



## 4-H Transforms Lives

**G**rowing up in Wayne County, Eileen Gress recalls being timid and quiet. “When I first joined 4-H in 2002, I was the shy little girl who never said anything and sat in the back row. I never voted against

something or spoke my mind, I was never on a committee - I was never involved.” Safe to say... 4-H changed all that.

Eileen shared her 4-H story in a presentation to the hundreds of attendees at the 2010 Celebration of Youth. Delving into her first projects, dairy and veterinary science, helped her gain a sense of belonging that is so important to self-confidence. Going to the county fair

to develop the poise and competence so easily recognizable in our 4-H youth. At age 17, she has already traveled to Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Arkansas thanks to 4-H. This year she joins the rest of the Ohio delegation to participate in the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. Eileen has accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments, cash awards and scholarships.

provide the means for this to happen. Their essential gifts provide support for curriculum materials, advisor training, awards and recognition, and scholarships and trips. The result of this combined effort is, well, priceless.



*Eileen Gress earns the 2010 Dairy Achievement Award*



*Growing up 4-H. Ten-year old Eileen works with her heifer in 2003.*

opened up a world of possibilities. The following year Eileen traveled to the Ohio State Fair and her eyes were opened even more. The year after that she returned from the State Fair with an Outstanding of the Day ribbon for a self-determined project on deer. This year, she earned a prestigious Clock Trophy award for vet science. Eileen’s experiences allowed her

The transformation of Eileen Gress is an ongoing story with many characters. First, there is Eileen herself—a motivated, bright young lady. Like every exceptional 4-H’er she has benefitted greatly from the caring adults around her, including a dedicated 4-H advisor and a knowledgeable 4-H educator. Finally, numerous 4-H donors

We can easily imagine the bright future ahead for this once shy child, such as a public relations career in the dairy industry. Eileen sums up her experiences (to date) this way:

**“Since joining 4-H, I have become a stronger, more versatile person. I have become a leader, and my self-esteem has increased. 4-H has given me the ability to express myself both through public speaking and the written word. I enjoy being able to talk to the general public about my 4-H projects, and I try to teach them a little more about 4-H and agriculture, and the role they play in everyday life. Through my experiences in 4-H, I know that I can make a difference in my club, my community, my country, and my world.”**

To see a list of all 27 Achievement Award winners for 2010 go to [www.ohio4h.org/foundation/awardsschols.html](http://www.ohio4h.org/foundation/awardsschols.html). Each of these outstanding youth members doubtless has a similarly great story to tell.

## Dear Friend of 4-H,

For many years I've kept files of quotes and, more often, cartoons that appealed to me at the time. One of my favorite cartoons depicts a hospital patient gazing at the lunch tray. The caption: "If they



think this is food, how are they going to recognize an appendix?"

From the file of quotes, former Secretary of Agriculture

Earl Butz in his address to the National 4-H Congress in 1973 provided this favorite: "Who will write the history of GOOD?" His point then, and valid today, was that the history of BAD ("strife and struggle, crisis and conflict, disaster and disgrace") is well documented. "Yet through the centuries...[people have] been writing the history of GOOD. Frequently it's not well articulated. Often it's obscured in the shadow of the bold headline that proclaims the bad...But the history of GOOD is there, day by day, working tirelessly to advance the cause of Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men of every clime and every color."

Ohio 4-H continues to create—and is occasionally the media subject of—the history of GOOD. This past year we've read about:

- The **Highland County 4-H member** whose winnings purchased her first home.
- The **Shelby Shamrocks Club** in Shelby County whose members with disabilities have benefitted through participation in 4-H.
- The "Real Money, Real World" training in Auglaize County that provided a financial 'awakening' for middle school students in Minster. This state-wide program has helped many youth understand that "needs are more important than wants" in the words of one participant.
- The **9-year-old 4-H member** whose "I Spy in the Kitchen" project led to healthy lifestyle changes, resulting in

remarkable weight loss for herself and her mother.

These are a few of the stories testifying to the strength of Ohio 4-H and its impact on today's youth, tomorrow's leaders and their communities.

To assure continued strength, The Ohio 4-H Foundation annually provides over \$100,000 in grants to fund the evolutionary and innovative program ideas of county and state 4-H staff. The best of these ideas become the projects, programs, and success stories that will be told in Ohio and across the country. Of course, the funding for these grants originates with individual and corporate gifts to the Foundation.

Thank you for the friendship you extend to Ohio 4-H. I encourage you to continue creating and writing the history of GOOD through your gifts and service.

Best Regards,



Bob Joseph, President  
Ohio 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees

## Match-Making Pays Off

You can double or sometimes even triple your 4-H gift with a little bit of time spent match-making. Many companies encourage philanthropic giving among their employees by offering to match an employee's gift with a corporate contribution.

To find out if your company has a matching gift policy visit [www.matchinggifts.com/osu/](http://www.matchinggifts.com/osu/) and type your employer's name into the search box. Gifts from retirees and spouses are matched by some employers. If your company is eligible, obtain a matching gift form from your employer (usually the personnel office) and send it along with your gift to The Ohio 4-H Foundation. We will do the rest!

## What is your Story?

Did 4-H make a difference in your life? We want to hear your story. Do you get together with other 4-H alumni such as for an annual reunion or to collaborate on local projects? Send us a letter or e-mail or post directly to our Facebook page and tell us how your 4-H experiences have shaped your life.



[www.facebook.com/ohio4Hfund](http://www.facebook.com/ohio4Hfund)  
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The mission of the Ohio 4-H Foundation is to raise money to enhance the 4-H Youth Development program of OSU Extension. The Foundation provides funds to initiate new or improve existing Ohio 4-H programs at the county and state levels. The Ohio 4-H Foundation was founded in 1945 as part of The Ohio State University Development Fund.

Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center

2201 Fred Taylor Dr.  
Columbus, OH 43210

Phone: (614) 292-6943  
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**4-H PLEDGE**

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,  
my **HEART** to greater loyalty,  
my **HANDS** to larger service,  
and my **HEALTH** to better living,  
for my club, my community,  
my country, and my world.



# Donor Honor Roll

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*Continues on next page.*

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### Ohio 4-H Numbers

**33**

Number of scholarship recipients for Academic Year 2010-11.

**\$63,000**

Total amount of scholarships awarded.

**27**

Number of youth members scheduled to attend the 2010 National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia.

**224**

Clock Trophy winners at the 2010 Ohio State Fair.

**46,000**

Number of Ohio Youth who had camp experiences in 2009.

**3,000**

Number of camp counselors.

**63**

Number of grants awarded the by Ohio 4-H Foundation Grants Selection Committee.

**\$131,000**

Value of Grants awarded the by Ohio 4-H Foundation Grants Selection Committee.

**\$272,600**

Value of endowment distribution to counties and camps.

**75**

The number of Counties with active endowment funds.

**7**

The number of endowment funds for 4-H Camps.



# Truly Worth Celebrating!



The 2010 Celebration of Youth included over 250 registrants and raised over \$100,000 for Ohio 4-H!

A high point of the evening was a live auction orchestrated by **Johnny Regula**. Johnny had help at the podium from **Rachel Garrison** to obtain the evening's top live auction bid.

Rachel is a 9-year 4-H member from Madison County and daughter of Foundation Board member **Jodi Garrison**. The Garrison family donated ¼ quarter of beef (about 225 – 250 pounds) complete with a fully accessorized grill. The twist is that “RGC Thunder”—a registered Simmental Steer—is Rachel's 4-H project. Rachel ran him through the sale ring as a calf last July at the Madison County Fair and received a premium that she is using to

help feed him out. She will return to the Madison County Fair with her fattened steer in July, 2011 and sell him there. **Hirth, Norris & Garrison, LLP** will purchase Thunder, and then process and deliver the beef to lucky winning bidders **Jerry and Debbie McClain**. The beef will be ready around August 1, 2011.



*Rachel Garrison helps to generate top auction bid, above with auctioneer Johnny Regula, and here with her steer.*

Get ready for the cookout!

The Ohio 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees sincerely thanks the small army of volunteers and the generous auction donors whose contributions made Celebration of Youth such great fun. We deeply appreciate the sponsors and all the guests whose gifts made the evening such a huge success. See you next year!

## HONK IF YOU LOVE 4-H!!

LET EVERYONE KNOW that you believe in the 4-H values of developing leadership, citizenship, character, and life skills in Ohio's youth.

Three ways to order yours:

1. Call 1-866-675-2837
2. Go to your local Deputy Registrar
3. Online at [http://bmv.ohio.gov/sp\\_ohio\\_4h.stm](http://bmv.ohio.gov/sp_ohio_4h.stm)



*Proceeds from license plate sales support Ohio 4-H!*

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## Donor Spotlight: New York Life Foundation

The **New York Life Foundation** in partnership with National 4-H Council is supporting service learning programming in Ohio, New York, and Minnesota with a \$1.6 million grant. Cleveland and Cuyahoga County have received \$256,000 to reach youth and have a significant impact. Dubbed the New York Life Youth in Governance 4-H Clubs Program, the project allows youth to develop a greater connection to their communities through service learning, interaction with public officials, and involvement in the democratic process. For example, club members visited Ohio's State Capitol to advocate successfully for their position on the Ohio Graduation Test with State Legislators.

According to Program Coordinator **Joe Crawford**, underserved youth develop civic leadership skills by participating in partnership with caring adults

and learning by doing. A resounding success, the grant supported 25 clubs and reached more than 600 Cleveland area youth.

Twenty-five emerging young leaders from Cleveland attended Citizenship Washington Focus in Washington, D.C. last July. In the words of one Cleveland 4-H youth member, "The Citizenship Washington Focus trip was absolutely amazing. I had a great time doing everything from making pre-action to finalizing our future goals on the last day of the trip. As a group we learned we could make a remarkable difference in our country."

The National 4-H Council Board of Trustees recently honored the New York Life Foundation with the Crystal Clover Award for its support of this initiative. The ceremony occurred at the home of OSU President and National



*NYL Youth in Governance 4-H Club Meeting with Senator George Voinovich and Representative Marcia Fudge in Washington, D.C.*

4-H Council trustee **E. Gordon Gee**, **Lance LaVergne**, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, New York Life Insurance Company, accepted the award. Several Cuyahoga County youth attended, including **Cassandra Bronson**, **Jamal West**, **Ambriel Smith**, **Marcos Bryson**.