transitioning to community volunteer leadership roles, Kneeshaw worked for 40 years as an employee of the city of Detroit, serving in roles that included economic development manager and project manager for the Fox Theatre and the Atheneum Hotel. She is an avid gardener and arts activist.

King is president of St. Joseph County's Burr Oak 4-H Club, and a member of the Burr Oak Bucketsful Goat Club and the Sauwauseebee Horse Club. King, a high school senior, has served as a representative on the Branch County 4-H Youth Council,



Loren G. King

the State 4-H Youth Leadership Steering Committee, the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council and the 4-H Capitol Experience Steering Committee, and to the World Food Prize-Global Youth Institute. He also served as a facilitator at 4-H Capitol Experience and World Food Prize. In addition to his 4-H involvement, King currently serves as a Michigan FFA regional vice president and chapter vice president. He previously served as FFA chapter junior reporter and historian. He was also the St. Joseph County 4-H Fair King in 2013.



Alondra G. Alvizo

Alvizo is a Michigan State University student pursuing a degree in agribusiness management. Alvizo is a co-founder and vice president of the Giving Hope 4-H Club in Wayne County and also serves as a Healthy Living statewide ambassador. Currently, Alvizo works for MSU Extension translating

audio files and documents from English to Spanish and Spanish to English for MSU Extension Family and Nutrition Education programs. She previously was an intern for MSU Extension in financial homeownership education and also worked as an MSU Genetic Engineering Research Lab assistant, where she analyzed soybean growth and reproduction. Additionally, Alvizo helped lead a summer dance program at Vista Maria in Dearborn Heights.

Trustees retiring from the board Oct. 2 were also recognized for their service to 4-H: **Polly Diehl**, of Holland; **Claudia Scioly**, Ann Arbor; **Hannah Haynes**, Southfield; and **Katelyn Walters**, Burr Oak.

Also retiring from the board Dec. 31 is **Ray Hammerschmidt** who will step down from his role as interim director of MSU Extension.

Jeffrey W. Dwyer will assume the interim director position on Jan. 1 and as such, also becomes a permanent trustee of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Dwyer is a senior associate dean in the MSU College of Human Medicine with primary responsibilities related to research and community engagement. In this role, he has been actively working with MSU Extension



Jeffrey W. Dwyer

since 2008, and has helped lead the Extension Health Research Team since it was created in 2014. Before joining MSU, Dwyer was a tenured professor at Wayne State University, where he was the director of the Institute of Gerontology and professor of sociology. He was the founding director of the Institute on Aging and a tenured professor of medicine at the University of Florida from 1999 to 2003. Dwyer received a bachelor's degree in sociology from California Lutheran University in 1982 and a doctorate in sociology from the University of Florida in 1988.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 31 – Donation deadline for 2015 gift tax credit.

Jan. 31 – Nominations due for the 4-H Emerald Clover Society Class of 2016. Nominate an outstanding Michigan 4-H alumnus today. See story on page 11 or learn more at: www.mi4hfdtn.org/ecs.

Mar. 14-Apr. 30 – Butterflies in the Garden exhibit at the Indoor Michigan 4-H Children's Garden. Learn more at: 4hgarden.msu.edu.

Apr. 1 – Outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens open. The Indoor Michigan 4-H Children's Garden is open year round.

May 11-13 – MSU Extension 4-H Retirees Reunion at Kettunen Center. Contact cmark@msu.edu for more information. Invitations to be mailed in early spring.

RENEWABLE ENERGY CAMP

continued from cover

back on petroleum usage by using bio-fuel such as ethanol and using earth's renewable resources, such as wind, water and sun to collect energy," she said.

"As a teen adviser for next year's camp, I will help plan and schedule the week. After attending this camp before, I know what we liked and didn't like. Also, what events or activities may be beneficial to add or replace," Modrich said.

Modrich is a junior in high school and has been in 4-H for 12 years. She is a member of the Top Hats & Tails 4-H Club and serves as treasurer of the Rustic Ramblers 4-H Club.

"I would like to study materials science and engineering at Iowa State University," Modrich said.

In fact, 97 percent of 4-H Renewable Energy Camp participants surveyed reported that the camp prepared them to attend college, and 89 percent indicated that they were more likely to pursue a career in the renewable energy field as a result.

The 4-H Renewable Energy Camp educational activities are also aligned with Michigan education standards and allow youth participants to earn digital badges for their portfolios. Similarly to scouting badges, digital badges visibly represent skills or goals a person has accomplished.

"Instead of wearing the badges, individuals place the digital badges in a digital backpack," said Jacob DeDecker, associate state 4-H leader and MSU Extension specialist. "Think of it as an online space to keep and sort all your badges. These badges can then show up on Facebook, Twitter and web pages to share with teachers or prospective employers."

Youth participating in 4-H Renewable Energy Camp have the opportunity to earn digital badges in solar energy, wind energy and bioenergy. Youth research a problem, design a solution and present their findings to the entire camp.

"Learning how to problem solve, work as a team and communicate are important life skills. In addition, youth engaged in these activities meet certain core science competencies that schools try to teach in the classroom," DeDecker said.

A team of MSU Extension staff members are working on a process to allow youth to receive school credit for the digital badges they earn by learning and demonstrating key competencies during out-of-school time activities, such as summer science camps.

"The project is still ongoing, and we have much more to research before an answer is provided, but what we do know is that digital badges offer a unique opportunity for students to show learning accomplishments. We also know that students, schools, after-school providers, colleges and employers all have interest and something to gain by pursuing this concept," DeDecker said.



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are pleased to report that The Campaign for Michigan 4-H's Future has surpassed the \$8 million mark. As of Oct. 31, 2015, gifts and pledges total \$8.15 million or 68 percent of the \$12.5 million campaign goal.

A major component of the campaign has been to raise awareness and support of local 4-H programs through the Make the Match County 4-H Endowment Campaign. Many friends have said yes to sustain 4-H programs in their communities through investments to establish and grow county 4-H endowments.

In addition to support for local 4-H programs, The Campaign for Michigan 4-H's Future has a \$4.5 million goal for statewide 4-H program support for science literacy; healthy lifestyles; leadership and civic engagement; workforce readiness and financial literacy; and volunteer development.

4-H leadership and civic engagement (LCE) is at 63% of the \$500,000 goal and has supported the New York Life Youth in Governance Project, 4-H Capitol Experience, international 4-H exchange programs, Michigan 4-H Youth Conservation Council, Operation Military Kids, the Monsanto Challenge and Ag Innovators experiences.

LCE programs provide young people with life-learning experiences to increase their ability to set goals, solve problems, make decisions, and enhance their written communication and public speaking skills.



I am 4-H. You are 4-H.
TOGETHER
 We are
THE CAMPAIGN FOR
 MICHIGAN 4-H'S FUTURE



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY MAKES THE MATCH FOR 4-H

St. Joseph County is one of 31 counties participating in the Make the Match County 4-H Endowment Campaign. Every dollar raised locally in St. Joseph and other participating counties is eligible to be matched dollar-for-dollar thanks to the Make the Match Campaign match fund, made possible by grants from the **Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation** and individual leadership gifts.

“You can’t miss. If there’s ever been a win-win situation, this is it!” said Fred Henningsen, St. Joseph County 4-H Make the Match Campaign Committee member and MSU Extension retiree. “Because of the income made off of the assets of the endowment fund, there’s going to be some dollars on an ongoing basis. Now the 4-H program doesn’t have to go back each year to ask for money. It takes the pressure off.

“This fund is going to give strength to 4-H educational programs.”

Annual earnings from the endowment fund’s investment can provide annual support for current 4-H program delivery, including scholarships for 4-H youth for out-of-county learning experiences and participation fees, or development of new programs and learning materials, or any future areas of great need to advance the county 4-H program.

Last spring, a St. Joseph County 4-H Make the Match Campaign committee was assembled to raise \$20,000 to establish the St. Joseph County 4-H Endowment.

Henningsen said Sally Stuby was the driving force in St. Joseph County.

“We do what we do to make a difference in the 4-H program,” Stuby said. “Without the committee, we wouldn’t have been nearly as successful. We assembled a small committee of people who have both passion for the program and who are highly recognized in the community – both youth and adults.”

Committee members are **Eva Beeker, Lynn Fiegel, Fred Henningsen, Tony Hochstetler, Sally Stuby, Wendy Walters** and youth representative **Loren King**.

In March, the committee sent letters to local 4-H supporters. Shortly thereafter, donations had exceeded the initial goal.

“We wrote a personal note at the top of the letters. It proved to be very successful,” Henningsen said. “I’ve never had a committee assignment with such little effort. People came out of the woodwork!”

The committee decided to increase the goal to \$25,000 and in no time once again surpassed that goal.

“A number of us picked some folks to follow up with. I’ve never had anything so easy, so successful.

“This county has always been recognized for its support of 4-H and this showed it,” he said.

The campaign goal is now \$35,000 – of which \$33,736 (96 percent) had been raised as of Oct. 31.

“We are almost to our \$35,000 goal,” Stuby said. “I’m hopeful we’ll have that done by the end of the year!”

Through October 2015, counties had raised \$561,027 in community support for county 4-H endowed funds. In order to be eligible for the foundation’s match, at least half of all gifts for a county endowed fund must be contributed by individual donors. (See the chart on page 5 for Make the Match County 4-H Endowment campaign progress by county.)

Additional counties participating in the Make the Match campaign are: Allegan, Arenac, Branch, Calhoun, Chippewa, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Grand Traverse, Hillsdale, Houghton/Keweenaw, Ingham, Ionia, Kalkaska, Lapeer, Lenawee, Macomb, Mason, Midland, Montcalm, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Sanilac, Washtenaw and Wayne. Gratiot County recently surpassed

See St. Joseph, page 5



The St. Joseph County 4-H Make the Match leadership donors and committee members were recognized in June. Pictured (L to R) are: Tony Hochstetler, Fred Henningsen, Eva Beeker, Dale Stuby, Wendy Walters, Lynn Fiegel, James Eley, Deanna and Dave Mumby, Jack and Kathleen Hensell, Beverly and David Sturgis, Susan Outman, Kurt Inman (representing Sturgis Bank and Trust Company), Sally Stuby and Monte Bordner.

MAKE THE MATCH COUNTY 4-H ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

County	Total Committed	Goal	% to Goal
Arenac	\$1,900	\$10,000	19%
Branch	\$15,980	\$50,000	32%
Calhoun	\$5,000	\$20,000	25%
Chippewa	\$14,281	\$50,000	29%
Clare	\$2,635	\$4,000	66%
Clinton	\$6,989	\$50,000	14%
Eaton	\$11,873	\$20,000	59%
Grand Traverse	\$7,939	\$50,000	16%
Gratiot	\$50,074	\$50,000	100%
Hillsdale	\$10,305	\$20,000	52%
Houghton-Keweenaw	\$13,335	\$25,000	53%
Ingham	\$18,169	\$50,000	38%
Ionia	\$19,710	\$50,000	39%
Kalkaska	\$10,967	\$10,000	110%
Kent	\$51,743	\$50,000	103%
Lapeer	\$10,975	\$50,000	22%
Lenawee	\$47,325	\$50,000	95%
Macomb	\$1,075	\$15,000	7%
Mason	\$26,375	\$30,000	88%
Midland	\$10,500	\$20,000	53%
Montcalm	\$47,062	\$50,000	94%
Muskegon	\$50	\$50,000	0.1%
Oakland	\$0	\$50,000	0%
Osceola	\$50,000	\$50,000	100%
Ottawa	\$13,450	\$50,000	27%
Sanilac	\$12,000	\$12,000	100%
Shiawassee	\$50,000	\$50,000	100%
St. Joseph	\$33,736	\$35,000	96%
Washtenaw	\$15,280	\$50,000	31%
Wayne	\$1,550	\$10,000	16%

The chart above shows Make the Match County 4-H Endowment campaign progress by county through Oct. 31, 2015 for the 31 counties participating in the match campaign.

ST. JOSEPH

Continued from page 4

the maximum match of \$50,000 joining Kent, Osceola and Shiawassee counties, which have also met the maximum match.

“We are pleased with the success that 4-H has seen in building such partnerships to grow endowments that can serve to ensure community-based Extension youth programming forever,” said Julie Chapin, state 4-H leader and director of the MSU Extension Children and Youth Institute. “There are volunteers working with Extension 4-H staff across the state building support for the future of 4-H youth development in their communities.”

FAMILY FARM AND HOME HOSTS FIRST STATEWIDE IN-STORE 4-H FUNDRAISER



From Aug. 29 through Sept. 7, 2015, Family Farm and Home raised over \$6,000 for Michigan 4-H by hosting a statewide in-store fundraiser to support 4-H programs in local communities.

Family Farm and Home partnered with Michigan 4-H and the Michigan 4-H Foundation to host a statewide in-store fundraiser to benefit 4-H programming in each of the communities where Family Farm and Home stores are located.

“We appreciate Family Farm and Home’s support of 4-H programs and look forward to continuing to partner on this effort,” said Julie Chapin, state 4-H leader and director of the MSU Extension Children and Youth Institute.

From Aug. 29 through Sept. 7, the 32 Family Farm and Home stores in Michigan collectively raised over \$6,000 for Michigan 4-H. During this period, Family Farm and Home cashiers asked customers to donate \$1 to Michigan 4-H. In return, customers received a coupon and information about 4-H. The funds raised will support 4-H youth development activities in the county where each store resides.

“Our 4-H donation campaign is a great opportunity for both Family Farm and Home and the communities we do business in to support our local 4-H programs,” said Tim Fansler, Family Farm and Home co-president and chief merchandising officer. “We’re proud to be able to give back to an organization that fosters learning and growth in our community’s youth, and we appreciate our relationship with Michigan 4-H.”

GIVING TO 4-H: IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVERS

Pending approval by Congress, qualifying donors can make tax-free IRA distributions by making a special gift to Michigan 4-H.

Donors aged 70½ or older may donate up to \$100,000 to charity by transferring an amount directly from an IRA to that charity and thereby reducing their taxable income for the current tax year.

How, why and key notes:

- Instruct your IRA custodian to distribute a gift amount directly to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. The entire gift amount qualifies as a charitable distribution.
- The gift amount is not included in your personal income for federal taxes.
- The gift amount can count toward required minimum IRA distribution for the tax year.
- Distribution cannot be considered an income tax charitable deduction. The gift is considered a tax-free gift because the donor doesn't pay taxes on the distribution if it's made directly to a charity.
- Distributions can be made only from traditional individual retirement accounts or Roth IRAs. Typically, 403(b), 401(k), pension and other retirement plans are ineligible for the tax-free distribution.

For more detailed information, call (517) 353-6692.

Remember, if approved, this opportunity ends Dec. 31, 2015 for 2015 tax credit!

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE GIFTS

Memorial and tribute gifts are charitable contributions that support Michigan 4-H. Memorial gifts are made in memory and tribute gifts in honor of special people. If you or your group would like to make a memorial or tribute gift, please complete this form and send it with your gift to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. **Gifts can also be made by calling the Michigan 4-H Foundation at (517) 353-6692 or online at www.mi4hfdtn.org.**

Enclosed is a gift of \$_____. In loving memory of _____ In tribute to _____

Send announcement of this gift to: Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Sent by: (Donor's Name) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

County _____ Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

4-H affiliation: 4-H alumnus, 4-H volunteer, 4-H member, 4-H friend, 4-H parent, 4-H staff member.

Payment by:

Check (Make checks payable to Michigan 4-H Foundation.)

Please charge my credit/debit card (check one): MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Name (as on card) _____ Credit Card No. _____

Exp. Date (mm/yy) _____ Signature _____

Mail to: Michigan 4-H Foundation, 535 Chestnut Road, Room 240, East Lansing, MI 48824

MICS 2751



KETTUNEN CENTER CARETAKERS SOCIETY GROWS ENDOWMENT

Kettunen Center received new endowment investments this year with the launch of the Kettunen Center Caretakers Society to grow the Kettunen Center Endowment Fund.

Founding Kettunen Center Caretakers Society membership gifts were received from the estate of **George and Victoria Rock**, **Rodney and Mary Bellows** and jointly from **Ingrid Thacker** and her nephew, **Brian Thacker**, in memory of her husband, Francis, and his father, Tom Thacker. Members receive a special silver leaf on the Kettunen Center Giving Tree.



George and Victoria Rock

George and Vicki Rock, of Cadillac, were long-time supporters and friends of 4-H and Kettunen Center. In 2006, they established the John F. and Andrea E. Grix Endowment for Kettunen Center to provide annual support for Kettunen Center operations and educational programs and to honor John and Andrea Grix, former Kettunen Center director and educational program

coordinator, respectively. Vicki passed away in December 2013, and George passed just two months later, in February 2014. They remembered Kettunen Center with an estate gift that qualified them for the Caretakers Society.

Vicki worked 21 years for the Midland school system and helped raise their three children. George, an Osceola County 4-H alumnus and Michigan State University graduate, worked 40 years for Dow Chemical Co., serving his last 15 years as business executive. After retiring, he became a venture capitalist partnering with MSU in technology. He was a member of the Rotary Clubs of both Midland and Cadillac for 30 years. Additionally, he was a founding contributor to the Mercy Hospital Endowment Fund and a co-founder of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy, and he helped create the Cadillac Area Community Foundation Endowment.

Rodney and Mary Bellows, of Cadillac, chose to honor their 4-H involvement through a gift to the Kettunen Center Caretakers Society. Mary and her sister were 4-H members and received 4-H scholarships allowing them to attend Michigan State University. Upon graduation, Mary pursued a career in both MSU Extension 4-H and teaching, and her sister had a career in teaching. Rodney is a retired optometrist who had a practice in Cadillac, where he and Mary raised their two children and now are proud grandparents. He served as a 4-H volunteer in Wexford County, with special interest in geocaching.

Ingrid Thacker, of LeRoy, wished to honor her late husband, Francis Thomas, and his 4-H involvement with this special gift and



Founding Kettunen Center Caretakers Society membership gifts were received from the estate of George and Victoria Rock, Rodney and Mary Bellows, and jointly from Ingrid Thacker and her nephew, Brian Thacker, in memory of her husband, Francis, and his father, Tom Thacker. Pictured above is Ingrid Thacker in front of the Kettunen Center Giving Tree.

also recently created a named endowment for Kettunen Center. **Brian Thacker** chose to also honor his father, Thomas Thacker, though this joint gift to Kettunen Center. The brothers, Francis and Thomas, grew up in 4-H together and took great pride in their 4-H achievements. Francis went on to manage the family farm and was very involved with community affairs. He served as the LeRoy Township supervisor and 25 years as an Osceola County commissioner. Additionally, he served 26 years on the Lake Osceola Soil Conservation District and over 20 years as a member of the LeRoy Historical Society. He was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church in LeRoy until his passing in July 2014.

Thomas Thacker graduated from MSU and taught high school agriculture for two years at East Jordan, Mich., where he remained active in 4-H until he was called to active duty in the Army Air Force. Following his service in WWII, Col. Thacker held various assignments worldwide, including the first professor of air science at Michigan College of Mining and Technology, Houghton, Mich. and logistics jobs at the Pentagon, among others. He retired from active duty in 1968 and became a real estate broker in Fairborn, Ohio, until 2000. He was president and founding member of Dawson Realty Inc., and served on the Greene County Board of Realtors. He was an adult leader and supporter of the Boy Scout program for over 60 years and a volunteer at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force for many years until his death in September 2012.

Growing endowed funds for Kettunen Center is a priority of the *Campaign for Michigan 4-H's Future*. As of Oct. 31, 2015, \$70,110 has been raised – 14% of the \$500,000 Kettunen Center Endowment goal.

NEW BATHROOMS TO OPEN IN OUTDOOR MICHIGAN 4-H CHILDREN'S GARDENS

In 2014, the Michigan 4-H Foundation received a generous estate gift from **Pete and Sally Smith**, which not only supported endowment and general operating support for the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, but also funded the construction of new bathrooms in the outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens.

"After 22 years we are very excited to finally be able to meet our visitors' needs with a state-of-the-art restroom that fits the garden, is environmentally-friendly and looks good outside and inside," said Norm Lownds, Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens curator.

In 2007, **Margaret Marshall Murdoch** funded the creation of the Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden in memory of her sister, **Mary (Sally) Marshall Smith** and brother-in-law **Donovan (Pete) Smith**. With that gift came the promise that the Michigan 4-H Foundation and Michigan 4-H Children's Garden would be supported by charitable remainder trusts created by the Smiths, who were both MSU alumni.

"Margaret was interested in supporting the 4-H Children's Garden because of the good things she heard, because her sister and brother-in-law loved to garden and because they were MSU graduates. We discussed doing something to honor her sister as quickly as possible – thus the Pete and Sally Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden. Longer term, we discussed doing something to make the gardens even better, and the biggest need there was restrooms and a drinking fountain.

"Margaret was dedicated to honoring her sister and brother-in-law with a garden. She became more excited about providing the facility infrastructure for the garden so that our visitors, especially families with young children, would have an even better experience that would likely encourage them to visit over and over.

"Margaret had been a teacher so she understood the need for the best facilities," Lownds said. "She wanted to honor and remember her sister, and she wanted to give back to their alma mater. The 4-H Children's Gardens provided a place where all of this could happen."

The new bathrooms are located between the outdoor 4-H Children's Garden and the Pete and Sally Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden.

"We completed construction just in time to test and then shut the water off for the winter. We will open the bathrooms to the public in the spring," Lownds said.

The new facility is a two-stall family restroom with sinks and drinking fountains to accommodate visitors to the gardens.

Solar tubes provide much of the daytime lighting, the faucets are automatic (solar-controlled), and the fixtures are on sensors to conserve water. Additionally, the doors are on timers to automatically lock each evening.



New bathrooms, funded by a generous estate gift from Pete and Sally Smith, were constructed between the outdoor 4-H Children's Garden and the Pete and Sally Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden. The bathrooms will open to the public in spring 2016.

The bathrooms will provide part of the east edge of the Pete and Sally Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden – plants will grow up the wall. The other side provides the backdrop for the Creation Station, which will have a new counter and sink with running water as a result of the bathroom construction.

"When designing the facility, we really took efficiency and sustainability into account," said Jessica Wright, 4-H Children's Gardens educational coordinator. "The designers wanted to maintain a level of whimsy with the structure, so they tried to mimic as best they could the existing Garden House structure.

"All the people that we have told about the new bathroom, both teachers and visitors, are very excited!" Wright said. "It will make everyone's visit to the garden much more enjoyable. Moms will be able to take strollers into the bathroom; students will be able to get drinks at the drinking fountain.

"The bathrooms are going to allow visitors to the gardens to enjoy more of their visit without having to leave the garden to use the facilities. It will also increase instruction time for field trips because these bathrooms are much closer," she said.



SIGMA ALPHA ENDOWMENT TO FUND NEW SCHOLARSHIP FOR 4-H'ERS

A new 4-H post-secondary scholarship was created this summer by the **Sigma Alpha Gamma Chapter** at Michigan State University (MSU).

Sigma Alpha is a professional agricultural sorority that promotes scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. The sorority established the Sigma Alpha Endowment at the Michigan 4-H Foundation to provide post-secondary scholarships for 4-H members who choose to attend Michigan State University. Sigma Alpha provided an initial gift to establish the fund this summer and will continue to grow the endowment over the next five years.

Rosalyn Brummette, the president of Sigma Alpha and a 4-H member of 15 years, elaborated on what led Sigma Alpha to create an endowment with the 4-H foundation.

"We wanted to create a scholarship for incoming students with a personal or professional interest in agriculture. After looking at our options, the Michigan 4-H Foundation posed the best long-term decision. Also, having had many of our members participate in the organization, we felt a special connection to creating a scholarship with the 4-H foundation," she said.

Sigma Alpha hosts fundraising events throughout the year whose proceeds have gone to Heifer International and the East Lansing Haven House, among others. Their main event is their annual duck race in the spring.

"Our sorority's annual duck race is a philanthropy event that plays on the Gamma chapter's mascot, the rubber ducky. Our members sell ducks for a couple dollars, and the buyers have the chance of winning prizes. We then send the rubber ducks down the Red Cedar River, with the first few finishers winning a



The Sigma Alpha Gamma Chapter, an agricultural sorority at Michigan State University (MSU), created an endowed 4-H post-secondary scholarship for 4-H'ers who choose to attend MSU.

prize," she said.

The Gamma chapter not only raises money to support their sponsored philanthropy but also hosts events to educate the community on the charities they support.

"The four pillars of Sigma Alpha are scholarship, leadership, fellowship and service. Our sisters strive to exemplify each pillar through the works of the sorority," Brummette said. Sigma Alpha represents the service pillar by participating in philanthropy events which allows members to positively contribute to the community.

The Gamma chapter also participates in a national service project, Ag in the Classroom, a grass-roots program coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Its goal is to help students gain a greater awareness of agriculture. Additionally, each fall the Gamma chapter trick-or-treats for canned goods and donates the collections to a local food shelter.

"Our members are hardworking females who hope to inspire other young women in 4-H to pursue a career in agriculture or continually promote the industry in the community around them," she said.

Sigma Alpha was founded in 1978 at The Ohio State University by five women who wanted an alternative to the social Greek system. Since that time, Sigma Alpha has become a national organization consisting of more than 80 chapters made up of undergraduate and alumni members. Today, more than 7,000 members have been initiated into Sigma Alpha.



Sigma Alpha's duck race is its major fundraiser each year. Sorority members sell rubber ducks and then release the ducks down the Red Cedar River. Pictured above are Sigma Alpha members at "The Rock" on the Michigan State campus.

2015-16 4-H MINI-GRANTS AWARDED TO LOCAL 4-H PROJECTS

The Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees annually approves the distribution of competitive grant funds to encourage development of innovative 4-H program opportunities in local communities. For the 2015-16 program year, 4-H mini-grants were awarded in four grant categories.

Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants, funded by the **Michigan 4-H Legacy Fund endowment**, encourage creativity and support the implementation of great ideas that promote positive youth development in communities. **Ionia County's 4-H Shamrocks Art Attack** received a \$1,000 grant to work with students in an after-school art club that will allow students to learn about various artists and styles of art. They will then be able to create their own art using what they have learned. The **Kent County 4-H Garden Tool Kits** also received a grant to create educational garden tool kits to be used both in and out of the classroom – a project built in response to a growing interest in urban gardens.

The **4-H Education Garden Grant** is made possible by the **Albert A. Albright Endowment for 4-H Plant Science and Gardening Education**. The **Inkster Public Library Community and Beautification Project** received the \$1,000 grant to help expand the current 4-H community garden project at the Inkster

Public Library, which allows participants to engage in hands-on gardening, community service and healthy living programming.

Two **On-Target County Grants** were funded by the **Thomas H. Cobb Shooting Sports Fund** to help enhance county 4-H shooting sports programs. The **Mason County Archery the Mongolian Way** project aspires to increase the number of youth who participate in archery and outdoor activities by first increasing their knowledge of and care for human-environmental interaction. The **Muskegon County Denim-n-dust Archery Club** also received a grant to teach youth safety first and proper use of equipment in hopes that 4-H archery will encourage youth and families to spend time in the outdoors.

The **4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Practicum** in **Kent** and **Ingham** counties received \$500 grants from the **NorthStar Cooperative 4-H Dairy Science Grant** to educate parents and leaders through an intensive day-long dairy cattle judging workshop, where they will learn, develop and practice evaluation skills and oral reasons. Also receiving the grant is **Thumb Dairy Odyssey** which will fund a monthly series of interactive dairy science learning experiences in Lapeer, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola counties.

4-H EMERALD CLOVER SOCIETY SEEKING NOMINEES

Nominate a Michigan 4-H alumnus today!

The Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society honors former Michigan 4-H members whose professional leadership and community service reflect the ultimate outcome of 4-H membership—extraordinary use of an individual's head, heart, hands and health to make communities, the country and the world better places in which to live. This recognition is provided by Michigan 4-H Youth Development with support from the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Nominees must be living and have been Michigan 4-H youth members for three or more years. Selection is based on evidence of professional and business achievement, leadership in community service and philanthropy, contributions to or impact on American society, and

significant leadership and achievement as a 4-H member.

Emerald Clover Society members include former 4-H'ers whose careers vary from politics, teaching and farming to entrepreneurs, community leaders and those who have dedicated their lives to 4-H. Some Emerald Clover Society members include former Gov. John Engler, former Michigan first lady Janet Blanchard, Mary Ellen Sheets and Fred Meijer. For the complete list of members, visit www.mi4hfdtn.org/ecs.

Honorees receive a recognition award, an exclusive Emerald Clover Society membership pin and individual biographical recognition on the society's website. Their names are also engraved on the 4-H Emerald Clover Society wall at Kettunen Center.



Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society members are inducted every two years. The inaugural class of 62 members was inducted in 2002 in honor of the national 4-H centennial. Subsequent classes were inducted in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014.

Nominations for the 4-H Emerald Clover Society class of 2016 are due Jan. 31, 2016.

For more information on the 4-H Emerald Clover Society, a nomination packet and a listing of the society's 146 members, visit www.mi4hfdtn.org/ecs or call the Michigan 4-H Foundation at (517) 353-6692.

VANTAGE

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Vantage is published for members of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. The foundation uses funds solicited from individuals and organizations to support 4-H youth and volunteer development programs. The foundation also owns and operates Kettunen Center, the state 4-H leadership training facility in Tustin.

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is licensed to solicit charitable gifts by the state of Michigan (MICS 2751). A report containing percentages of charitable contributions expended on program administration and fundraising is available by request.

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IN THE NEWS

Poultry Exhibition Ban & Avian Influenza Response Team honored

A team of MSU Extension educators and ANR Communications staff members received the Gordon Guyer Cross-Institute Team Award from MSU Extension for their work on a comprehensive plan to address the implications for Michigan 4-H'ers of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) cancellation of all poultry shows and exhibitions to help prevent a highly contagious, deadly strain of avian influenza from infecting the state's flocks.

Mich. 4-H staff members receive national honors

Darren Bagley, 4-H extension educator, and **Heidi Mudel**, Genesee County 4-H program coordinator, received

National Achievement in Service Awards. 4-H extension educators **Michelle Neff** and **Roxanne Turner** received National Distinguished Service Awards and **Sheila Urban Smith** received the National Meritorius Service Award.

MSU Extension partners with the Molina Foundation to give away 30,000 books

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension partnered with the **Molina Foundation** to give away 30,000 children's books. The books, valued at more than \$220,000, were distributed to Michigan youth through MSU Extension or MSU Extension partner programs this summer. This partnership between the Molina Foundation and MSU Extension began in 2011, and nearly 280,000 books have been distributed to date to Michigan youth ages birth to 18.

CORPORATE Clover Club

The Corporate Clover Club is an annual giving program recognizing corporate and business gifts over \$1,000. From July 1 to Oct. 31, 2015 gifts were received from:

- Andersons, Inc.
- Consumers Energy Foundation
- Corn Marketing Program of Michigan
- Dart Energy Foundation
- DeLaval Direct
- Family Farm & Home, Inc.
- General Mills Foundation/Yoplait
- Michigan Agricultural Commodities, Inc.
- Michigan Horse Council
- Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau
- Tractor Supply Co.
- Walmart
- Walther Three Rivers, LLC
- Zingerman's Roadhouse, LLC