



VANTAGE

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Michigan 4-H establishes new 4-H China Project partner

Michigan 4-H has established a partnership with Binzhou City, China, for the Michigan 4-H China Project and Children's Art Exchange.

"The art exchange is meant to be an opportunity to learn about China through Chinese children's artwork; to understand how art can tell stories, ideas and feelings; and to explore and experiment with two-dimensional art making," said Betsy Knox, Michigan 4-H China Project director and 4-H program leader for global and cultural education.

The partnership with Binzhou City was arranged by Weijun Zhao, coordinator for the China Train-

ing Program in the MSU Institute of International Agriculture.

Together, Zhao and Knox are arranging a partner visit in Binzhou City in late spring or fall 2005 to build trust and understanding and discuss the mutual long-term educational goals of this project. Zhao will also serve as the group's guide and interpreter in China.

"Affirming this partnership with China and securing a long-term commitment with county 4-H staff members is essential to keeping the Michigan 4-H China Project viable," Knox said.

Binzhou [bin-joe] City, Shandong province, is on the eastern coast of the People's Republic of China and overlooks the Korean peninsula. It is considered one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilization.

This year is the second year of the Michigan exchange of children's art with Binzhou City. Sixty "visual letters" were created by

youth in Michigan and sent to Binzhou City in 2004.

"A visual letter is just like a written letter in that both can tell stories and share important ideas and feelings. The medium, however, is different — one uses images and the other uses words. Both are effective in connecting children on two sides of the globe," Knox explained.

In exchange, Michigan received 60 pieces of Chinese children's art, which were given to Michigan counties participating in the project.

Isabella County MSU Extension created a calendar using one of the Chinese children's paper cuttings as the calendar's cover art and 12 other pieces of the county's 2004 children's art as the months' art.

"In the 2003-04 programming year, 618 youth in Isabella County participated in the China Art Exchange program," said Monica Borgman, Isabella County 4-H program assistant and China project coordinator.

Borgman gives an educational lesson to 4-H and school groups wishing to participate in the program. She uses the 4-H Children's Art Exchange guide and teaching kit.

"The presentations were done at schools during regular class time, 4-H after school programs,

our overnight 4-H camp for 9- to 13-year-olds and our Cloverbud camp for 5- to 8-year-olds," Borgman said.

The Michigan 4-H China Project began in 1988 with a partnership with the Sichuan Province Foreign Affairs Office, which remained the project partner through 2002. More than 200,000 Michigan youth, representing most of Michigan's 83 counties, have been involved in this project as part of the 4-H youth development priority focus on global and cultural education. For more information about the project and an online exhibit of the Michigan 4-H children's art, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/chinapro.html>.

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One of Isabella County's Chinese children's art works, "Affection of Sisters" (a paper cutting), can be seen on the cover of the Isabella County MSU Extension 2005 calendar.

Stuckmans' 4-H gift makes a difference today and tomorrow

Sandy Clarkson Stuckman led Michigan 4-H Youth Development as state 4-H leader from 1991 to 1998. She also served as a Michigan 4-H Foundation board member during her tenure as state 4-H leader.

As former Indiana 4-H members, she and her husband, Noel Stuckman, realize the hard work and effort that 4-H volunteer leaders provide for the 4-H program.

This grounding has made the Stuckmans strong supporters of the work of 4-H today and tomorrow. This support was evidenced by a Cornerstone Society-level gift to support both the Sandy Clarkson Stuckman Endowment Fund and an unrestricted gift for the *Campaign for 4-H*.

"When I was a Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee, I learned about 4-H's needs for various types of resources. 4-H needs investments for



current programs, endowed funds and unrestricted resources," Sandy Clarkson Stuckman said.

"We wanted to increase the endowment fund and provide unrestricted resources."

Unrestricted gifts support the areas of greatest need for 4-H. Unrestricted donations allow the foundation to remain open to new opportunities, address new challenges and meet the current needs of youth.

The Sandy Clarkson Stuckman Endowment Fund was established in 1998 with tribute gifts in her honor when she transitioned from state 4-H leader to diversity specialist for MSU Extension. The fund supports 4-H



Photo by Ken Scott Photography

With unrestricted gifts, Sandy Clarkson Stuckman and Noel Stuckman help support volunteer training such as this Kettunen Center 4-H workshop, and other unanticipated program opportunities. Kettunen Center serves as Michigan's focal point for statewide 4-H leader training and development.

youth leadership, communications and community service.

"We know what 4-H does personally and value what we experienced as 4-H members," she said. "Adult and teen leaders play such a key role in what 4-H is all about. We believe that Extension's work in leadership development impacts youth, adults and communities in enduring ways."

Although the Stuckmans knew a portion of their annual support would help grow the Clarkson Stuckman endowment fund for long-term support of 4-H leader-

"It seems that there needs to be a balance between support for specific programs and unrestricted gifts."

— Sandy Clarkson Stuckman, former state 4-H leader

ship opportunities, they wanted to see their support in effect today. Their unrestricted gift helps fund today's volunteer leader training and unanticipated program opportunities.

"It seems that there needs to be a balance between support for specific programs and unrestricted gifts.

"We feel very privileged to be able to contribute and invest in ways that benefit Michigan 4-H members and leaders and that provide us the satisfaction of knowing we're helping make a difference," she said.

Calendar

March 25 — Deadline for ordering an inscribed brick for June placement in the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden and/or Kettunen Center. Inscribed brick forms are available at www.mi4hfdtn.org/brick.html or call (517) 353-6692.

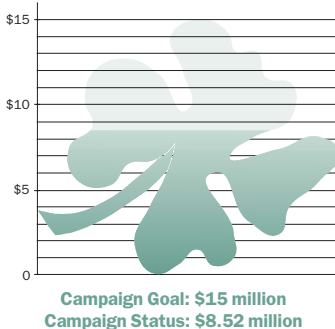
April 1 — The outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Garden opens for the season. The garden is open from dawn to dusk through Oct. 31.

April–May — "Butterflies in the Garden" on display in the indoor Michigan 4-H Children's Garden.

May 7 — Michigan 4-H Family Reunion at Kettunen Center. Join us for a day of fun and exciting activities for 4-H families, staff members, friends and supporters.

October 7 — Michigan 4-H Foundation annual meeting.

Campaign for 4-H Status
December 31, 2004



Hillsdale launches new fund

4-H alumnus hosts Campaign for 4-H reception to establish new county endowment fund

4-H supporters joined Hillsdale County 4-H alumnus Gary SeEVERS in establishing the Hillsdale County 4-H Youth Development Fund at the Dec. 8 *Campaign for 4-H* reception in Jonesville.

"I wanted to help start a fund for Hillsdale 4-H to express my appreciation for the educational experiences it opened to me," SeEVERS said.

The reception, hosted by SeEVERS at the Grosvenor House Museum, raised \$11,200 in private support toward a \$25,000 goal for the fund. The fund is designated to provide long-term support of 4-H youth development in Hillsdale County.

"Starting a fund that will last a long time will give the 4-H leadership in Hillsdale some reliable extra money each year without any strings attached. It may be used for educational trips for members or volunteers, or for special events," he said. "It is my

hope that the fund will receive gifts over the years from a variety of sources and eventually become one of the largest county funds in Michigan 4-H."

Hillsdale County 4-H'ers Ed Sunday and Dawn Fellows spoke to the guests about the impact that 4-H has had in their lives. Guests also heard from SeEVERS, U.S. Rep. Nick Smith and Cheri Booth, Michigan 4-H state leader.

Before retiring, SeEVERS led the futures brokerage business for Goldman Sachs and Co. in New York and abroad. He is a distinguished alumnus of the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and received an honorary doctorate in May 2004. SeEVERS also served as a 4-H youth agent in Ingham and Lenawee counties.

To contribute to the Hillsdale County 4-H Endowment Fund, contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at (517) 353-6692.



Hillsdale County 4-H members Ed Sunday (left), Dawn Fellows (right) and Gary SeEVERS (center) shared their 4-H experiences with guests at the "Grosvenor House for the Holidays" reception that launched the Hillsdale County 4-H Endowment Fund.

New officers elected



PRESIDENT

Thomas H. Cobb, Bloomfield Hills

Cobb has served as a trustee for the MSU Foundation, the Carolyn Robison Foundation, and is a member of the MSU College of Arts and Letters National Advisory Council. He has been active as a consultant and adviser to a variety of non-profit organizations, including the Michigan Nature Conservancy, the Crystal Lake Watershed Fund, and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, Michigan chapter.



VICE PRESIDENT

Michael D. McIntyre, Okemos

McIntyre, a certified public accountant and attorney, has been a foundation trustee since 1998. He is a former president of the accounting firm McCartney & McIntyre, P.C., a member of the National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives and a former president of its Great Lakes chapter.



TREASURER

Mary E. Tatter, Watervliet

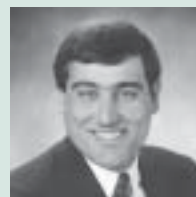
Tatter, a partner in the M & J Investment Co., was elected to the foundation's board in 1998. She served four years as president of the Berrien County 4-H Foundation and the Community Hospital Foundation. She has also served on the Watervliet Township Board of Review and the Watervliet Township Board of Appeals, and she was vice president of the Coloma-Watervliet Area Economic Development Corp.



SECRETARY

Cheryl N. Booth, Ithaca

Booth, the foundation's secretary and the Michigan state 4-H leader since 2001, also served MSU Extension as regional director for the East Central region and an Extension home economist. She has served on the Ithaca City Planning Commission, as trustee of the Gratiot County Community Foundation, a member of the Child Advocacy Board and as a board member of the United Way of Gratiot County for more than 10 years.



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Victor L. Fulgoni III, Battle Creek

Fulgoni, a foundation trustee since 1991, is senior vice president of Nutrition Impact, L.L.C. Before beginning his private nutrition consulting firm, he served as vice president for research and nutrition for the Kellogg Company. He holds a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Non-4-H groups help 4-H by using Kettunen Center

Each year, Kettunen Center hosts between 15 and 18 4-H workshops, serving as the focal point for statewide 4-H leader training and development.

However, Kettunen Center also hosts adult and youth groups that aren't associated with 4-H but reflect the values of 4-H and the center's natural resources. These groups include state governmental agencies, church organizations, band camps, board retreats and even family reunions.

The Michigan State University Department of Family Practice has used Kettunen Center for the past six years for its annual workshop. Because their meetings draw attendees from all of Michigan, including the Upper Peninsula, the location of Kettunen Center is ideal.

"We really enjoy the location, the casualness and the helpfulness of the employees, as well as the value for the money," said Kay Backus, MSU Family Practice educational program coordinator.

"It is nice to realize that our using your facility helps Kettunen Center stay in business to provide needed training for the Michigan 4-H program."

— Kay Backus,
MSU Department of Family Practice

MSU Family Practice likes the meetings to be casual, and Kettunen Center provides the group the flexibility to stay in their meeting room or go outside for a change of pace.

"We feel that we get sleeping accommodations that are equal to being at a hotel without the stuffiness associated with being at a meeting in the city," Backus said. "The food service offers a good choice, and there is always plenty."

Backus also commented that the employees are always very friendly and cooperative with any changes that need to be made at the last minute.

Kettunen Center offers many services that non-4-H groups appreciate. One of the more important benefits of their using this facility is that it enables Kettunen Center to be self-sufficient and continue to operate for 4-H programs and workshops.

"It is nice to realize that our using your facility helps Kettunen Center stay in business to provide needed training for the Michigan 4-H program," Backus said. "These are good programs, and if they can help sustain themselves, it helps all of the citizens of Michigan."

Kettunen Center Web site has a new look!

Kettunen Center's Web site, <http://www.kettunencenter.org>, has a new look for the new year. The site's new, more professional design provides visitors with information quicker and easier than before. It also offers an online form for potential customers to request a conference.

Michigan 4-H Foundation donors can use the Kettunen Center, Michigan 4-H Foundation and Michigan 4-H Children's Garden Web sites for information on current programs and new features.

The Michigan 4-H Foundation's online presence at <http://www.mi4hfdtn.org> allows visitors to learn about the foundation, its board of trustees and staff members; and ways to give to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Visitors can give online, purchase bricks and print pledge forms. The site also provides links to the Kettunen Center, Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens and Michigan 4-H Youth Development Web sites for navigation ease.

Featured on the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens site is an online tour of the outdoor garden at <http://4hgarden.msu.edu/kidstour/> with interactive learning games for kids and an online Wondercast at <http://4hgarden.msu.edu/wondercast/> that uses video to illustrate changes in plant life over time.

Clover Terrace unveiled in recognition of 4-H Emerald Clover Society members



Photo by Melvin Thompson, 4-H Emerald Cover Society member

On Sept. 19, 4-H Emerald Clover Society members gathered at Kettunen Center for the unveiling of the Clover Terrace, a wall in recognition of 4-H Emerald Clover Society members and an expansion of the Red Oak Courtyard and Terrace.

Sowing seeds of curiosity and wonder in the children's gardens

Curiosity and wonder, discovering the great mysteries in plants and the garden, and creating a love for learning and discovery — this is what the Seeds of Science 4-H Children's Gardens program is all about.

In the Seeds of Science program, students spend three full days in the 4-H Children's Gardens discovering the wonder of plants. During this time, students are encouraged to explore and ask questions.

One way kids can ask questions is through the Wonder Wall, a bulletin board set up in the teaching classroom where young people use words, pictures, etc., to record and share what they learned and appreciated most about their immersion field trip to the gardens.

"I think the children are more willing to ask questions since the experience and are very eager to share what they discover," said a teacher visiting the 4-H Children's Garden with her class.

With technology, the Wonder Wall has a new twist — an online version. The Online Wonder Wall makes it possible for students to continue asking questions even after leaving the gardens. It also encourages peer-to-peer dialogue.

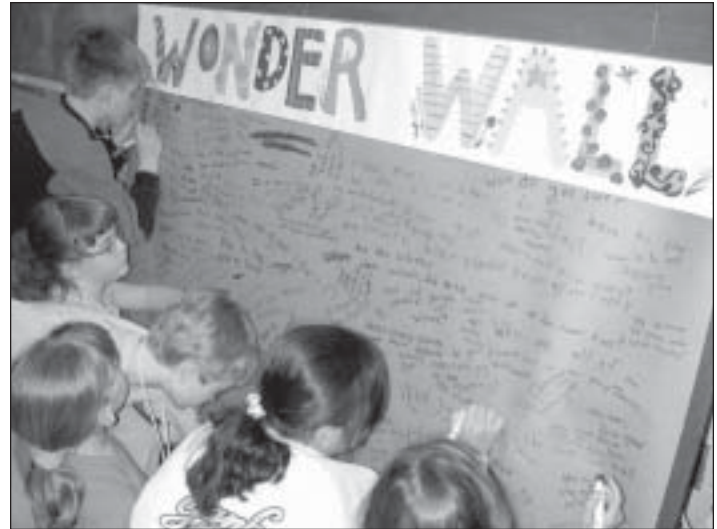
"The response has been nearly overwhelming. After we showed the Wonder Wall to three fourth-grade classes, the students visited the Online Wonder Wall over the weekend and posted 145 questions," said

Norm Lownds, Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens curator.

The true impact on kids can best be summed up in their own words: "I used to think plants were boring, but now I think they are interesting and cool!" a 10-year-old said.

When asked to describe the 4-H Children's Garden, an 11-year-old replied, "It is a magical place of learning!"

The Seeds of Science program was developed as part of the Connected Children's Garden Project funded by the **Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation**.



During the Seeds of Science program, students were continually encouraged to ask questions and to be curious and wonder about everything. The Wonder Wall is a place where young people use words, pictures, etc. to record and share what they learned and appreciated most about their trip to the 4-H Children's Gardens.

Thinking about a gift of real estate to support 4-H?

Consider these tips for making your gift

The Michigan 4-H Foundation can accept gifts of a personal home, vacation home, farm or other dwelling from donors wishing to support the work and programs of Michigan 4-H Youth Development.

Gifts of undeveloped land and commercial property can also be appropriate giving options with some considerations.

A gift of real estate can be acknowledged and deductions taken for the fair market value of the property at the time the gift is made. Fair market value is defined by the Internal Revenue Service as the price at which the property would change hands between a willing buyer and a willing seller, when neither has to buy or sell and both parties are knowledge-

able about all relevant facts related to the property.

Donors interested in giving to 4-H by way of real estate, are encouraged to get independent documentation of the fair market value of the property and to provide a risk assessment of the property, especially in the case of commercial property, to ensure that the property is not in violation of current environmental protection laws and does not present significant risk for potential occupants.

In most cases, the Michigan 4-H Foundation uses revenue gained from the sale of donated property to fund a specific program of interest to the donor or to support areas of greatest need as determined by the foundation's board of trustees.

The foundation is likely to retain and manage real property

only in instances where its use provides direct and immediate impact on the current operations and programs of the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Gifts of real property can be made during a donor's lifetime or as part of a donor's estate gift or bequest to the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Such gifts should always be considered in consultation with personal legal counsel and/or a tax consultant for definitive assessment of the state and federal tax benefits of and limitations on gifts of real estate.

Please contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at (517) 353-6692 if you are considering a gift of real property to ensure the gift can be used to support 4-H in ways important to you.

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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N^{In the} News

Michigan 4-H honored as DTE Energy Leadership Award finalist

Michigan 4-H Youth Development was among the top three finalists for the **DTE Energy Leadership Award** in December. Michigan 4-H was nominated for its staff development series "Doing Our Own Work," a series of workshops studying issues around diversity and multiculturalism with a goal of creating a learning community centered on creating welcoming, inclusive and affirming environments.

Trustee elected Federal Home Bank Loan Assoc. chair

Paul Clabuesch, Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee and CEO of Thumb National Bank & Trust Co., was elected as chairman for the Federal Home Bank Loan Association in September. Clabuesch has been a foundation trustee since 1996.

Former Gratiot County 4-H'er joins "The Amazing Race"

Gratiot County 4-H alumnus **Aaron Crumbaugh** appeared on the TV reality show "The Amazing Race" (sixth edition). In his exit interview for the Jan. 18 episode, he said his 4-H experience with the Beebe Beef 4-H Club taught him skills that he used in the episode and helped him in decision-making and encouraging him to try new things.

Michigan 4-H staff members receive 4-H International Programs Tender Heart Award

Jan Brinn, Allegan County 4-H program associate, and **Renee Applegate**, state 4-H international programs coordinator and Jackson County 4-H youth educator, received the Tender Heart Award from the 4-H International Exchange Association in November. They were recognized for the extra effort in behalf of one of the LABO Japanese youth in last year's exchange.

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CORPORATE Clover Club

Thanks to our Corporate Clover Club members!

The Corporate Clover Club is an annual giving program recognizing corporate gifts of \$1,000 and above. The following corporate gifts were received from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2004:

- Lapeer County Bank & Trust Co.
- McCartney & Company, P.C.
- Thumb National Bank & Trust Co.

