



# VANTAGE

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## CASS CITY STUDENT SELECTED FOR NATIONAL 4-H AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP

*Addy Battel receives \$5,000 scholarship, and will serve as 4-H's national youth spokesperson for agriculture*

**A**ddy Battel, 16, of Cass City, Michigan, received the 2019 4-H Youth in Action Pillar Award for Agriculture from National 4-H Council. Battel was recognized nationally for her leadership as co-founder of "Meating the Need for Our Village," a program designed to combat food insecurity in her community. Her teammate **Pearl Daskam** was a finalist for the Healthy Living category.

At just 12 years old, Battel and Daskam started the program with a team of fellow Huron County 4-H'ers after the city became a food desert when the community's only grocery store closed. Recognizing the need for higher quality foods for those in need, the team secured grants and contributions from the community and began providing high-quality protein to local food pantries.

"When I found out that 17 percent of my community was food-insecure, my passion really took off – there was a tangible need in my community, and there was something I could do about it. Since then, we've made a \$54,000 impact through 10,000 pounds of meat, 1,368 gallons of milk and 92 dozen eggs," Battel said.

Battel credits teamwork as the backbone of the project. Battel is a confident, big-picture thinker; Daskam thinks through the details to make it happen. They've learned to work together through differences of opinion to create a truly outstanding program and encourage youth to donate to meeting a community need.



Huron County 4-H'er Addy Battel (photo left) received the 2019 4-H Youth in Action Pillar Award for Agriculture for her leadership as co-founder of "Meating the Need for Our Village."

Battel's remarkable efforts to combat food insecurity are rooted in a passion for agriculture. From the age of 3, Battel was exposed to 4-H programming through Michigan State University Extension. After putting forth the hard work to raise and show her first market goat, she knew she'd found something she loved to do and wanted to share with others.

Exposing youth with special needs to farm animals is especially important to Battel. When her family adopted her two younger brothers, who both have autism, Battel quickly realized that exposure to animals sparked a change in them.

"For both of my brothers, animals are very powerful and almost therapeutic. One of my brothers struggles with behavioral episodes, and exposure to animals helps calm him," Battel said. "Our family has access to the tools and resources to fight for my brothers' medical needs, but we're also able to provide them with the right help behaviorally with our animals."

When a mom asked if her son Jacob, who uses a wheelchair, could show an animal, Battel leaped into action, thinking creatively to find ways to support Jacob as he learned to show his goat. Jacob's joy at spending time with animals on the farm was another powerful testimony to Addy of the therapeutic impact that animals can make in the lives of young people.

Battel will receive a \$5,000 scholarship for higher education and serve as an advocate and spokesperson for 4-H agriculture programming. She was recognized as the 2019 4-H Youth in Action Pillar Winner for Agriculture, sponsored by Bayer, at the 10th Annual 4-H Legacy Awards in Washington, D.C., March 12.

The 4-H Youth in Action Awards began in 2010 to recognize 4-H'ers who have used the knowledge they gained in 4-H to create a lasting impact in their communities. Battel is only the second Michigan 4-H'er to be honored with this prestigious award.

"Addy's accomplishments are proof that, when given the proper tools and knowledge, kids and teens have the power to make society a more accessible, welcoming and healthier place," said Darren Wallis, vice president of communications at Bayer in North America. "What's always been clear to us is that STEM is core to solving some of society's most challenging problems, and Bayer is proud to partner with 4-H to recognize standout students like Addy and provide valuable education to youth nationwide."

To learn more about 4-H Youth in Action and to view the other pillar winners from around the country, please visit: [www.4-h.org/youthinaction](http://www.4-h.org/youthinaction). *Written and published by National 4-H Council and edited for use here.*

## \$13.3 MILLION RAISED FOR MICHIGAN 4-H TO PREPARE YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE

The Michigan 4-H Foundation Campaign for Michigan 4-H's Future concluded Dec. 31 with \$13.3 million raised during the past seven years, making it the largest campaign in the foundation's history, said Sara Stuby, Michigan 4-H Foundation president.

In the previous campaign, which concluded in 2007, the Michigan 4-H Foundation raised \$10.3 million.

This campaign, publicly launched in 2014 in conjunction with Michigan State University's Empower Extraordinary campaign, set a \$12.5 million goal to prepare Michigan 4-H youth to step up to the challenges of a complex and changing world. As a result, more youth in every Michigan county have learned to make healthy life choices, are active citizens and engaged in leadership and service, are critical thinkers and problem solvers, and are college-bound, work-ready and financially smart.

"Thanks to investments from those who care about young people in our communities, Michigan 4-H is well-positioned to prepare youth for the future," said Jacob DeDecker, state leader for Michigan 4-H Youth Development, Michigan State University Extension.

With more than 4,175 total donors to Michigan 4-H, the campaign finished with over \$1 million raised in just the last few months of the campaign.

"This accomplishment would not have been possible without great leadership and support," said Jeffrey Dwyer, MSU Extension director. "A very important group of people who provided critical leadership to this campaign is the Leadership 10. This is a group of individuals who formed the core group of donors and who made significant financial commitments to this campaign early on. We have turned to this group time and again for their support, and they always say yes and always lead the way."

### IMPACT

1. The creation of 27 new programs, expanding MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development in the areas of:
  - **STEM** – Science, technology, engineering and math.
  - **Healthy lifestyles.**
  - **Leadership and civic engagement.**
  - **Workforce readiness and financial literacy.**
2. The creation of 43 new endowment funds, doubling the endowment investment to serve 4-H for the future. This includes 31 county endowments created in communities around the state for county 4-H program delivery.

3. Significant 4-H facility improvements at the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens on the MSU campus and at Kettunen Center, the Michigan 4-H conference center. At the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, contributions funded the construction of outdoor restrooms. At Kettunen Center, gifts funded two new shooting sports ranges and the renovation of the waterfront.

### HISTORIC RESULTS

- The single largest gift to Michigan 4-H was received during this campaign in December 2013. The \$3.85 million estate gift comprised a \$1.85 million cash and a \$2 million property distribution from the Mary (Sally) and Donovan (Pete) Smith trusts to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. The gift primarily provided support for the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens.
- For the first time, the foundation offered a 1:1 county 4-H endowment match opportunity for the creation of local 4-H endowments. This resulted in 31 county 4-H endowments being established or grown through the Make the Match County 4-H Endowment Campaign. The match was built by private investments in a \$1 million match pool.
- During the campaign period, the Michigan 4-H Foundation's total endowed assets nearly doubled, growing from \$2.78 million to \$5.5 million.



The Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees hosted a campaign celebration event March 14 to celebrate the conclusion of the campaign and exceeding the campaign goal. Pictured are Leadership 10 members (back row) Sally and Dale Stuby, Julie and Larry Chapin, and (front row) Noel and Sandy Stuckman.



**13.3  
MILLION**

**GOAL EXCEEDED!**



## NEW YOUTH TRUSTEE TO PROVIDE YOUTH VOICE TO BOARD

**L**ivingston County 4-H'er **Grace Schmidt** was elected to the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees in April.

Michigan 4-H Foundation trustees are volunteers who serve as community advocates for 4-H and lead and manage the operation of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Three positions on the board are reserved for trustees between the ages of 16 and 22. These youth trustees, all 4-H members, provide a youth voice to the board and help it to keep to the 4-H mission.

Schmidt also serves on the **Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council (SYLC)**. SYLC members serve as representatives of the Michigan 4-H program, promoting 4-H through state and local activities, and can provide a youth voice and perspective on the development of 4-H programs and curricula. SYLC members are also provided an opportunity to represent Michigan at the National 4-H

Conference in Washington, D.C. Schmidt is halfway through her term on the 4-H State Youth Leadership Council (SYLC) and serves as the metropolitan regional leader.

Schmidt has been a member of Livingston County's Barnyard Bunch 4-H Club for the past 13 years. She is active in the poultry, goat, rabbit and leadership project areas. Schmidt has served on the Livingston County 4-H Council and on the Small Animal Committee in both membership and officer roles. She won the Michigan World Food Prize in 2018 and was the first to represent Michigan at the Global World Food Prize in the collegiate category. Schmidt currently attends Washtenaw Community College and plans to transfer to MSU to pursue a degree in animal science.



**Livingston County 4-H'er Grace Schmidt was elected to the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees in April.**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Now-Oct. 31 – Outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens opened.**

The outdoor gardens are open dawn to dusk until Oct. 31. Learn more at: [4hgarden.msu.edu](http://4hgarden.msu.edu).

**Oct. 4 – Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting** at Michigan State University.

**Oct. 6-12 – National 4-H Week.**

**Oct. 9-20 – TSC Paper Clover Campaign.** Visit your local Tractor Supply Company store to purchase a paper clover to support your county 4-H program. For details visit, [www.tractorsupply.com/4H](http://www.tractorsupply.com/4H).

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

# MICROSOFT GRANT EXPANSION HELPS 4-H YOUTH CREATE CHANGE AND BECOME DIGITAL AMBASSADORS

## 4-H Tech Changemakers

Last year, **Washtenaw** and **Wayne** counties were among eight 4-H communities nationwide to receive a **National 4-H Council 4-H Tech Changemakers** grant from **Microsoft**.

This year, that grant has been renewed and expanded to include **Alpena County**. This grant equips young adults with the digital skills and resources to make a positive impact on their communities.

**Alpena County** 4-H members are addressing the problem of marine debris. Their plan is to build a rewards program for the businesses in the county to collect reusable containers. The rewards program is still in the early stages of design, but changes in the county are starting to occur.

"There are a few businesses that have moved to some plastic-free practices on their own, so we are trying to highlight those businesses through our social media to spread the word and celebrate their decisions," said Hannah Hazewinkel, 4-H Tech Changemakers coordinator. "Our hope is that soon these business owners will become 'coaches' to other business owners who want to make the switch."

**Wayne County** 4-H members are tackling the issue of addiction across the nation. The youth have learned from resource professionals that addiction

comes in many forms. To make resources available to people in need, they have developed a website, [wayne4change.org](http://wayne4change.org). The youth are also creating educational games to feature on the website as another resource and learning tool.

**Washtenaw County** 4-H members are using technology to support teens facing mental health challenges. Their goal was to create a "web of peer support" and identify various resources that students can turn to in times of need. Their goal is to provide support to reduce the number of teen suicides and encourage positive mental health activities. This project has been acknowledged by the school districts and political decision makers, who have invited 4-H and other community teens to converse on the subject.

"The process each county has been going through to create a better community has been rewarding," said Jake DeDecker, Michigan 4-H state leader. "Each county has worked hard on designing a project that will change the community and help each and every person grow and feel comfortable to try new things within their community, and to make a difference along the way."

The 4-H Tech Changemakers looks to expand to other communities and school districts to implement their ideas and projects.

## 4-H Digital Ambassadors

This year, Michigan is also one of 15 states receiving **National 4-H Council** grants from **Microsoft** to implement the **4-H Digital Ambassadors Project**.

This project involves teens taking their digital and technology skills to their communities in the Upper Peninsula counties of **Dickinson, Gogebic, Iron** and **Menominee**.

"There are over 20 million people who lack knowledge of the internet access and over 380,000 households in Michigan lack access to fixed broadband internet," said Anne Kretschmann, MSU Extension 4-H program coordinator. "However, access to broadband infrastructure is only one piece of the equation. Potential users must be comfortable with and educated on how to use the technology in order to improve their quality of life and the health of their community."

"Our proposal empowers 4-H youth to help close the rural broadband internet gap and make a positive impact in their communities through education. During community workshops, youth will teach technology skills such as using a word processor and accessing the internet and social media safely."

Kretschmann continued, "4-H has a strong tradition in rural communities spanning over 100 years which makes 4-H youth well poised to help bridge the gap as Digital Ambassadors. In this capacity, youth can engage people with the latest technology, so that they can use this new connectivity to improve education, health care and agriculture, as well as transform businesses."



**Alpena County 4-H members are addressing the marine debris issue through a National 4-H Council 4-H Tech Changemakers grant from Microsoft.**

## NATIONAL 4-H GRANTS HELP MICHIGAN 4-H SUCCEED

**N**ational 4-H Council continues to be a strong partner in leveraging corporate grants to support local 4-H programs. For the past two fiscal years, support from National 4-H Council partnerships has exceeded \$250,000 annually. This includes grants from **Microsoft, CME Group, JOANN, Monsanto, Tractor Supply Company and Walmart.**

The **4-H Ag Innovators Experience**, presented by **Bayer**, challenges youth to apply critical thinking and STEM skills to address a real-world agricultural challenge. Michigan 4-H is among five states participating the 2019 4-H Ag Innovators Experience, Native Bee Challenge. Through this experience, 4-H youth will learn the importance of pollination to agriculture and its connection to a sustainable food supply, specifically as it relates to native bees. Youth will learn about the process of pollination, the role of pollinators in our food supply, and the importance of creating habitat for native bees.

Michigan 4-H is among eight states participating in the **Commodity Carnival**, an interactive fair experience, through a six-year partnership between 4-H and **CME Group**, the world's leading and most diverse derivatives marketplace. The goal of the Commodity Carnival program is to increase public understanding of agricultural commodities and the role that futures markets play in today's world. Commodity Carnival includes two hands-on mini carnival games to introduce the concepts of agricultural risk management to families and youth ages 8 to 14. In Commodity Carnival, youth are tasked with "raising" a hog – balancing the costs of feed, health and nutrition, production and energy and resources. Next, the hog is weighed and the participant drops a correlating disc down a plinko-style board, with "risk" pegs representing elements beyond the youth's control – pests, bad weather, health news, government regulations and trade, and seasonal demands. Youth whose hogs earned them money receive a special prize. Additionally, participants are



**Tractor Supply Company (TSC) has partnered with 4-H since 2010 to sell 4-H paper clovers nationwide with the proceeds donated back to 4-H. The spring 2019 TSC Paper Clover Campaign resulted in nearly \$50,000 raised to support 4-H. Above are Ionia County 4-H members at the TSC store in Ionia.**

encouraged to download the mobile app Risk Ranch. Through this interactive game, users virtually raise steers and hogs and bring them to market while in the comfort of their own homes.

**JOANN Fabrics** stores have partnered with 4-H to bring hands-on programs to local communities across the nation. For two months in spring 2018 and spring 2019, JOANN stores asked their customers to donate to 4-H with the Clovers for Kids campaign. Both years Michigan raised over \$22,000 to support 4-H through this point-of-sale campaign. This spring, the counties that raised the most donations were **Oakland, Wayne, Washtenaw, Macomb** and **Livingston**. JOANN also offers a rewards card for current and lifetime members, parents, volunteers and 4-H staff members to receive 15 percent off total purchases every day. In return, JOANN donates a minimum of 2.5 percent back to National 4-H Council. In addition, JOANN and Shop4-H.org now carry a line of 4-H fabric, with a portion of sales benefitting 4-H.

**Tractor Supply Company** has partnered with 4-H since 2010 to sell 4-H paper clovers nationwide with the proceeds donated back to 4-H. For the first time, this past fall over a million dollars was raised nationally in a single 4-H Paper Clover campaign. Michigan ranked sixth in the nation by raising \$53,000 to support

4-H. The spring 2019 campaign, which concluded April 7, resulted in \$49,160. When combined, Michigan's Paper Clover campaigns generated over \$102,000 in fiscal year 2018-19. Michigan counties that raised the most in donations this spring were **Livingston, Montcalm, Genesee, St. Clair** and **Macomb**. You can show your support by purchasing a paper clover at a TSC store near you during the fall 2019 Paper Clover Promotion, Oct. 9-20.

Michigan 4-H continues to increase nutrition education and physical fitness activities for youth with the **Walmart Healthy Habits grant**. The 2018-19 grant builds on established community partnerships and provides mini grants for 10 counties. Each county will have at least five healthy-living teen ambassadors to oversee the local healthy living program. Through a variety of workshops, activities and camps for fourth through 12th graders, youth will learn about healthy food choices and receive nutrition education. Programs will incorporate fresh fruits and vegetables grown in raised beds placed at local community centers and schools, and from farmers' markets. Youth groups are encouraged to create 4-H community gardens and connections with local farmers' markets. The program also includes physical activity programs, recipes to encourage families to cook and eat together, and youth cooking competitions.

# MSU EXTENSION NAMES NEW LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING AND INITIATIVES

**M**ichigan State University Extension announced the appointment of **Amy Bonomi** as the new director of the MSU Extension Children and Youth Institute (CYI) and **Erica Tobe** as associate director, effective May 1. They will work closely with **Jake DeDecker**, who was appointed Michigan 4-H state leader Nov. 16.

In this new leadership structure, Bonomi will lead a visioning process that will help CYI to expand partnerships, build resources, support leadership development, and measure and communicate impacts. Tobe will focus on the day-to-day oversight of CYI educators and specialists, and communicate the impact of their work to stakeholders. DeDecker will maintain primary leadership for Michigan 4-H, overseeing 4-H staffing while supporting and further elevating strong 4-H programming across the state. As state 4-H leader, DeDecker will continue to serve as a Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee and secretary to the board.

Since 2013, Bonomi has served as the chair of the MSU Department of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) in the MSU College of Social Science. She served as a special adviser to the MSU Office of the Provost on the experiences of faculty and academic staff members and founded the Women’s Leadership Institute, a preeminent source for supporting women in their leadership aspirations through evidence-based curricula and networking opportunities. Bonomi also serves



**Amy Bonomi**

as associate editor of the Journal of Women’s Health and writes a violence prevention blog for the Huffington Post.

Tobe has worked in varying roles with MSU Extension for the past two decades. She was a children, youth and families agent in Branch County, a 4-H agent in Washtenaw County and, most recently, a specialist with the financial and homeownership education team. In 2013, Tobe was recruited by Bonomi as a faculty member for HDFS, and in 2016, she was appointed as the graduate program director for the department.



**Erica Tobe**

DeDecker joined MSU Extension in 2006 as the 4-H program leader responsible for 4-H STEM, small animal and agriculture programs. He served as MSU Extension associate state 4-H leader beginning in 2014 and was also named CYI associate director in 2017. In February of 2018, DeDecker was appointed acting state 4-H leader. He took the permanent position last fall.



**Jake DeDecker**

CYI is one of four institutes within MSU Extension. It focuses on children and youth programming from ages 0 to 19, including 4-H. CYI programs are concentrated in five core areas: capacity building for youth development programs, career exploration and workforce development, child and family development, enhancing science literacy, and leadership and civic engagement.

## MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE GIFTS

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

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

**Send announcement of this gift to:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Sent by:** (Donor’s Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Payment by:**

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

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

Name (as on card) \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date (mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Michigan 4-H Foundation, Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture, 446 West Circle Dr., Room 160, East Lansing, MI 48824**

## 4-H RENEWABLE ENERGY CAMP: GROWING TRUE LEADERS PASSIONATE ABOUT STEM

**A**nually, Michigan 4-H youth gather at Michigan State University during summer months to participate in the 4-H Renewable Energy Camp. The five-day precollege program, taught by industry experts, introduces youth to ideas, research and opportunities in the renewable energy field.

“Our world is changing, and renewable energy is an important part of that change,” said Tracy D’Augustino, Michigan State University Extension science and youth development educator. “4-H Renewable Energy Camp is giving today’s youth an opportunity to engage with and explore renewable energy to help solve the growing need for renewable energy knowledge throughout Michigan and across the world.”

4-H participants choose either a solar/wind energy track or a biofuel track. To expand their knowledge about their chosen topic, youth visit on- and off-campus locations and laboratories that give them a look at cutting-edge technology and the chance to engage in hands-on learning opportunities.

“My favorite part about the 4-H Renewable Energy Camp is the chance I have to learn about new technologies in the field and to help teach the next generation about scientists and engineers,” said **Jonah Wojnar, Eaton County 4-H’er** and 4-H Renewable Energy Camp teen facilitator. “I knew I was going to be an electrical engineer in my future, but this camp solidified what I was going

to study in that field, and I am proud to help other people make that decision as well, especially during the current climate crisis.”

The 4-H Renewable Energy Camp has a long history of encouraging career exploration and college enrollment in its participants. Of the youth who participated in the camp between 2015 and 2017, 80 percent enrolled in college within six months following high school. That number is 24 percent higher than the Michigan average.

“The 4-H Renewable Energy Camp offers numerous fun, interesting and unique activities and opportunities related to career exploration of this field,” said Safia Aladlouni, Oakland County 4-H’er and 4-H Renewable Energy Camp teen facilitator. “It offers participants the chance to live on MSU’s campus, experience college life, and familiarize themselves with topics they may not have had a lot of exposure to in school.”

Providing experiences to youth such as Jonah and Safia would not be possible without the support of generous individuals and organizations. The 4-H Renewable Energy Camp is sponsored in part by **HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative** and the **Corn Marketing Program of Michigan**. Camp sponsors value empowering youth to create solutions for the energy issues the world is facing today.



The 4-H Renewable Energy Camp, sponsored in part by Homeworks Tri-County Electric Cooperative and the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan introduces youth to ideas, research and opportunities in the renewable energy field. Pictured above are the 2018 4-H Renewable Energy Camp participants in front of the solar energy panels at the Homeworks headquarters in Portland, Mich.

## BABBITT SHOWS COMMITMENT TO LOCAL AND STATE 4-H PROGRAMS

**A**lthough she wasn't involved in 4-H as a youth, **Pam Babbitt of Muskegon County** has been giving her time, talent and treasure to 4-H for nearly 50 years. Babbitt became a 4-H leader in 1969, and her involvement grew from there. She joined the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees in 1985, and in her 35 years on the board, Babbitt has been a committed donor and advocate for growing 4-H resources across the state.

"I've always enjoyed being involved with 4-H," she said. "Your reward as a volunteer is seeing the kids achieve."

Babbitt loves 4-H, which is why she continues to give back to Michigan 4-H.

"I can see the need and know others can benefit from the donations I make," she said. "I do it because I'm able to."

Babbitt has supported 4-H in a variety of ways over the years, including gifts to state 4-H awards, the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, Kettunen Center and the 4-H Annual Fund. During the Vision 2021 Campaign for Kettunen Center, she sponsored a room in Birch Lodge and a Red Oak room, and contributed to the Capstone Campaign. She also sponsored a room in the new Gerstacker Wing of Cedar Lodge and was the winning bidder on the Garfield 4-H print during the 4-H Centennial Gala in 2002.

Most recently, Babbitt's gifts have supported the **Muskegon County 4-H Endowment Fund**.

"Muskegon County 4-H had a goal to try to raise \$50,000 for matching funds. It was an idea that I had that my support should go to this fund to help toward that goal," Babbitt said, "so they could have matching funds to make the county 4-H grow and expand."

Qualifying gifts to the participating county 4-H endowments were matched 1:1 by the Michigan 4-H Foundation, ultimately doubling donors' gifts to grow local 4-H endowments.

Babbitt became a 4-H leader in 1969 – 50 years ago.

"A neighbor invited my kids to a meeting and to join their 4-H club. My kids were 5 and 6 at the time," Babbitt said. "My son and daughter were both involved in 4-H until they graduated high school and went to college – and I stayed in 4-H."

"That first year they did a stamp collection. The next year, my neighbor asked if I'd like to teach the kids knitting, and the Needle Beatles 4-H Club just kept growing. At one time we had 40 members. We've done sewing, baking, macramé, string art, gift wrapping – one year we even made Cabbage Patch dolls."

As a 4-H volunteer, she attended 4-H Exploration Days, Kettunen Center 4-H workshops and a variety of other statewide events. For many years, she also served as a member of the Muskegon County 4-H Leaders Council, helped out with the Muskegon County fair and judged local competitions.

Babbitt became a Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee 35 years ago. Trustees are volunteers who serve as community advocates for 4-H and lead the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Trustees manage foundation policies and operations, including oversight of staff members and work on committees developed to facilitate foundation operations.

Babbitt recalled becoming a Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee.

"I was president of the Muskegon County 4-H Council. Our 4-H agent asked me if I'd be interested in serving on the Michigan 4-H Foundation's board. I didn't think I qualified, but he assured me the foundation was seeking women in business. Then the foundation's president at the time interviewed me and I joined the board – that was in 1985," Babbitt

said. "I didn't quite understand all that it was about, but now I think I'm the longest serving trustee on the board."

Babbitt has served terms as Michigan 4-H Foundation president, vice president, immediate past president and treasurer, and chaired the foundation's Personnel Committee for over a decade.

"I can see the value of it in young people's lives across the state. I enjoy Kettunen Center and the quality training offered at Kettunen," Babbitt said. "It's a nice place to visit, and it's nice to be a part of it."

"1971 was the first time I was at Kettunen Center. It was for a 4-H food and nutrition workshop. The center was very different then. It's been a joy to see how Kettunen Center has changed."

"Over the years, I attended a variety of 4-H workshops, including craft, FOLKPATTERNS, citizenship, leadership. I enjoyed going to them."

4-H also has deep roots in her family. Babbitt's late husband, Ed, was a 4-H alumnus and a 4-H volunteer.

When her husband was very ill, a local person asked her if she would be interested in building a garden on a section of property she and her husband owned in downtown Muskegon. After her husband died in 2004, she approved the garden plans and, in 2005, dedicated the Heritage Memorial Garden in Ed's memory. After the dedication, Babbitt received numerous inquiries from others interested in sponsoring memorial benches. To date the garden has 30 memorial benches, two fountains – one each for Ed and Pam – and a gazebo, frequently used for wedding photos.

"My husband was in the first 4-H Emerald Clover Society class, and the stone marking his memorial fountain is from the Emerald Clover Society. When the company was working on the wall for Kettunen Center, they did a sample engraving, and that stone now marks the fountain in his memory," she explained.

Babbitt remains active with her local community, especially with the Heritage Memorial Garden. She is also a member of Rotary Club and the Woman's Division Chamber of Commerce, and Milwaukee Clipper board treasurer, and serves on a variety of committees for these organizations.



**Pam Babbitt of Muskegon County has been giving her time, talent and treasure to 4-H for nearly 50 years.**

## HIPPLE HONORS HER FATHER'S LEGACY WITH A GIFT FOR THE GARDENS

**K**aren Hipple, of Scottsdale, Arizona, grew up in East Lansing the youngest of four daughters. Their father, **Per G. Lundin**, worked for Michigan State University (MSU) Extension as the assistant state 4-H leader on MSU's campus for 31 years until he retired in 1956.

Hipple went on to graduate from MSU in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and became an elementary school teacher. She married and had one son. For many years, she resided in the Birmingham, Michigan and St. Louis, Missouri areas before moving to Scottsdale.

Although she settled away from her hometown, Hipple never forgot the place she loved and called home for many years – MSU. To commemorate this special time of her life, Hipple documented a planned gift in memory of her father's legacy, which when received will create the **Per G. Lundin Fund for the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens**.

"It is with great love and admiration that Karen has chosen to honor her father with this gift that will benefit the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens," said Kristi Bird Hutchings, Hipple's niece. "My grandfather's career was devoted to 4-H and the impact he made on many 4-H youth across the state was phenomenal. Aunt Karen and her sisters had a great appreciation for their father's work, having heard many conversations that took place around their kitchen table while they were growing up."

Lundin served MSU Extension as assistant state 4-H leader from 1925 to 1956 and as part-time 4-H agent in Schoolcraft County in 1923 and 1924. Lundin is known for his work in developing the 4-H handicraft, electrical and poultry programs in Michigan. He also authored many 4-H bulletins in archery and fire prevention in addition to his specialty areas. A native of Sweden, Lundin received his bachelor's degree from MSU in 1920 and taught agriculture at Manistee High School before taking a full-time position with MSU Extension.

Once the endowment is funded, it will annually support the delivery of Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens educational programs. The outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Garden opened in 1993 as one of the five major gardens of the MSU Horticulture Demonstration Gardens. It was the first garden in the United State developed specifically for the education of young children on a university campus. With over 150,000 annual visitors, the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens have grown to include the original outdoor 4-H Children's Garden, the Indoor 4-H Children's Garden and the Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden.

"It is Karen's hope that by sustaining the ongoing mission of the gardens, her gift will help promote an understanding of the importance plants play in our daily lives, nurture the wonder and curiosity in a child's mind, and provide a place of enrichment and delight for children of all ages," Hutchings said.

A planned or deferred gift is a donation that is arranged by the donor, typically through a will, trust or estate plan, to be allocated



**Karen Hipple documented a planned gift to create an endowment for the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens in memory of her father, Per G. Lundin (photo left), Michigan assistant state 4-H leader from 1925 to 1956.**

at a future date, often after the donor has passed away. Planned gifts can be funded with cash, equity or property through a variety of gift vehicles.

In recognition of naming MSU a beneficiary of her trust, Hipple has been recognized as a member of the MSU Landon Society. Similarly, planned gift donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation are recognized as members of the A.G. Kettunen Society.

*If you are considering a planned gift, endowment or other special gift to support 4-H, contact Amanda Masters at (517) 884-4691 or by email at [amasters@msu.edu](mailto:amasters@msu.edu).*

### Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens Spring & Summer 2019 Calendar

**Garden Writers Workshop** – July 9-11, 10 a.m.-noon

**Stories in the Garden** – July 10, 10-11:30 a.m.

**Train Day** – July 18, 10 a.m.-noon

**Water Day** – July 25, 10 a.m.-noon

**Bug Day** – July 31, 10 a.m.-noon

**Camp Monet** – Aug. 6-8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Garden Chefs** – Aug. 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Bubble Day** – Aug. 15, 10 a.m.-noon

**Stories in the Garden** – Aug. 14, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Holiday Open House** – Dec. 5, 5-7 p.m.

**Stories for Sprouts & Seedlings** – May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18 and Oct. 16 from 10-11 a.m. This program is for young children ages 2-4.

Visit [4hgarden.msu.edu](http://4hgarden.msu.edu) for more information and to register for events.

## GREENSTONE RENEWS 4-H COMMITMENT TO GROW 4-H TRUE LEADERS

**G**reenStone Farm Credit Services has renewed and increased its commitment to Michigan 4-H with a \$75,000 gift over the next five years. This funding will continue GreenStone's support of 4-H volunteer recognition and 4-H teen and adult leadership training. In addition, GreenStone staff members are growing this partnership with Michigan 4-H by offering their expertise and skills to 4-H programs in local communities.

"Our employees and members are passionate about 4-H programs and the influence they have on young people, and as such, we believe it is essential we continue to provide support in a variety of ways," says Dave Armstrong, CEO and President of GreenStone Farm Credit Services. "Our involvement in 4-H includes engagement at a local level by GreenStone team members and branch offices as well as corporate funding to enhance statewide programs. Many of our team members benefited from their involvement in 4-H and are committed to seeing 4-H remain strong for future generations. We are proud to support an organization like 4-H that impacts so many individuals in so many ways."

GreenStone has partnered with 4-H annually to sponsor the **4-H Award of the Clover** since 1988. This funding provides 4-H pins and certificates to recognize 4-H's hardworking, long-time volunteers. Since 2014, GreenStone has also sponsored the **Michigan 4-H Veterinary Science Workshop** and the **4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Workshop**, held annually in February.

Every year, many other 4-H trainings and educational programs are offered statewide for both youth and adults. Many of these are held at Kettunen Center, a complete conference and retreat facility owned and operated by the Michigan 4-H Foundation. GreenStone Farm Credit Services and many other donors make these opportunities available to participants at almost half of the actual price.

"We are fortunate to have generous supporters for our 4-H workshops," said Nick Babcock, MSU Extension educator for 4-H livestock and veterinary science. "Kettunen Center and the workshops held there provide great opportunities for training, professional development and networking for people of all ages involved in 4-H."

The 4-H Veterinary Science Adult and Teen Volunteer Leader Workshop offers participants education on animal systems and health for a broad array of species as well as hands-on demonstrations that will help leaders learn how to help younger members recognize healthy, sick and or injured animals. This workshop also gives participants a chance to network with, share information and experiences, and learn from other youth leaders who are also interested in veterinary science.

The 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Volunteer Leader Workshop, co-sponsored by the **Michigan Pork Producers Association**, provides participants with a chance to learn about health, management, care and nutrition of beef, sheep and swine, meat evaluation and more. In addition, it offers participants an opportunity to improve communication and teaching skills.



**GreenStone Farm Credit Services has renewed and increased its commitment to Michigan 4-H, continuing support of 4-H volunteer recognition and the 4-H Veterinary Science and the 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine workshops at Kettunen Center. Pictured above is Jadyn Herzog, Mecosta County 4-H'er and participant at these 4-H workshops.**

**Mecosta County 4-H'er Jadyn Herzog** has attended both of these events at Kettunen Center.

"At the 4-H workshops I learned about my project areas and I got to learn problem solving skills," Herzog said. "I love to show homegrown animals and breed almost all my own projects. I now understand how EPD's work in cattle and I hope to use them more when I select the bulls that I want to breed my heifers to this spring."

She is very excited to participate again next year. She talks about one of her favorite parts of the workshop saying, "I loved the genetics class taught by Dr. Taxis! It was cool learning how to match different nucleotides to find patterns in different genotypes for bulls...Coolest thing ever!"

"4-H has helped me learn responsibility, animal husbandry and how to work hard. Through raising my own animals and helping in my community, I have become more confident and independent. I am always looking to try new things and 4-H has a lot of opportunities to do different things."

In addition to these 4-H workshops, Herzog attended 4-H Winterfest for three years and the 4-H Dairy Conference at Kettunen Center and has really enjoyed them.

"In addition to the sessions, I enjoy hanging out with friends, meeting new friends and playing spoons in our free time," she said. "I also love the frozen yogurt at Kettunen Center!"

These workshops and many others at the Kettunen Center have had a huge impact on Jadyn and countless other 4-H participants. These 4-H experiences are made possible thanks to generous support from donors.

# VANTAGE

Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture  
446 West Circle Dr., Room 160  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
Phone: (517) 353-6692  
FAX: (517) 432-3310  
Web: [www.mi4hfdtn.org](http://www.mi4hfdtn.org)

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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## Michigan 4-H Foundation

Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture  
446 West Circle Dr., Room 160  
East Lansing, MI 48824

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## IN THE NEWS

### Clinton County 4-H volunteer receives CANR Outstanding Alumni award

**Tom Cooley**, received the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Outstanding Alumni Award March 1. The award is given to individuals who have distinguished themselves by reaching high levels of professional accomplishments and possessing the highest standards of integrity and character. Read more at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/tom-cooley-receives-outstanding-alumni-award>.

### Michigan 4-H alumna appointed CMU board chair

Mason County 4-H alumna **Tricia Keith** was appointed chair of the Central Michigan University (CMU) board of trustees. Keith is executive vice president, chief of staff and corporate secretary at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. She received her bachelor's degree from CMU and an MBA from Michigan State University.

### Lewis featured on podcast series

Michigan 4-H Foundation immediate past president **Doug Lewis** was recently featured on the Partnerships and Peninsulas podcast series. Listen to the podcast where Jeff Dwyer, MSU Extension director and foundation trustee, interviews Lewis about his life of generous giving to 4-H: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/partnerships-and-peninsulas-podcast>

### Sign-up for 4-H GROWN e-newsletter

To keep all members of our 4-H grown community informed of the latest 4-H stories, news and events in our state, MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development and the Michigan 4-H Foundation have teamed up to offer the **4-H GROWN** e-newsletter. This quarterly newsletter is sent to 4-H alumni, friends and supporters to keep you connected with Michigan 4-H. Vantage recipients are added to the 4-H GROWN mailing list, but to ensure you receive the e-news, sign-up online at: [bit.ly/4HGrownNews](http://bit.ly/4HGrownNews).