



VANTAGE

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MORE TO EXPLORE: 4-H EXPLORATION DAYS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

In 2019, 4-H Exploration Days, one of the largest multiday 4-H youth events in the country, celebrated its 50th year. Over the years, the program has been attended by a collective 150,000 participants.

During the week of June 17, more than 2,000 Michigan 4-H'ers made their way to the campus of Michigan State University to take part in one of the most coveted Michigan 4-H activities: 4-H Exploration Days. Hosted by Michigan State University Extension, this three-day event draws youth ages 11 to 19 to live the life of a college student – staying in the dorms, attending classes and exploring life at a university. One of the largest multiday 4-H youth events in the country, the event marked a historic milestone in 2019, celebrating its 50th year. Over the years, a collective 150,000 participants have attended.

"We are thrilled to celebrate our 50th 4-H Exploration Days this year," remarked Jake DeDecker, state 4-H leader. "Every year, youth are just as excited as they were the year before to attend this signature precollege program, and it's amazing to think this excitement has been brewing for 50 years."

Launched in 1970, 4-H Exploration Days took the place of another statewide event, the State 4-H Show. The vision for the event was born from a conversation between four Michigan State University Extension employees: **Lowell Rothert, Jake Wamhoff, Ray Gillespie** and state 4-H director **Gordon Beckstrand**. The quartet envisioned a program that would take the focus off exhibiting projects and emphasize learning new things that club members could take home to strengthen their local programming. By 1971, the concept for the event had taken form, and more than 3,200 people attended the educational, statewide youth development event, which offered 65 different sessions focused on experiential learning and personal growth.

Since then, the program has experienced many shifts and changes. Fifty years ago, youth registered via carbon copy forms at their local county office; today registration is completely online. Youth no longer enjoy a square dance, though a modern dance is still one of program highlights each year. But throughout its evolution, 4-H Exploration Days has remained steadfast in its mission to help youth learn new things, develop life skills and experience college life.

"It changes lives – I'm a product of that," said Judy Ratkos, retired MSU Extension senior program leader who facilitated the program for 32 years. "I was a rural kid from Tuscola County who attended 4-H Exploration Days myself as a youth. Attending



More than 150 individuals attended a special reception to commemorate the 50th 4-H Exploration Days for former attendees, staff members and volunteers. Above are Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council (SYLC) members who helped greet attendees.

the program exposed me to possibilities I'd never have imagined without it. The sessions allowed me to explore new things and make new friends, and the diversity of people was something I'd never experienced before. 4-H Exploration Days made me decide I wanted to go to college."

Other former participants agree that the program affected their life trajectory.

"I engaged in a different environment that fostered and promoted education and the ability to interact with different cultures, learned leadership skills, and taught me to be independent and thrive on my own," said Derrick Harrison, a current MSU Extension community nutrition instructor who participated in the program as a youth.

Today, the program boasts more than 200 educational sessions, many of which are led by 4-H volunteers. In addition to leading sessions, volunteers also play critical roles such as serving as session hosts and chaperones.

"We simply could not have this program without the hundreds of dedicated volunteers and staff members who make this possible," said Laura Potter-Niesen, MSU Extension educational coordinator, who currently facilitates the event. "We have amazing volunteers who have been coming back to help with this program for dozens of years, and we are so grateful for their commitment to our 4-H youth."

To commemorate the 50th year of the event, a special reception for former attendees, staff members and volunteers was held in the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens at MSU. More than 150 individuals attended the function, coming together to celebrate the program's golden anniversary.

See 4-H Exploration Days, page 2



4-H FOUNDATION BOARD ELECTIONS

Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees elections were held at the Michigan 4-H Foundation annual membership meeting Oct. 4.

Trustees are volunteers who serve as community advocates for 4-H and lead the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Trustees manage foundation policies and operations, oversee the work of staff members and work on committees developed to facilitate foundation operations.

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Reelected to three-year terms on the board were: **Tom Bosserd**, of Plymouth; **Douglas Lewis**, Milan; and **Roxanne Turner**, Fowlerville.



Mike Sweers

Mike Sweers, Dansville, was newly elected to a three-year term on the board. Sweers served as a 4-H volunteer in Ingham County, where he was the dairy superintendent alongside his wife, Jan, for 12 years. They raised three daughters, who all participated in 4-H from ages 5 to 19, and he was leader of the Dansville 4Leaf Clovers 4-H Club throughout those years. In addition to dairy, Sweers also assisted in the goat and rabbit project areas.

Sweers is the executive chief engineer for the Toyota Tundra, Sequoia, Tacoma and 4Runner vehicle programs at Toyota Motor North America, Research and Development (TMNA R&D), headquartered in York Township, Michigan. Sweers also serves as executive vice president at the global parent company, Toyota

Motor Corporation. Since joining Toyota in 1990, Sweers has held several leadership roles of increasing responsibility at Toyota Technical Center and TMNA R&D. Before joining Toyota, Sweers served as a project engineer with Chrysler Corporation from 1986 to 1990. He started his career at General Motors Oldsmobile Division. Sweers received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Detroit. He followed this with a specialty in Quality Control Management, from which he graduated magna cum laude with an associate of applied science degree from Lansing Community College. He has received U.S. patents for automotive seating and interior trim components. He is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and is a senior member of the Society of Plastics Engineers.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Sara A. Stuby, of Centreville, was reelected president of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Stuby retired from MSU Extension in 2008 as the MSU Extension southwest regional director. Stuby and her husband, Dale Stuby, co-own and operate Dale Stuby Farms and Legacy Land Farms, a 1,000-acre crop farm in Constantine. Stuby is a St. Joseph County 4-H alumna, a 4-H Emerald Clover Society member and a longtime 4-H volunteer. Sally and Dale were members of the Leadership 10, a group of leadership supporters and public advocates for the *Campaign for Michigan 4-H's Future*.

Also reelected were: as vice president, **Sheila Wade Kneeshaw**, Detroit; as treasurer, **Melissa Humphrey**, Fowler; and as secretary, **Jacob M. DeDecker**, St. Johns. The immediate past president is **Douglas E. Lewis**, Milan.

Additionally, youth trustee **Emily Kittendorf's** term expired and she was recognized for her service to 4-H.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 31 – The outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens closed for the season. The indoor garden is open year round.

Dec. 3 – #GiveGreenDay. Donate online to help raise \$5,000 in a 24-hour period to support 4-H participant sponsorships. Visit mi4hfdtn.org for details.

Dec. 15 – 4-H Day at the Lions. Each ticket purchased includes a \$10 donation back to your county's 4-H program and a special gift! Learn more at: mi4hfdtn.org.

Dec. 31 – Donation deadline for 2019 tax year credit.

Jan. 31, 2020 – 4-H Emerald Clover Society alumni nomination deadline. Visit mi4hfdtn.org/ecs for details.

Mar. 1 – 4-H Alumni Tip-Off Reception & 4-H Day at the Breslin. Join us for a reception prior to the 4-H Day at the Breslin event. After the reception, watch the Michigan State women's basketball team take on the Penn State Nittany Lions. Visit mi4hfdtn.org for additional details. These events are complimentary, registration is required.

Mar. 15-Apr. 30 – Butterflies in the Garden exhibit at the Indoor Michigan 4-H Children's Garden. Learn more at: 4hgarden.msu.edu.

4-H EXPLORATION DAYS

Continued from cover

"When you have 150 people from across the state show up to share memories and experiences, that's when you know a program has had a lasting impact," DeDecker said. "It was a remarkable night as people of all ages came together to celebrate the role that 4-H Exploration Days has played in their lives."

Though today's 4-H youth may not realize the complete history of the program, they are just as grateful for the 4-H Exploration Days experience.

"I have learned so many new skills through my participation and have also met new friends," said Jael Tombaugh, a 4-H'er in Eaton County. "I have been able to carry everything I learn in the classes with me and use the skills in my day-to-day life. The experiences you get at 4-H Exploration Days you can't get anywhere else!"

GIFT PLANNING FOR MICHIGAN 4-H'S FUTURE

Planned gifts, sometimes referred to as gift planning or legacy giving, are gifts that will support 4-H in the future. Documented planned gifts provide recognition and a legacy for the donor while supporting the next generation of 4-H'ers. Although there are a variety of types of planned gifts, bequests are one of the most common forms of planned gifts.

This past fiscal year, **Max and Beverley Benne**, of Sturgis, documented a bequest from their estate, which will provide a forthcoming source of funding for Michigan 4-H's area of greatest need.

"I was a longtime 4-H'er as a young person and I was an IFYE – International 4-H Youth Exchange – participant. Those experiences were very instrumental in my youth and still carry influence today," Max Benne said. "I appreciate very much the opportunities I had and I am trying to repay a little bit by giving back."

An Ingham County 4-H alumnus, Max Benne was a 10-year member of the Okemos 4-H Club and was a six-year FFA member during his youth. He received the State Poultry Judging Award, was a National 4-H Congress delegate to Chicago and an IFYE delegate to Denmark.

He received degrees from Michigan State University in dairy production, dairy farm management and a doctorate of education degree. Before his distinguished 29-year teaching career at Western Michigan University, he worked as a 4-H agent, a volunteer coordinator for the Experiment in International Living Program, covering all participating school systems east of the Mississippi River, and an instructor at Lakeland School Corporation and Glen Oaks Community College. Research and professional presentations have taken him to Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Norway, Japan and China.

Beverley also received a degree in teaching from the MSU College of Education in 1967. She taught school for a few years before moving strictly into substitute teaching. More recently, Beverley has found an interest in art. She has created stationery,

note cards, and such with her drawings and paintings. Her art has been displayed at a local gallery in Sturgis.

Today, the Bennes co-own and operate Benne Farms, a commercial sheep operation outside of Sturgis and remain strong advocates for St. Joseph County 4-H. Max is a past president of the Michigan Sheep Breeders Association and a past recipient of the Outstanding Commercial Sheep Producers for the State of Michigan Award. He served as vice president of St. Joseph County Farm Bureau and is a former member of the American Society of Agronomy, the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, the Michigan Soil and Water Conservation Society, and the Kalamazoo Production Credit Association Board.

Legacy commitments to support Michigan 4-H represent a visionary approach to ensuring that 4-H programs are available for Michigan's young people for many years after we ourselves are no longer able to witness their impacts.

"We do give a small amount to the Michigan 4-H Foundation each year. Documenting an estate gift is a way of designating a larger amount, which hopefully we won't need, but if we do it is there," Max Benne said.

A survey conducted by Care.com indicates that less than half of U.S. adults currently have a will. Estate planning is critical to managing your assets and protecting your family. A will provides clear direction for the distribution of your estate. To support Michigan 4-H, donors may bequeath a specific amount, a percentage of the estate or a residual after other distributions from an estate are fulfilled.

Any donor who provides documentation of their intent to honor 4-H through a planned legacy gift to the Michigan 4-H Foundation is eligible for A.G. Kettunen Society membership and recognition.

To explore planned gift options, contact *Amanda Masters*, assistant director of development for 4-H, at 517-884-4691 or by e-mail at amasters@msu.edu.

BE A 4-H SUPER HERO: LEAVE A LEGACY!

4-H has loyal community supporters – supporters who care about the longevity and legacy, not only within their personal families, but within our 4-H family and community.

Those who care deeply about 4-H can be a super hero by leaving a legacy through a planned gift. Examples can include anything from a simple bequest – leaving a percentage of your assets – to stock gifts in support of 4-H.

In addition to bequests and stock gifts, types of planned/deferred gifts include:

- Testamentary charitable remainder trusts.
- Charitable remainder unitrusts.
- Charitable gift annuities.
- Life estate contracts.
- Gifts of life insurance policies or retirement funds.
- Charitable lead trusts.

Additional planned gift considerations:

- Planned gifts may establish a new perpetual named endowment or fund or grow an existing one.
- Gifts of any type may be designated to support a specific 4-H program area, county 4-H program, Kettunen Center or the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens. Unrestricted gifts may also be made to support future and emerging needs of 4-H youth development.
- Documented planned gift donors qualify for recognition in the A.G. Kettunen Society during their lifetime.

If you are interested in exploring planned gift options in support of 4-H, please contact Amanda Masters, assistant development director for 4-H, at 517-884-4691 or by e-mail at amasters@msu.edu, to verify that your gift intent can be met. Consulting with personal legal counsel and/or a tax adviser for definitive assessment of the tax benefits of and limitations on planned gifts is also recommended.

PAPER CLOVER PROMOTIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR 4-H \$1 AT A TIME

During the Paper Clover promotions, TSC stores nationwide sell 4-H paper clovers for a dollar each with the proceeds donated back to 4-H. Those dollars add up to provide great support to 4-H locally.

Each year since 2010, Tractor Supply Company (TSC) has partnered with National 4-H Council for the Paper Clover promotion held twice annually. During the Paper Clover periods, TSC stores nationwide sell 4-H paper clovers for a dollar each, with the proceeds donated back to 4-H.

From March 27 to April 7, paper clovers were sold at more than 1,700 TSC stores nationwide, including the 87 Michigan stores, and sales raised a grand total of \$916,925. In Michigan, residents gave \$49,160 to support Michigan 4-H programs.

Seventy percent of those funds went to support county 4-H programs, 10 percent for state 4-H workshops, 5 percent for state 4-H programs and 5 percent for the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Ten percent went to National 4-H Council for underwriting the cost of the program.

Even though each clover provides only a dollar each, those dollars add up to provide great support to 4-H locally. The TSC store in Petoskey has been successful in raising nearly \$3,000 for **Emmet County 4-H** over the past two program years.

"If it was much more than a dollar, people might think twice. But, with it only being a dollar, customers are likely to add it onto their total," said Diane Brazier, Michigan State University Extension 4-H program coordinator for Emmet County. "But really, it's not about the money, it's about supporting a great program. That's the most important part.



Thanks to the support from the TSC Paper Clover promotion, Michigan 4-H youth have received scholarships to attend a variety of regional, state and national 4-H educational opportunities. Above are Emmet County 4-H members and TSC representatives at the TSC store in Petoskey, Mich.

"Because of the TSC support, Emmet County 4-H'ers have been able to attend 4-H Exploration Days, 4-H Animal Science Camp in Cheboygan County, Kettunen Center 4-H workshops and more," Brazier said.

Emmet County 4-H club members and volunteers sign up with their local TSC manager to work shifts at the store for each Paper Clover drive. During the promotion period, 4-H clubs work booths where they have done crafts, petting zoos, educational displays, record books, posters, bake sales and other activities. Youth also greet customers and help them with their bags.

4-H promotional materials and information about joining 4-H are also available, with Brazier's contact information. Following the promotion, Brazier often receives messages from families wanting to join the program.

"Even if we didn't get the money, just the fact that each clover represents a 4-H supporter in our community is amazing," Brazier said. "The nice notes that people write on the clovers are the best advertising that we could ever have. When you walk into the store, you can't help but see it's clover time!"

The **Montcalm County 4-H** program has also seen outstanding results at the Greenville TSC store recently. It raised \$1,940 in the most recent promotion, making it the highest revenue-generating store in Michigan this past spring.

According to Montcalm County 4-H program coordinator Tarin Minkel, the key to their success lies with one 4-H parent.

"We have been very fortunate. We have a 4-H parent who works at the TSC store. She volunteers at the store and brings her kids every spare moment during the Paper Clover promotions," Minkel said.

They ask customers to buy the 4-H clovers and help to promote 4-H opportunities in their community.

"It is a great opportunity to get kids into the stores speaking to customers. It is a great learning opportunity for kids to practice public speaking and other life skills," Minkel said. "The Paper Clover promotions also provide community awareness and promotion. It's good not only for our 4-H program, but for the community as well."

As in Emmet County, the support from TSC helps fund attendance at state and national events for Montcalm County 4-H youth.

"We have a good number of kids that attend national 4-H events, and we have been able to provide scholarships from the TSC funds," Minkel said. "Without the scholarships, the youth may not be able to afford these opportunities."

Experiences made possible through the TSC Paper Clover funds include National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference, 4-H Capitol Experience and 4-H Exploration Days. Minkel added that this year, Montcalm County 4-H had its largest delegation to 4-H Exploration Days in several years.

"In our county, the money generated is able to help 4-H youth have experiences that they wouldn't be able to do otherwise," she said.

The fall TSC Paper Clover promotion took place Oct. 9-20. Results are pending.

MEET MICHIGAN 4-H: KYLEY DEFRANCESCO, ALGER COUNTY 4-H

Across the state, Michigan 4-H is growing true leaders for today and tomorrow. From Marquette to Monroe, these young people are having a positive impact on their clubs, communities, country and world in various ways.

Kyley DeFrancesco is an 18-year-old 4-H'er from Alger County. She's been involved in 4-H for the past seven years, taking part in a variety of craft, community service, leadership, civic engagement, and health and wellness programs. Currently a freshman at Taylor University in Indiana, Kyley wrote the following personal essay at the conclusion of her senior year of high school as she reflected on the impact of 4-H on her life.

I am finally in my senior year of high school, yahoo! I have attended a small private school all four years of high school. Before that, I was home schooled for seven years. I have been in varsity basketball and varsity volleyball all four years of my high school career. Also two years of track, one year of soccer and six years of piano. I have served as an altar server with my sisters since I was in the second grade. I delivered prescriptions to shut-ins every weekday as part of my job responsibilities at Puvin Drug Store, a job I have held since the eighth grade. Then there is 4-H.

When I think about what 4-H has done for me or how it affected my life, I find it difficult to put into words.

I am deaf. Even though I have cochlear implants, I still find it extremely difficult to hear, especially in certain situations. I know that people treat me different or that they don't include or accept me in a lot of social situations. I'm going to be real, there are times when this has really gotten me down and I get all up in my head about it. I get frustrated because I don't feel different, and just because I may need things repeated, no one should assume that I am stupid. Unfortunately, I am often treated that way.

4-H turned all that around for me, especially in times when I most needed it. The experience I have gained and the people I have met from all over, through 4-H Exploration Days, Citizenship Washington Focus and National 4-H Congress, have given me courage. Courage to not be afraid to be who I am. Each time, I have taken a risk, and it really has paid off. Making those connections has shown me that there are all types of people in this world with the capacity for compassion.

Through 4-H, I have learned a lot and really put myself out there. At National 4-H Congress, I spoke in front of hundreds of people as a delegate for Michigan. Normally, speaking in front of two people can be very intimidating for me. At 4-H Exploration Days, I learned how to make the best smoothie and found classes that were clear across campus. I also made great friends that I meet up with every year. 4-H community service has taught me that we really need to take care of each other. Even though sewing



Kyley DeFrancesco, an 18 year-old 4-H'er from Alger County.

wasn't my cup of tea, crafts have taught me patience, and that I can paint a better rock than Kadynce.

4-H has given me a sense of independence. I know I can go anywhere and do anything and be successful.

When someone tells me I can't do something, I am not afraid to rise above and meet that challenge. So, thank you, Mrs. Isleb and Liz for asking me to participate, for being

so kind, for providing me with these awesome opportunities and for simply believing in me. I have been truly blessed from your ability to work so hard and to care so much.

4-H hasn't discriminated against me based on my gender, religion or deafness, and I hope to always pay that forward, wherever I go or in whatever I do.

Meet Michigan 4-H is part of a new online series featuring personal testimonials from Michigan 4-H members on the impact 4-H has had on their lives. Read or watch their firsthand accounts of what 4-H means to them and why they're proud to be 4-H-grown at: www.canr.msu.edu/4h/meet-michigan-4-h.

GIVING TO 4-H: IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVERS

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 each year 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 the required minimum distribution (RMD) 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, contact Amanda Masters at 517-884-4691 or by e-mail at amasters@msu.edu.

This opportunity ends Dec. 31, 2019, for 2019 tax credit.

IN MEMORY OF JANE TAYLOR

Jane L. Taylor, designer and first curator of the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden, died on Oct. 3, 2019, in Portland, Maine. Jane was born on Aug. 19, 1935, in Torrington, Connecticut, the only child of Levi Reinald Lundeen, a Congregationalist minister, and Margaret Rains Lundeen, a church organist and piano teacher.



Jane L. Taylor, first curator of the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens.

Taylor was director of annual gift programs for the Michigan 4-H Foundation from 1985-97. In this role, she fundraised and created, the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden at Michigan State University (MSU), the first garden of its kind in North America. She became the garden's founding curator and the garden received widespread recognition. Taylor was then appointed as an adjunct professor in the MSU Department of Horticulture.

After retiring, Taylor became a children's garden consultant due to the renowned success of the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden. She was on teams that designed the Kids' Garden at Walt Disney World's Epcot, the San Diego Botanic Garden, and the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, among others. The American Horticultural Society created the Jane L. Taylor Award for children and youth gardening in 2000 and Jane was its first recipient. Among many other awards and honors, she received a Distinguished Alumna Award from Marietta College in 2017.

Before coming to MSU, Jane worked for many years as an outdoor education consultant for the Haslett Public School system. Taylor graduated from Marietta College in Ohio, majoring in biology, in 1957. She received a master's degree in botany at the University of Illinois, where she met her husband, J. Lee Taylor, whom she married in 1958.

A memorial service will be held in summer 2020. **Donations in her memory will support the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens.**

WAYS TO SUPPORT MICHIGAN 4-H!

Outright Gifts

Cash donations can be made:

- **As pledge payments** – a promise to make annual or bi-annual payments of a certain amount for up to 5 years.
- **As monthly gifts** through an automatic electronic funds transfer of money from the donor's bank account to the foundation's bank account.
- Payments can be by **cash, check or credit/debit card**. Credit/debit card donations can be made online at mi4hfdtn.org.
- As **gifts of securities and stock**. Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation for gift instructions.
- The **IRA Charitable Rollover** allows traditional or Roth IRA owners – aged 70½ years or older – to make an annual tax-free distribution from an IRA directly to a charity such as the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

In-kind gifts, including certain gifts of valuable **property or assets such as residences, farmland, equipment and agricultural products** (e.g., grain), can also provide immediate support for 4-H programs.

For more information about gift options to support 4-H, contact Amanda Masters at 517-884-4691 or by e-mail at amasters@msu.edu.

Shop to support 4-H

- **AmazonSmile** – Visit smile.amazon.com each time you shop the Amazon store to have Amazon donate a portion of your purchases to your favorite charitable organization, such as the Michigan 4-H Foundation.
- **Shop 4-H** – Visit <http://bit.ly/2zllj2y> to shop for 4-H supplies, apparel and other items bearing the 4-H name and emblem. Five percent of purchases from this custom link will be donated back to Michigan 4-H through the Shop 4-H affiliate program of National 4-H Council.
- **JOANN Fabrics** – Sign-up for 15 percent off total JOANN purchases every day with a JOANN 4-H Reward Card at www.joann.com/4-h or download the JOANN app to your mobile device. JOANN will also donate a minimum of 2.5 percent back to National 4-H Council.

Planned Gifts

Estate and other planned gifts are future gifts to support 4-H. Types of planned/deferred gifts include:

- **Bequests and stock gifts**. Donors may bequeath a specific amount, a percentage of an estate or a residual after other distributions are fulfilled.
- **Testamentary charitable remainder trusts.**
- **Charitable remainder unitrusts.**
- **Charitable gift annuities.**
- **Life estate contracts.**
- **Charitable lead trusts.**
- **Life insurance policies or retirement funds.**

4-H CHILDREN'S GARDENS PROVIDE EXPERIENTIAL START TO SCHOOL YEAR

Twenty-five years ago, the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens were created as the first gardens in the United States specifically designed for children's education on a college campus. For Dwight Rich School of the Arts, that is exactly what the 4-H Children's Gardens provided – a place for its students to learn and grow together for their first few weeks of the school year.

Dwight Rich School underwent construction this year. The school was too small to hold all of its students, and it was old. When the school staff realized the new building wasn't going to be completed in time for the start of the new school year, they needed to make alternative arrangements for the first two weeks.

The principal and teachers reached out to various outreach programs at Michigan State University, including the 4-H Children's Gardens, MSU Museum, Planetarium and Cyclotron. After several summer planning meetings, teachers and MSU employees worked together to create a schedule full of interactive learning while building community connections.

"The biggest challenge was taking the risk of bringing 26 students whom I had never met previously off school grounds, but it also presented me with a unique way to connect and bond relationally outside of the traditional classroom setting," said Keturah Bouyer, third grade teacher at Dwight Rich School of the Arts.

The 4-H Children's Gardens hosted kindergarten, first-, second- and third-grade classes – one grade level each day. Students arrived at the garden by 10 a.m. and left around 2 p.m. Over four days, more than 300 students explored and experienced the wonder of the gardens. For most of them, this was their first visit to the 4-H Children's Gardens.

"These are some of the bravest teachers ever, taking field trips right at the beginning of school," said Norm Lownds, Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens curator. "It shows how very dedicated these teachers are to giving their students the most amazing learning experiences."



Dwight Rich School of the Arts kindergarten through third grade classes spent their first two weeks of the school year at the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens and other Michigan State University locations for hands-on learning.

"Thanks so much to the garden staff for being willing to partner with us in the most adventurous start to a school year I have ever experienced!"

– Keturah Bouyer,
Third grade teacher at Dwight Rich School of the Arts

At the 4-H Children's Gardens students participated in a variety of interactive activities throughout the gardens and still had traditional classroom time with their teachers in classrooms provided by the 4-H Children's Gardens.

"We appreciated the willingness of the staff at the gardens to speak with us about the experience before our visit and then take the reins to plan a content-driven, fun and valuable day for our children," said Kimberly Coscarella, kindergarten teacher at Dwight Rich School of the Arts.

When asked what the students' favorite activity was while in the gardens, teachers' overwhelming response was: getting to explore the pizza garden. Students used their five senses to learn about basil and oregano, all while learning where their food comes from. They especially liked choosing a petal from a begonia plant on the floral peacock to taste.

To strengthen the community connections between the classes and the 4-H Children's Gardens, the students all planted flowers to take back to their new school.

"The students loved planting the violas, and they were excited to take them back to the school, which are now growing beautifully in our courtyard," Bouyer said.

Lownds will visit the school multiple times throughout the school year to continue the community connections. The 4-H Children's Gardens employees and the teachers at Dwight Rich School of the Arts are excited to continue their relationship into the future.

"We are looking forward to our ongoing relationship with the staff at the 4-H Children's Gardens as they visit our school throughout the year," Coscarella said. "We have plans to reconnect every few months to further the students' understanding about plants during the year, and we will also be creating art related to our work with plants to be displayed at the gardens as a reminder of our learning there."

"Thanks so much to the garden staff for being willing to partner with us in the most adventurous start to a school year I have ever experienced!" Bouyer added. "I really think, as a community partner, you introduced our students to life in a garden and showed what the great state of Michigan has to offer through their experience at MSU!"

NORTH CENTRAL 4-H HOSTS SUMMER CAMP AT KETTUNEN CENTER

For more than 30 years, **Arenac, Iosco and Ogemaw** counties have held an annual summer camp, **North Central 4-H Summer Camp**. Over the past three decades, the summer camp has been held at a handful of northern Michigan locations.

This summer, to accommodate the camp's continued growth, the 4-H program coordinators moved their camp to Kettunen Center, the full-service conference and retreat facility owned by the Michigan 4-H Foundation in Tustin, Michigan, near Cadillac. Thirty-two youth ages 8 to 11 attended the two-day camp in early August.

"This is the first time for us to hold camp at Kettunen Center, and it was great," said Melissa Prohaska, MSU Extension 4-H program coordinator. "It was a little different from our normal set-up, as youth normally sleep in cabins rather than rooms, but it worked very well. We tried to keep as much of the camp atmosphere as possible by having the youth bring their own sleeping bags, having an evening campfire and holding sessions outside when possible."

The camp was created to provide an opportunity for youth in this age range to have an overnight educational and fun 4-H experience and meet new friends.

"This camp has always been STEM-based, and over the past couple of years we have added arts to the sessions offered, making all sessions STEAM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math]-based," Prohaska said.

Topics of activities range from beekeeping and making smoothies to shooting sports and spa and relaxation. Activities change from year to year. The top three favorite activities for youth at the camp were water time, fishing and sports court. The sessions also allow youth a



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sample of the types of projects that might be available through 4-H.

"The on-site lake, trails and woods were great for our event," Prohaska said. "This is my first time being at Kettunen Center for a youth-focused event, and the facility worked great!"

The Kettunen Center holds many 4-H events throughout the year including 4-H workshops, band camps, family reunions and other conferences.

"Since 1961, Kettunen Center has served Michigan 4-H teens and adults as a location for educational workshops," said Chris Gentry, Kettunen Center director. "It is exciting to see the North Central 4-H Summer Camp utilizing all that the center has to offer!"

THANK YOU TO THE 2018-19 4-H WORKSHOP SPONSORS

Each year, 4-H offers skill-building workshops at Kettunen Center, Michigan's 4-H training center in Tustin, Michigan. These workshops provide 4-H members and volunteers with a professionally conducted training experience guided by experts from Michigan State University Extension and many other organizations.

We extend our thanks to the 2018-19 4-H workshop sponsors:

- Reyes Adent Foundation
- Corn Marketing Program of Michigan
- The Hal and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation
- GreenStone Farm Credit Services
- JOANN
- Land O'Lakes Foundation
- Michigan Milk Producers Association
- Michigan Pork Producers Association
- National 4-H Council
- Tkachik Sisters Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan
- Tractor Supply Company
- United Dairy Industry of Michigan

Annual support for 4-H volunteer training is also provided by individual donations and these Michigan 4-H Foundation endowment funds:

- James H. and Dorothy A. Anderson Fund
- Jack and Betty Barnes Tribute Fund
- Thelma and Leonard Burleigh Fund
- William J. and Ruth D. Collins Fund
- Donald J. and John H. Hawkins Memorial Fund
- Henning Family Fund
- Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Fund
- Sandra Clarkson Stuckman 4-H Endowment Fund
- Turner-Ousterhout Memorial Fund
- Westrate Family Fund

SEEKING 2020 4-H WORKSHOP SPONSORS

4-H workshop sponsorships are available for \$5,000. If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring a 4-H workshop, visit mi4hfdn.org/4-h-workshop-sponsors or call the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.

OAKLAND COUNTY 4-H ALUMNUS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL 4-H HALL OF FAME

L.C. Scramlin receives prestigious honor after 47 years of Michigan 4-H involvement.

Oct. 11, **L.C. Scramlin**, of Holly, was inducted into the 2019 class of the National 4-H Hall of Fame. This is one of the highest honors bestowed on members of the 4-H community. Scramlin received the recognition as a former Michigan 4-H member and volunteer and current 4-H partner, supporter and advocate who has been serving his club, community, country and world for nearly five decades.

“We are so fortunate to have LC Scramlin as a member of our 4-H community,” said Jake DeDecker, state 4-H leader with Michigan State University Extension. “His contributions to the 4-H program are immeasurable, and we’re proud to call him not only a 4-H supporter but also a product of our program.”

From the start, Scramlin was destined to be an **Oakland County 4-H’er**, born to a family where both his parents and grandparents served as 4-H leaders. A participant in the 4-H dairy program, Scramlin served as president of the Oakhill 4-H Club, was a state award winner in agriculture, and participated in National 4-H Club Congress and 4-H Citizenship Short Course. In 1967, while president of the Oakland County 4-H Service Club, Scramlin built a food stand trailer that brought in \$6,000 per year in food sales to support the local 4-H program.

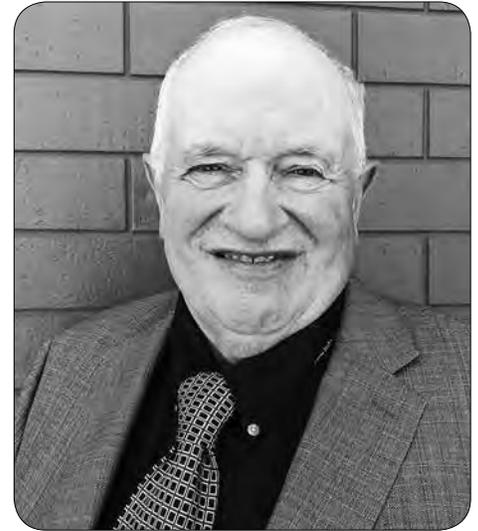
After 10 years of participation, Scramlin aged out of the youth program but continued to be involved as a 4-H volunteer. When the Oakland County Fair needed a new livestock building in 1986, Scramlin accepted the challenge. In just 11 months, he raised \$62,000 as the chair of the Livestock Challenge, and with the help of 31 4-H volunteers, the 4-H barn was built. From there, Scramlin’s commitment to the Oakland County Fair only grew – he served as fair president for 19 years and fair manager for 13. Under his leadership,

the fair grew in number of exhibitors and attendees and made substantial improvements to the grounds. Among Scramlin’s most impressive contributions to the Oakland County Fair was helping to secure the largest federal historical grant in Michigan, \$675,000, to renovate the historic Ellis Barn.

Beyond the Oakland County Fair, Scramlin’s impact is felt by many in the state 4-H and agricultural community. After the Michigan State Fair closed in 2009, Scramlin and others went to work creating a new state fair experience that would allow 4-H youth and others to continue exhibiting at the state level. In 2012, a new Michigan State Fair was launched as a private LLC, giving a new generation of 4-H’ers the chance to live their dreams at the state fair. Since its launch, the event has grown immensely and now boasts more than 150,000 visitors each year and awards \$40,000 annually in agriculture scholarships to deserving youth participants.

In addition to his county and state 4-H work, Scramlin and his wife, Jackie, operate Scramlin Southdown Sheep Farm, where they raise lambs and conduct sheep shearing demonstrations for local 4-H’ers. Scramlin also serves as chair of the MSU Extension Committee on 4-H Fairs as a member of the Michigan Association of Fairs and Expositions Board of Directors.

For his lifetime commitment to 4-H, Scramlin will join the ranks of other notable members of the 4-H community in the National 4-H Hall of Fame, which recognizes and celebrates 4-H volunteers, faculty and staff members, pioneers, donors and others who have made significant impacts on 4-H at the local, state and/or national levels. Established in 2002, the National 4-H Hall of Fame is a joint initiative of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, National 4-H Council and National



L.C. Scramlin of Oakland County was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame Oct. 11 at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Previous National 4-H Hall of Fame laureates from Michigan are:

- 2014 – Michael J. Tate
- 2012 – Melvin J. Thompson
- 2009 – Janet Blanchard
- 2006 – Ralph E. Kirch
- 2005 – Leah Ritchie
- 2004 – Arne G. Kettunen
- 2002 – Russell G. Mawby

4-H Headquarters at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The induction ceremony took place at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

“We are thrilled to have LC recognized at the national level for all he has done for 4-H in our state,” DeDecker said. “It’s a well-deserved honor.”

The National 4-H Hall of Fame was created as part of the Centennial Project of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents in partnership with National 4-H Council and 4-H National Headquarters of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA. For more information about the National 4-H Hall of Fame, visit <http://www.4-H-hof.com>.

2019-20 MINI GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Each year, the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees approves the distribution of competitive grant funds to encourage development of innovative 4-H opportunities in local communities. For the 2019-20 program year, 4-H mini grants were awarded in five grant categories.

Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants

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.

The **Muskegon County 4-H Tech Wizards Lakeshore Fab Lab** experiences received a \$1,000 grant to explore STEM fields through hands-on learning that will help equip youth for the workplace, college and trade-school opportunities. Youth will practice critical and creative thinking to build and solve problems while working alongside college staff members and students at Muskegon Community College.

The **Mather Elementary Robotics Lego League 4-H Club in Alger County** also received a \$1,000 grant to help start an elementary robotics club in Munising. Students will be able to travel and attend events all around the Upper Peninsula, showcasing not only the team's robot but also their hard work and dedication.

4-H Educational Garden Grants

Two 4-H Educational Garden Grants were funded by the *Albert A. Albright Endowment* for 4-H Plant Science and Gardening Education.

4-H "Dig the GIG" Experiential Gardening Program in Kent County received a \$1,000 grant to build raised garden beds that will be cared for by community members, 4-H youth and students from the local school district. In addition, mobile garden kits will be created as a supplement resource for educational opportunities. These kits will provide the opportunity to teach others about gardening and create outreach opportunities.

Mason County's Special Needs Gardening Program also received a garden grant to create a more versatile learning environment for all. The newly established garden will allow youth with cognitive and physical learning to learn how to grow and care for vegetable gardens and learn where their food comes from.

Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant

The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant is funded by the *William J. and Ruth D. Collins Endowment Fund* to advance local 4-H club work in plant science and horticultural activities.

Roosevelt Elementary, McGrath Introduction Garden in Wayne County received a \$350 grant to create a 4-H SPIN Club introducing elementary students to gardening. The garden will educate students on plant life cycles and teach students how to work together across their diversity gap. This garden will help students take ownership and pride in their hard work and bettering their school.



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4-H On-Target Grants

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 **Houghton-Keweenaw Copper Tips 4-H Archery Club** received a \$500 grant to help purchase supplies to help develop a rifle program. Copper Tips 4-H Archery Club already has more than 100 club members, and interest continues to grow. The grant will help purchase safety equipment and supplies for current and future club members.

Also receiving an On-Target grant is **Ingham County's 4-H Air Pistol Program**. The grant will be used to help add a 10-meter air pistol program to the county's well-established club. With this grant, club leaders hope to offer more opportunities to current members while bringing in new members with an interest in air pistols.

4-H Participant Scholarship Grants

The Michigan 4-H Foundation also awarded \$8,620 in 4-H Participant Scholarship Grants across 4-H programs in 21 counties: **Alcona, Barry, Bay, Calhoun, Cass, Cheboygan, Crawford, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Iosco, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Monroe, Newaygo, Oscoda, Presque Isle, Tuscola, Van Buren** and **Wayne** counties. These grants provide scholarship support for youth who are unable to pay the 4-H youth participant fee per county.

The 4-H Participant Scholarship Grant Program is made possible by gifts to the *4-H Participation Fee Scholarship Fund* of the Michigan 4-H Foundation and gifts to support Michigan 4-H on Give Green Day.

The next mini grant cycle will open Apr. 1 with grant applications due June 1. Grant applications are available online at <https://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>.

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

Van Buren County 4-H distributes milk for National 4-H Week

Van Buren County 4-H partnered with the United Dairy Industry of Michigan, Hood Farms Family Dairy, Wal-Mart (Paw Paw and South Haven) and Tractor Supply Company (Paw Paw and South Haven) to distribute 1,200 gallons of milk on Oct. 12 in celebration of National 4-H Week. Read more: <https://www.morningagclips.com/4-h-promotes-ag-by-distributing-milk/>

Huron County 4-H'ers receive Governor's Service Award

Addy Battel and Pearl Daskam received the 2019 Governor's Service Award for Youth Volunteer of the Year for their leadership of the "Meating the Need for Our Village" project. The annual statewide recognition, coordinated by the Michigan Community Service Commission, acknowledges the contributions made by Michigan volunteers.



Know an outstanding Michigan 4-H alum?

Nominate a deserving 4-H alum for the 4-H Emerald Clover Society class of 2020!

The Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society honors individuals who have had significant Michigan 4-H involvement as a youth and who have made significant contributions to their local, state and national communities. Nominations are being accepted now for the 4-H Emerald Clover Society Class of 2020. **Deadline for nominations is Jan. 31, 2020.**

Nominee selection is based on evidence of three or more years of Michigan 4-H youth membership, 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. Nominees must be living.

Nominate a deserving 4-H alumnus today! For more details or to nominate distinguished 4-H alumni, visit <https://mi4hfdtn.org/ecs> or call the foundation at (517) 353-6692.