



Budget crisis gives 4-H members a lesson in democracy

There is possibly no greater lesson on democracy for young people, than speaking out and having their voices heard and acted on by decision makers.

On Oct. 29, 2003, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm began a series of public forums on the state's budget crisis that included, among a list of potential budget cuts, the elimination of all state funding for the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) and Michigan State University Extension, which operates Michigan 4-H Youth Development.

After the shock came a storm of citizen action that resulted in the removal of both MSU Extension and MAES from the governor's Dec. 10 executive order announcing cuts to balance the state budget.

This is how just one county's 4-H members learned this lesson in democracy.

"I told him [State Rep. Carl Williams] that 4-H was one of the most important things that I do," said 14-year-old Lisa Hamilton, president of Saginaw County's Birch Run/Taymouth Trotters 4-H Club. "I feel more a part of our community, and it's something that I do with my family. I've made so many friends because of 4-H."

Hamilton, along with other Saginaw County 4-H members, volunteers and supporters, had an opportunity to share why they felt MSU Extension and MAES should be spared in the cuts during a legislative forum attended by the county's state senator, three state legislators and more than 200 supporters.

"Our 4-H council president sent a letter to all 4-H families and 4-H clubs to ask for local 4-H support," said Kim Towne, Saginaw County 4-H youth agent.

"Letters were then sent to our legislators inviting them to join a community forum and once they confirmed, folks were invited to the forum, letting them know the legislators were going to be there."

The planning team put together a list of 15 speakers representing various aspects of MAES research and Extension programming, who each wrote and shared a statement with the legislators on the impact of local MSU Extension programming. The team also took questions from the audience for legislators to answer.

Hamilton was one of the four teens assigned to host the legislators that evening.

"It was such an experience," Hamilton said. "We just covered the basics, but I felt I helped our club and the community."

And she did.

"When Rep. Carl Williams addressed the crowd that evening, he shared that what had the most impact for him that night was Lisa," Towne said.

"It was such an experience... , but I felt I helped our club and the community."

—Lisa Hamilton,
Saginaw County 4-H'er

Not all 4-H members who spoke out in support of MSU Extension and MAES had the opportunity to do so in face-to-face meetings with legislators, but many of them made sure their local legislators understood how important 4-H was to them.

According to the Gongwer News Service, Michigan residents

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Rep. Jim Howell, Rep. Carl Williams, Rep. John Moolenaar and Sen. Mike Goschka attended a forum hosted by Saginaw County 4-H members, volunteers and supporters to spare MSU Extension and MAES from the state's budget cuts.

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Explore, Experience, Achieve:

The Campaign for



Campaign reaches halfway mark

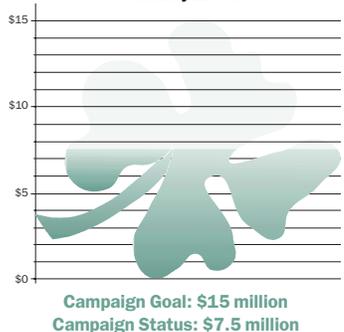
With receipt of an estate gift from Thelma Burleigh, the Campaign for 4-H reached 50 percent or \$7.5 million of its seven-year \$15 million goal.

This gift will be used to support Kettunen Center and 4-H youth citizenship, leadership and service programming through endowed and annual program investments. Thelma and Leonard Burleigh were strong supporters of youth leadership initiatives and provided financial support to establish a named endowment in 1997.

Gifts to the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden have surpassed the \$650,000 campaign goal — \$723,115 has been raised to date. Endowment support has also exceeded the 50 percent mark with 55 percent of the \$3.5 million campaign goal raised.

Unrestricted gifts continue to be a critical area of support. Foundation trustees are working to greatly exceed this goal to allow for increased flexibility in addressing new and contemporary youth development needs.

Campaign for 4-H Status
January 2004



Former Gov. James Blanchard with campaign co-chairs, wife Janet and Midland County 4-H'er Karley Hermans, at the Blanchards' Campaign for 4-H reception.

Blanchards launch campaign for corporate support

On Nov. 3, the Campaign for 4-H got a boost in corporate visibility with a reception for southeastern Michigan corporate leaders hosted by campaign co-chair Janet Blanchard and her husband, former Gov. James Blanchard, at their home in Beverly Hills, Mich.

The event provided opportunities for executives from the nine corporations represented that evening to learn more about the work of 4-H in the most urban region of the state and to meet and talk with 4-H members, foundation trustees and staff members.

Guests were welcomed by James Blanchard, who then introduced Janet. She shared her experiences as an Ingham County 4-H member and foundation trustee. She said she is often struck by the number of corporate leaders who grew up in 4-H as she did but are surprised at the number of young people in communities throughout Michigan who are still being reached by 4-H.

"We hear often that 4-H doesn't exist in Detroit, but that's not true — there are 33,000 young people involved in 4-H in Wayne County alone."

—Janet Blanchard

"We hear often that 4-H doesn't exist in Detroit, but that's not true — there are 33,000 young people involved in 4-H in Wayne County alone," she said. "We wanted to provide corporations and organizations in this region an opportunity to learn more about what 4-H is doing with kids today."

Gifts to the Campaign for 4-H can be made by cash and Visa and MasterCard credit or debit cards online at www.mi4hfdtn.org. To make a major gift to the foundation for unrestricted support or 4-H program priority areas support, or to establish and support an endowed fund, contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at (517) 353-6692.

Leadership transition process begins

The Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees and MSU Extension has begun the process of seeking new foundation leadership after the December 2003 resignation of Terry Langston, executive director since September 2002.

The foundation's transition team plans to fill the position by April 2004.

Langston announced plans to complete work on a doctorate and continue non-profit consulting.

Michigan 4-H Foundation staff members and trustees are available to answer questions related to supporting 4-H with charitable gifts at (517)353-6692.

Calendar

March 26 — Deadline for ordering an inscribed brick for placement in the outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Garden and/or Kettunen Center. Visit www.mi4hfdtn.org/brick.html for details.

April 1 — The outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Garden opens for the season. The garden is open from dawn to dusk through Oct. 31.

June 24 — 2004 4-H Emerald Clover Society induction ceremony at the Kellogg Center.

October 1 — Michigan 4-H Foundation annual meeting.

Program grants help fund local 4-H projects

The Michigan 4-H Foundation provided more than \$14,000 for local 4-H initiatives this past year.

Grants were awarded for community service, shooting sports, educational gardens and innovative 4-H programs to 4-H groups in **Benzie, Calhoun, Charlevoix, Gladwin, Houghton-Keewenaw, Midland, Monroe, Ontonagon, Saginaw and Washtenaw counties.** The grant projects required an emphasis on positive youth development, and many were offered as after-school programs to reduce the risks to youth during unsupervised hours. The projects included:

The Calhoun County 4-H Youth Leadership Academy which involved 50 Albion-area

youth. They met weekly to receive training in character education, performing arts, conflict resolution, cultural awareness, goal setting and college preparation. The youth also planned and implemented programs through the school year and during summer, such as the Creative and Expressive Arts Summer Day Camp.

The Washtenaw County Roots and Shoots Garden Club was created as part of the Perry Learning Garden in cooperation with the city of Ypsilanti. The after-school club involved youth between the ages of 10 and 17. They learned how to grow a garden, where food comes from and how to make healthier food

choices. The youth were also mentored by farmers at the Ypsilanti Farmers Market.

The 4-H Washtenaw County Citizenship Academy, through which 15 teen-agers learned about their county government and developed leadership and citizenship skills and new partnership opportunities. At the end of the academy, some of the participants attended 4-H Capitol Experience. Others completed a community service project to teach other students and groups about their county government.

The Benzie County Instead Club engaged middle-school-aged youth in an after-school program. Youth received homework assistance and substance abuse and violence prevention education. They also participated in cultural art, recreational and service activities.

Ontonagon County volunteers built a climbing wall during the winter and spring of 2003 in the Ontonagon Junior/Senior High School gymnasium. Youth helped to create a mural on the wall. The wall opened last fall.

Budget crisis

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(including many 4-H members) deluged Gov. Granholm's and state legislators' offices with letters, phone calls, faxes and especially e-mails protesting possible cuts to or elimination of MSU Extension and MAES.

Of MSU Extension's annual \$77.5 million budget, \$28.6 million comes from annual state appropriations. Over the past two years, MSU Extension has seen its annual budget reduced by more than 20 percent by cuts in state and federal appropriations.

A spokesperson from the governor's office said no other issue since Gov. Granholm took office has generated so much con-

stituency contact — more than 2,300 contacts before Thanksgiving. And several state lawmakers reported receiving anywhere from 100 to the 1,000 contacts reported by state Sen. Mike Goschka's office.

"We received overwhelming support from a large number of people representing diverse program interests throughout the state, ranging from county boards of commissioners to low-income families to young people engaged in the 4-H youth development program," said Maggie Bethel, MSU Extension director. "We are grateful to the legislature and to Gov. Granholm for receiving the public voice and input and acting to affirm and preserve the Extension and research programs emanating from Michigan State University."

4-H Foundation officers and trustees reelected

Victor L. Fulgoni, III, of Battle Creek, was reelected as the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees president at the Michigan 4-H Foundation's 50th annual meeting in October. This is his second term as president and his 10th year on the board. Fulgoni is senior vice president of Nutrition Impact, L.L.C. He served as vice president for nutrition research at the Kellogg Company for 10 years.



Victor L. Fulgoni, III, was reelected to a second term as board president.

Also reelected: as vice president, Thomas H. Cobb, Bloomfield Hills, consultant and adviser for non-profit organizations; treasurer, Paul C. Clabuesch, Pigeon, president and CEO of Thumb National Bank & Trust Co.; and secretary, Cheryl N. Booth, state leader for Michigan 4-H Youth Development. Pamala R. Babbitt, Muskegon, is the immediate past president.

Several trustees were also reelected to three-year terms: Babbitt, co-owner of Babbitt's Sports Center and a board member since 1985; Cobb, a board member since 1988; Jeannette M. Hudson-Matyn, East China Township, Woman's National Farm and Garden Assoc., Michigan Division, and a board member since 2000; George E. House, Ada, a board member since 1979; and David L. Porteous, Reed City, attorney and president of Porteous Law Office and board member since 2000.

Getting kids 'connected' to science-based learning

Imagine children sitting in their classroom watching a plant freezing as fall becomes winter, asking questions and creating theories about what will happen with that plant, and later being able to see the plant come back to life in the spring.

By connecting garden life cycle events to learning by elementary school children, the Connected Children's Garden Project is creating new and exciting ways to connect children with the wonder, discovery and science of exploring plants, gardens and nature.

With significant support from the **Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation**, the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens offer multiple opportunities for students and 4-H clubs to connect school and community-based science learning with real examples found in the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens and other community gardens, arboreta and science centers.

An important approach has been to have students, teachers and parents participate in multiday field trips. These trips, called immersion field trips, have had students spend three full days in the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens exploring the wonders of plants.

"Students, teachers and parents have told us this experience was the best learning experience they have ever had, and they want more," said Norm Lownds, curator of the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens. "We have also documented positive changes



With significant support from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, the Connected Children's Garden Project is creating new and exciting ways to connect children with the wonder, discovery and science of exploring plants, gardens and nature.

in students' level of wonder and curiosity and in their science self-concept.

"We are confident that by using our curricula, activities and experiences, we can create a model for immersion field trips that

can be adapted by other gardens, arboreta and science centers."

In addition to visits to physical garden spaces, the Connected Children's Garden Project has also created a variety of Web- and CD-ROM-based learning experiences

designed to allow young people to experience garden events and learning experiences from wherever they have access to technology.

"We have also created garden Wondercasts — detailed movies of common garden events, a plant freezing in the fall, leaves falling off a tree — and a custom garden interface for students to explore their content," Lownds said.

"Through these Wondercasts, children explore the garden events and answer questions about what they see happening. Teachers and students are finding the Wondercasts to be effective tools to explore common events in much more detail than was otherwise possible. Students love them, and they are learning lots of cool things!"

Foundation holds all-staff retreat; three new employees join staff last fall

Michigan 4-H Foundation staff members from East Lansing and Kettunen Center met for a staff retreat Nov. 12–13 at the Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Center in Roscommon, Mich.

The purpose of the retreat was to work on team building, leadership opportunities and goals for the coming year. The foundation also welcomed three new staff members.

Sara M. Saragosa, Katie Simpson and Michelle Hill joined the Michigan 4-H Foundation staff last fall.

Saragosa is the executive administrative assistant at the East Lansing office. She serves as the assistant secretary for the foundation's board of trustees.

Simpson and Hill joined the Kettunen Center program staff, managed by Andrea Grix, which delivers educational programs to youth and adults. Simpson and Hill are responsible for teaching the Kettunen Center 4-H Trackers and Elderhostel activities and are trained T.R.E.E. (Team Recreational Environmental Experience) facilitators.



The Michigan 4-H Foundation staff members at the 2003 retreat.

An invitation to take a closer look at Kettunen Center

4-H volunteer captures Kettunen Center's natural beauty in photo exhibit

A new photography exhibit invites visitors to take a closer look at the natural beauty of Kettunen Center over the seasons.

Large photos of flowers, trees, mushrooms, moss and more are displayed in Kettunen Center's dining room and the upper Red Oak hallway. Patrick Yockey, Clinton County 4-H volunteer, spent the past two years capturing on film the natural beauty that surrounds Kettunen Center.

Yockey took the photos for the exhibit, titled "A Closer Look," from September 2001 to July 2002. After the film was developed, the plants and mushrooms portrayed in the photos were identified by Andrea Grix, Kettunen Center's program coordinator, and Michigan State University research specialists.

This educational exhibit, consisting of 29 photos, was completed in October 2003. The project was funded by donations to the Michi-

gan 4-H Foundation from the Sage Foundation.

Yockey, a former Kent County 4-H'er, grew up in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he was mentored by his news photographer neighbor, Jim Starkey. Now Yockey is a photography mentor to his two sons and Clinton County's DeWitt Friendship 4-H Club, which he co-leads with his wife, Denise.

For the past 10 years, Yockey has focused on people in the news in his professional news photography career. He is now the Michigan Senate Majority photographer. However, his true love is exploring and capturing nature through the lenses of his cameras.

Yockey's advice for aspiring photographers is to "first learn the fundamentals! Pick a natural subject area of interest to work on. Photography can be a rewarding career if you are self-motivated, independent and like to make your own way."



Photo by Forrest Yockey, son of Patrick Yockey

Patrick Yockey (above), Clinton County 4-H volunteer, spent the past two years capturing the natural beauty that surrounds Kettunen Center for a photo exhibit now displayed in Kettunen Center's dining room and the upper Red Oak hallway.

Michigan 4-H Youth Conservation Council receives \$10,000 environmental excellence award

The Michigan 4-H Youth Conservation Council (M4-HYCC) is one of eight recipients of \$10,000 SeaWorld/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm Environmental Excellence Awards from the SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund.

The M4-HYCC was selected third of 117 entries for the award. According to the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, award judges look for youth-driven

projects that have significant environmental impact and creatively and innovatively approach environmental problem-solving.

In April, Andrea Grix, M4-HYCC adviser, and three youth will represent the council in San Diego to receive the award.

Over the next two years, the award will support regional team development and resources through small grants to local

M4-HYCC teams. It will also provide scholarships for M4-HYCC teen and adult advisers to enroll in a Michigan State University Extension online course, "Community-Based Service Learning 101," developed by Michigan 4-H Youth Development. Scholarships will also be available for M4-HYCC members to attend educational events such as 4-H Capitol Experience, 4-H Exploration Days, and

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp.

The M4-HYCC is a statewide 4-H club that annually involves 25 to 30 teens, aged 13 to 19. It was formed in 1998 after state Sen. Loren Bennett requested the formation of a youth conservation council to give youth an opportunity to voice their opinions to state legislators on current environmental issues.

VANTAGE

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Vantage is published three times per year for members of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. The foundation uses funds solicited from individuals and organizations to support 4-H youth development programs and train volunteer 4-H leaders throughout Michigan. 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

Trustee Hamlin named first collegiate Farm Bureau president

Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee and Michigan State University (MSU) student Laura Hamlin is the 2004 and first president of the first Michigan collegiate Farm Bureau. MSU students formed the club last fall with goals of keeping MSU students connected with Farm Bureau while attending school and keeping students educated in agricultural policies. Hamlin has served as a foundation trustee since April 2002.

4-H agent receives DTE Energy Foundation award

Christy Hicks, Oakland County 4-H youth agent, is among 100 recipients of DTE Energy Foundation's Community

Luminary Award. Winners received a \$1,000 contribution to a 501(c)(3) organization of their choice. The contribution in Hicks' honor was given to the Michigan 4-H Foundation to benefit Oakland County 4-H programs. The award commemorates the centennial of Detroit Edison and provides an opportunity to recognize outstanding leaders that contribute to community development.

Mawby featured in book by Michigan 4-H alumnus

Russ Mawby, former Michigan 4-H state leader and Kent County 4-H member, is featured in *Common People Uncommon Lives*, a book recently published by another Michigan 4-H alumnus, Jan Corey Arnett. "A leader in the world of philanthropy who is known around the world, yet who chooses not to boast about his triumphs, but to speak humbly about his be-

liefs," is how Arnet's story about Mawby is described in a book filled with stories of individuals whose lives share lessons for living. For more information on the book, visit www.jancoreyarnett.com.

A.G. Kettunen inducted to National 4-H Hall of Fame

Arne G. Kettunen, state 4-H leader from 1925 to 1956, will be inducted posthumously into the National 4-H Hall of Fame 2004 class on March 22 at the National 4-H Center. As the first state 4-H leader, Kettunen saw more than 1.5 million youth participate in Michigan 4-H programs and also led the start of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. He helped fund development of the National 4-H Center, and just before his retirement and death, he saw to the start of "Camp Kett" or Kettunen Center, Michigan's youth and volunteer training center, which bears his name.