

June Ladd's long history of Indiana 4-H Foundation support continues

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." These words by Albert Einstein describe June Ladd's giving philosophy. June has supported the work of the Indiana 4-H Foundation for more than 10 years. Her giving includes an annual gift of unrestricted dollars as well as planned gifts in the form of endowments. She knows a strong Foundation helps make a strong program. June recently donated to the Grant County 4-H Council Endowment held at the Indiana 4-H Foundation. This is her second endowed gift to 4-H. The endowment is designed to provide an annual revenue stream to support essential 4-H programs for years to come. "I am grateful to provide programs like 4-H Camp and 4-H Round-Up and teaching healthy living. Even after I'm gone these will continue," June said.

4-H has always had a place in June's heart, and she was motivated to give back. Her goal was to make 4-H a popular choice among the variety of clubs kids could join. "Kids have so many choices right now and I want to make 4-H the most important one," she explained. 4-H taught June the importance of the

environment and the world around her. She is excited to see how the Grant County 4-H Council Endowment will help future generations. Ten years ago, she first invested in a Grant County Scholarship Endowment at the Indiana 4-H Foundation for post-secondary scholarships in honor of her father, Richard Ladd.

"Riding on the tractor with Dad and showing Holstein cows at the Grant County 4-H Fair are some of my favorite recollections growing up on a farm," she said. College scholarships are important to June and her father's legacy. "Each year I give a little more, and the interest continues to grow. I started with one student and now I'm giving to two—that's a great feeling," she said.

In her life as a mother of two daughters and grandmother of five, June is living the 4-H mission of making healthy and safe decisions. She encourages others to care about the future of our country, our homes, our counties and our resources. "I've lived a good life and God has given me more than I deserved. I hope to pass that on so I can look back and smile," June ended

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Gerald Powell, Treasurer

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The Indiana 4-H Foundation provides resources that give the opportunity for all Indiana youth to develop life skills that benefit their communities.

Partnered with:

Purdue Extension Specialists and county-based Extension Educators who deliver 4-H youth development educational programs to over 200,000 Indiana youth.

Purdue Extension 4-H Youth Development Program

Dr. Jason Henderson, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Director of Extension

Dr. Renée McKee, Assistant Director of Purdue Extension & Indiana State 4-H Program Leader



June with her oldest grandchildren - Corinne, Amelia, and Peter at Grand Teton National Park.

Duke Energy Donates Indiana 4-H STEM Makers Kits Reaching 4 Unserved Counties



More than half of 4-H member participants report they would like a job related to science when they graduate from high school. Duke Energy is helping future students meet that goal by generously donating \$15,000 for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) 4-H Makers Kits to the Indiana 4-H Foundation. 4-H STEM Makers Kits are a popular way for youth to explore fields in science. STEM and robotics activities introduce kids to hands-on, experiential-based learning using new and fun technologies to stimulate their creative and critical thinking skills.

The Indiana 4-H Program has a proven history of efficiently leveraging Duke Energy funding in communities to introduce STEM education and opportunities to kids and families who are experiencing these programs for the first time.

“One reason we are attracted to 4-H is its long record of deep community involvement, especially in rural areas, where many of our customers are,” explained Dan Rhodes, Duke Energy Manager, Government & Community Relations.

By focusing on Indiana 4-H opportunities in communities where Duke Energy families live, the organization has an opportunity to create enriched learning experiences for kids. This will help bring new resources to those underserved and underrepresented families facing socioeconomic challenges. 4-H STEM Makers Kits and programming is currently available in 72 of 92 Indiana counties. This donation will give 4 more unserved counties access to 4-H STEM Makers Kits.

Taking science and fun to the next level, innovative 4-H STEM Makers Kits provide hands-on learning tools, such as robots, Ozobots, Hexbugs, Makey Makeys, 3D pens/printers and Raspberry Pis.™ This programming will help develop STEM skills through experiences with trained mentors who serve as guides to learning. The 4-H STEM Makers Kits also provide the Indiana 4-H Program with the opportunity to pursue a multiyear effort to grow workforce readiness aptitude.

“Duke Energy employees actively work with their kids in 4-H, giving us another good reason to support the organization,” continued Rhodes. Additionally, 4-H created short-term experiences to reach youth with innovative STEM learning while using the 4-H STEM Makers kits. These experiences

are called 4-H SPARK opportunities designed to “spark” a young person’s interest in 4-H and STEM. Each experience involves six-eight hours of learning with an adult mentor. These activities provide a safe environment where youth are encouraged to try, perhaps fail, but then try again. Partnerships with other community agencies, such as a public library, boys’ and girls’ clubs, and other programs to create 4-H STEM clubs in after school settings are further ways to reach youth.

Volunteers are needed to lead these county-based programs and will be recruited from Duke Energy families and other communities. For more information, please contact: Danielle Sands, Extension Specialist for 4-H Engineering and Technology at dsands@purdue.edu.



Indiana counties served by this program include Hancock, Putnam, Union and Vermillion.

Perry County 4-H Council Endowment at the Indiana 4-H Foundation funds innovative educational programs

A Perry County 4-H volunteer team is learning how to make the most out of every dollar in a non-profit organization, which relies heavily on volunteers and fundraising to support innovative programs.

Facing diminishing sources from private and public funding, Cathy Boerste, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator and County Extension Director for Perry County 4-H, and her devoted volunteer team, had to get creative about fundraising for the future of the next generation at Perry County 4-H.

“Knowing that competition for youth organization funding is steep, our goal

was to become less reliant on fundraising events,” Cathy explained.

Perry County’s 4-H wish list was about \$3 million to fund one new Extension Educator position, along with securing innovative programs for kids. The volunteers have many years of experience in 4-H which was beneficial in researching different ways to fund programs long term.

After hearing a presentation by the Indiana 4-H Foundation, the volunteer team decided to invest in planned gifts in the form of a Perry County 4-H Council Endowment at the Indiana 4-H Foundation.

Endowment provides lifetime guarantee of funds

The endowment involves an arrangement between a donor and the Indiana 4-H Foundation. The donor receives a tax deduction for the gift and then Perry County 4-H receives an income stream. The volunteer team realized what a tremendous value it would be to have a lifetime guarantee of funds.

“The goal is to receive a steady source of income meeting the Perry County 4-H needs on an annual basis forever,” Cathy said.

Like many small Indiana communities in rural counties, Perry County has about 330 K-12 kids involved in 4-H. Working together with her volunteers, Cathy directs programs to youth, including recruiting, training and supporting 4-H volunteers.

One priority of the Perry County 4-H Council Endowment is to secure donors who can give substantial gifts.

“We are asking people to consider us as they plan for their estates. They could make us a partial beneficiary of their life insurance policy,” Cathy explained.

So far, endowment giving has come from various individual sources, such as wills. One of the goals of Perry County 4-H is to encourage young families to give to the Council Endowment. For instance, The Leopold Gang and Twin Lakes Clubs, along with the Junior Leaders have



Advantages of the I

All funds are invested with the Purdue Research Foundation (PRF).

donated to the endowment.

In the case of the Perry County 4-H Council Endowment, the Indiana 4-H Foundation made the initial investment nearly two years ago. So, the first payout will be about 4.5 percent, once it meets the \$25,000-mark. The principal is never touched.

“For some folks investing is a matter of trust—trusting that the Indiana 4-H Foundation will be here forever, and donors want to be a part of that,” Cathy said.

Endowment funds STEM activities

Some of the fun and educational programs the Perry County 4-H Council Endowment supports are 4-H SPARK opportunities designed to “spark” a young person’s interest in 4-H and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Another

program is the 7th grade Science Sensation, an event where all 7th graders come to a one-day event at the fairgrounds.

“Our goal is to increase kids’ science knowledge, getting them excited about learning, and hopefully improving their school academic performance,” Cathy explained.

Teaching youth money management

Another benefit of an endowment is teaching 4-H kids and families about healthy money management. The endowment must grow, so it is like having money in savings, but it cannot be touched during the waiting period.

An obstacle in choosing an endowment, is knowing that the funds are delayed. This can be a difficult concept to understand.

The volunteer team said, “We are teaching our youth the philosophy of delayed gratification.”

Many other Indiana counties have 4-H endowments, including Grant, Hamilton, LaPorte, Marion, Monroe, and Boone. The goal of the Indiana 4-H Foundation is to establish an endowment for 4-H programming in every Indiana county.

One of the first steps in setting up an endowment is educating people. The Indiana 4-H Foundation and the Planned Giving department at Purdue University are tremendous resources in assisting other counties to accomplish their goals.

The Perry County 4-H volunteer team has a deep-rooted commitment in planning for the next generation of 4-H families.

“We have to dream big and plan for the future—the endowment gives us the guaranteed source of income forever,” Cathy ended.



Perry County 4-H Council Endowment include:

There are no overhead and administrative fees. (Local community foundations typically charge 1-2 percent in annual fees.)

Currently, the Purdue Research Foundation spending policy is 4.5 percent annually.

Only the Indiana 4-H Foundation has the special authority to raise funds using the 4-H name/emblem.

Gift of 4-H available for every child

Bill Viar didn't grow up in 4-H, but he has been immersed in it for the last 25 years and developed a deep appreciation for the program.

Professionally, his first contact with 4-H came at his job as Director of the Special Risk Division for American Income Life. He leads national operations serving clients including 4-H, colleges, camps and retreat centers.

"Organizations utilize our blanket accident policies to mitigate the impact of youth injuries during sponsored group activities," he explained.

Bill grew up in Long Island, New York, and attended Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, earning a bachelor's degree in Radio Broadcasting. After graduation he worked in the same city at WRVL radio in the newsroom. He then changed careers to work for Brotherhood Mutual Insurance, so he could combine his love for fostering relationships, helping others succeed, and impacting youth development.

In 2016 Bill was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. He has served on the 4-H Foundation Board multiple terms on and off throughout his tenure. Bill is currently serving as vice president and has seen first-hand how the organization positively affected others.

"Children can develop and learn in their own community in many different settings. 4-H SPARK clubs and 4-H project presentations play a huge role in developing hard and soft skills," he said.

Youth involved in 4-H have an advantage over others because these skills are easily transferable to any environment. He is also impressed that 4-H has evolved with the changing times to include such programs as robotics.

"Working on a team to make robots will

help children decide whether to choose the technical trade or the college route," Bill continued.

He is also impressed by the quality of 4-H staff and programs at all levels from the state and the foundation to the county extension offices. They focus on exhibits that are research-based and age-appropriate.

"Our people and programs help develop the whole child," he said. He continues to be gratified volunteering for 4-H where every child in every county in the U.S. has access to a 4-H program. "Not many other organizations can make that statement," said Bill.

One of Bill's favorite memories during his time serving 4-H is attending opening night at the NFL Experience Event at the New Orleans Superdome during a National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference.

His vision for the 4-H Foundation Board is to hire more people to focus solely on fundraising. He sees the need to add four-to-five regionally placed staff members who would find new opportunities.

"They could develop deeper working relationships with both county extension staffs as well as with local donors," Bill explained.

He is also excited that new board members have added diverse perspectives so that the Indiana 4-H Foundation can increase its state programming support.

He summarizes his priorities in a few words: "Faith, family and friends." This includes spending time with his two grown daughters, Erica and Monica.

He lives by the mantra that his encouraging dad taught him growing up.

Bill's advice to anyone seeking a fuller purpose in life includes learning as much as possible.

Educate yourself. You will benefit from a variety of cultures and experiences.

Focus on soft skills such as teamwork, speaking in front of a group, talking to people on the phone, writing, engaging with people, leading and learning to communicate effectively.

Ask people to give you advice and feedback about your strengths and weaknesses.

Network! Knowing the right people in the right places helps you find new opportunities.



New member brings technology expertise to Indiana 4-H Foundation Board



New 4-H Foundation Board member Emily Williams is excited to mesh her 4-H background with her technology expertise.

“Now I can use that network to introduce 4-H to a new audience, and to find people who like me, have a 4-H background and ended up in tech,” Emily explained.

As the Senior Director of Operations at Codelicious, she directs strategy, recruiting, hiring, onboarding, and marketing. Emily also helps the CEO manage overall operations for the teams.

A graduate of Valparaiso University, Emily’s management skills are beneficial in helping the 4-H Foundation Board fund new

technology opportunities for kids.

“4-H was such a valuable experience for me, and I hope other kids can have a similar one,” she said.

Emily also supports the 4-H Foundation Board’s main goal to raise money for programs that meet the needs of today’s kids. She is eager to encourage others who are considering serving on the Indiana 4-H Foundation Board. “Even if you don’t have a background in 4-H, it’s still a great board to be a part of. If you’re passionate about youth, this is a great place to be!”

Emily replied.

Growing up in Sullivan County, 4-H gave Emily confidence. Cake decorating was her favorite exhibit, and her mom led the cake decorating program. Emily also participated

in swine, foods and Junior Leaders. She especially enjoyed 4-H Camp and became a camp counselor, and eventually moved into a Junior Director role. She loved everything about the 4-H experience.

Today, she and her husband, Scott, are excitedly anticipating the birth of their first child in November. “Although we aren’t finding out the gender or revealing any names ahead of time, we agree that 4-H onesies are a perfect gender-neutral outfit for baby Williams to wear,” Emily chuckled. Her free time is spent as an Indianapolis Colts fan and she bought season tickets for the first time this year. The couple also loves visiting the Pacific Northwest, where Scott has family. She adores the beach, and one of her favorite vacation spots is Edisto Island, SC.

Dr. Sean Sharma envisions 4-H will meet the needs of the next generation



Indiana 4-H Foundation Board member Dr. Sean Sharma is a deep thinker. He is concerned about the environment and nature—all living things.

Many of his ideas developed growing up learning about plants, animals, soils and trees as a 10-year 4-H member. He enrolled in countless 4-H projects, stemming from his honest desire to learn as much as he could.

By high school, Dr. Sharma realized two important facts about himself: academics came easily to him, and the life skills he learned in 4-H would help him as he attended IU Medical School. Today he is a St. Vincent Hospital physician in Williamsport, Indiana, and Health Officer for Fountain/Warren Counties.

Serving on the Indiana 4-H Foundation Board was a natural progression for Dr. Sharma.

“It is the most logical place for me to volunteer because of my profession and my

love for healthy living,” Dr. Sharma explained.

Currently serving as the secretary for the Indiana 4-H Foundation Board, Dr. Sharma said one of their priorities is to ensure that the organization reflects a shared vision for the county and the state. Most of the board’s time is spent in strategic planning to determine their financial goals, then developing a plan to reach them. One simple way is to sell Indiana 4-H License Plates.

“I buy one, and \$25 is donated to the Indiana 4-H Foundation and \$10 goes to my local county 4-H program. This is very visible and easy way to support 4-H,” said Dr. Sharma.

Another program financed by the Indiana 4-H Foundation is the Indiana 4-H State Junior Leader’s Conference. This experience exemplifies what 4-H is all about. Teenagers’ lives are changed as they lead classes, mentor others, and explore academics, such as agriculture, veterinary medicine and engineering.

“We can never underestimate the sense

of independence and learning this type of experience brings to our future leaders—it puts meaning in their lives,” explained Dr. Sharma.

The Indiana 4-H Foundation’s positive outlook will depend on its ability to grow to meet the needs of the community. One way is to solicit unrestricted donations allowing the organization to develop the most valuable educational opportunities for youth.

The future of the Indiana 4-H Foundation also depends on adapting to a changing world. While maintaining the 4-H roots, the organization needs to prepare to meet the needs of the kids in 2020. Dr. Sharma’s own children, a 7-year-old and 4-year-old twins, are an important part of his motivation to see 4-H grow.

“My hope for my kids’ generation is that they can do more than is imaginable, such as working with fluid power programs, learning about hydraulics, engineering, robotics, and computer coding,” ended Dr. Sharma.