

## Remembering Bill Viar



The 4-H community lost a long-time friend and supporter when **Bill Viar** passed away on Friday, April 17. Active with 4-H in both professional and volunteer roles, Bill's first

connection with 4-H came through his job as director of the Special Risk Division for American Income Life, where he led national operations serving clients that included 4-H. He became passionate about the youth program and served three terms, including one as vice president, as a volunteer on the Indiana 4-H Foundation Board of Directors.

Bill participated in many local, statewide, and national 4-H events. He particularly loved attending the Indiana 4-H Foundation's scholarship awards and visiting with the young people every year.

In 2016, he was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in recognition of his dedication and service to the organization. His 4-H family mourns his passing along with his wife, Terri, and his daughters, Monica and Erica.

In honor of Bill, the Indiana 4-H Foundation Board of Directors is establishing a memorial scholarship endowment which will generate a scholarship to be given annually. All contributions up to \$12,500 will be matched.

Please write **Bill Viar Scholarship Endowment** in the check memo and mail your gift to the following address:

**Indiana 4-H Foundation**  
P.O. Box 3125  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Please help the Foundation keep Bill's memory alive and provide a scholarship to a deserving 4-H member through a matching gift to this endowment!

## Indiana 4-H Responds to Blood Shortage

Blood donors are critically needed in Indiana due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To answer this need to replenish the blood supply, the 4-H Foundation and Purdue Extension hosted the "**Healthcare Heroes Blood Drive**" on June 25 at the 4-H Exhibit Hall at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Thanks to our donors, 4-H made a difference in the lives of 159 people.

On July 23, the Foundation hosted the "**I Bleed Green Blood Drive**" in Carmel, Indiana, in honor of **Bill Viar**, longtime friend and supporter of 4-H. Bill's family encouraged friends all over the country to donate the same day. "This was the perfect way to honor Bill and show what he meant to the organization while at the same time help others," said Terri Viar, Bill's wife. Those who came out to donate at this event impacted the lives of 75 Hoosiers.

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*Christy Denault, President*

*Dr. Sean Sharma, Vice President*

*Sharon Hutchison, Treasurer*

*Tim Birky, Secretary*

*Shelly Bingle, Executive Director*

*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 130,000 Indiana youth.*

#### Purdue Extension 4-H Youth

#### Development Program

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

*Dr. Casey Mull, Assistant Director of Purdue Extension & Indiana State 4-H Program Leader*



Learn more at [www.in4h.org](http://www.in4h.org)

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# The Wise Family Endowment Provides Scholarships to Outstanding 4-H Youth

**Brian Wise** and his sister, **Ann DiJulio**, have endowed two Accomplishment Scholarships through the Indiana 4-H Foundation in memory of their father, **Philip Wise**. This gift from the Wise family will generously support the Indiana 4-H Foundation Animal Science and Leadership scholarships, given annually to outstanding 4-H youth.

Brian said his family's decision to endow these scholarships was a natural extension of what their father was able to do for them.

Philip Wise was connected to Indiana 4-H throughout his life. Growing up in the 4-H program showing Berkshire hogs, Philip developed many skills and friendships. These proved beneficial in his career as an Indiana farmer. Philip worked as a farm manager for many different farms in and around the Hamilton County area after his grandfather lost the family farm in the Great Depression. He even worked for Eli Lilly at Conner Prairie while it was still in operation as a working farm. While it was challenging to move around so often, Philip found stability and lasting relationships in the 4-H community.

As a young man, Philip was able to participate in Purdue Extension programs like 4-H Round-Up. Those positive experiences encouraged him to take part in agriculture-focused Winter Short Courses offered by Purdue University in 1944. He enjoyed his studies and found this education to be valuable in his future work. Philip was unable to afford full-time studies at a university, making it very important to him that his children would be able to attend. He encouraged Brian and Amy to complete their college education at Purdue University.

"Thanks to savings from work and 4-H livestock sale premiums, I was able to graduate from Purdue University debt free," said Brian.

Philip Wise leaves behind a tremendous legacy as a volunteer and supporter of 4-H. He developed a lifelong connection to 4-H by becoming an adult 4-H leader and introducing his children to the program. The Wise children were delighted to see their father featured at the 2004 Hamilton County Centennial celebration in a photo from the 1950's, teaching about the 4-H tractor maintenance project.

Brian and Amy are honored to create these endowments in their father's name. They hope to support other young people in the 4-H community like their father did for them and so many others. Brian and Amy were involved in 4-H in many different capacities including livestock projects, sewing and clothing projects, and serving in leadership roles. Brian has since worked in the agriculture industry and served on the Indiana 4-H Foundation Board. Amy passed her 4-H sewing knowledge on to her children who have gone on to work in the clothing industry. The Wise family exemplifies how 4-H reaches many different passions and how the tradition evolves over time.

The Indiana 4-H Foundation is extremely grateful for the investment the Wise family has made to support our 4-H youth. Thanks to this generous gift, Indiana young people will continue to benefit from the experiences Philip Wise himself found so empowering.



**LEFT:** Photo taken at 4-H Round-Up. Philip Wise is the young man on the right, taken during Philip's junior or senior year of high school.

**RIGHT:** Photo taken in the 1950's of Philip Wise teaching the 4-H Tractor Maintenance Project, on display at the 2004 Hamilton County Centennial celebration.

# Celebrating Our 2020 Indiana 4-H Accomplishment Scholarship Recipients

*The Indiana 4-H Foundation is proud to introduce 34 4-H youth from across Indiana who have earned scholarships ranging from Civic Engagement, Leadership, Animal Science and Engineering to Communication, Environmental Science and more.*

In the midst of these uncertain times, the board of the Indiana 4-H Foundation has decided that for the safety of our scholarship recipients and donors, we will not be holding our annual Scholarship Luncheon on November 21, 2020. While we are saddened to miss the opportunity to honor in person the winners who are such shining examples of the skills young people learn through 4-H, we will instead recognize scholarship recipients on our new website at [www.IN4H.org](http://www.IN4H.org). They also will have the opportunity to meet with their scholarship donor virtually.

The 2020 Indiana 4-H Leadership Summit will also be going virtual via Zoom on Saturday, November 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Summit will continue to offer high-quality educational sessions presented by experts around the state and facilitated in small groups on-site at various locations by county Extension professionals.

Check the State 4-H website for details coming soon at <https://extension.purdue.edu/4h/Pages/LeadershipSummit.aspx>.

## 2020 PREMIER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Aaron Sandel**  
TIPPECANOE COUNTY

2020 PREMIER ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Allen and Sherer Families in Memory of Janet Allen*



**Luke Schirmer**  
HENDRICKS COUNTY

2020 PREMIER CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Corteva Agriscience*



**Valerie Messmore**  
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

2020 PREMIER LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Indiana State Fair Commission*



**Jenna Kelsay**  
JOHNSON COUNTY

ANIMAL SCIENCE MEAT AND MILK PRODUCTION SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by American Dairy Association of Indiana, Inc.*



**Libby Wischmeier**  
BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

ANIMAL SCIENCE MEAT AND MILK PRODUCTION SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Purdue College of Agriculture*



**Cory Susott**  
WARRICK COUNTY

ANIMAL SCIENCE SMALL AND COMPANION ANIMAL SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Indiana Turkey Market Development Council*



**Isabella Witte**  
HANCOCK COUNTY

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by CERES Solutions Cooperative*



**Audrey Knoper**  
BOONE COUNTY

ANIMAL SCIENCE MEAT AND MILK PRODUCTION SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Kiefer Dairy Consulting*



**Abigail Beck**  
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

ANIMAL SCIENCE SMALL AND COMPANION ANIMAL SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Orscheln Industries Foundation*



**Sydney Loudermilk**  
JACKSON COUNTY

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by David and Kendra Weidmayer*



**Hannah Beck**  
BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

COMMUNICATION SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Hoosier Ag Today*



**Nicholas Neuman**  
RUSH COUNTY

ANIMAL SCIENCE MEAT AND MILK PRODUCTION SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Lois Ellen Byers*



**Annalysa Crain**  
MONROE COUNTY

ANIMAL SCIENCE SMALL AND COMPANION ANIMAL SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Orscheln Industries Foundation*



**Antonio Pena**  
CASS COUNTY

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Regions Bank*



**Evelyn Hoefler**  
TIPPECANOE COUNTY

COMMUNICATION SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by The National Group*



**Megan Wagner**  
CARROLL COUNTY

ANIMAL SCIENCE MEAT AND MILK PRODUCTION SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Don and Jackie Kremer Family 4-H Scholarship Endowment*



**John Fritch**  
MORGAN COUNTY

ANIMAL SCIENCE SMALL AND COMPANION ANIMAL SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Kentland Veterinary Clinic & McKinney Farms*



**Jane Spreckelson**  
DECATUR COUNTY

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by Electric Plus Inc.*



**Joel Beck**  
BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGICAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by David and Julia Byers*

# New Board Member Eager to Promote Educational Opportunities for Indiana Youth



While visiting a non-profit fair in search of a place to volunteer her time, **Jordan Downham** met the Executive Director of the

Indiana 4-H Foundation, Shelly Bingle. The Foundation was the perfect fit for Jordan. As a past member of Tippecanoe County 4-H, Jordan is very well acquainted with the mission, culture, and opportunities provided by Indiana 4-H. She brings that experience along with her expertise in law and communications to her role as an Indiana 4-H Foundation Board member and chair of the donor relations task force.

After completing high school, Jordan attended the University of Notre Dame with the intention of pursuing a career in journalism. 4-H is such a meaningful

piece of Jordan's life, that she can recall a time when she flew home to Indiana from her journalism internship at the New York Times to attend her brother's final cattle show at the Indiana State Fair. When Jordan's brother took home the title of Reserve Grand Champion Beef Steer, that made it well worth the trip.

Jordan eventually chose to redirect her career path and attended the Mauer School of Law at Indiana University. She now works as an associate in trademark law at Quarles & Brady LLP.

Jordan is excited to join the Indiana 4-H Foundation to promote the founding principles of 4-H and to ensure access to 4-H educational resources for underserved and underrepresented communities. Specifically, Jordan is interested in working toward filling an endowment in each of the 92 Indiana counties.

"It would be a win for 4-H programs to be able to focus on determining the most effective way to allocate resources, rather than how they might go about collecting them," said Jordan.

Jordan can't wait for her two-year old son to participate in 4-H the way that she and her family members did before him!

*4-H taught me general life skills and gave me the opportunity to create long-lasting friendships with people from a variety of backgrounds with differing interests.*

**JORDAN DOWNHAM**  
INDIANA 4-H BOARD MEMBER



**Owen Rahman**  
SPENCER COUNTY

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGICAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by David and Donna Avolt



**Rebecca Walker**  
BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

HEALTHY LIVING, FOOD, AND NUTRITION SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by Barbara J. Faris Scholarship Endowment



**Katherine LaReau**  
HAMILTON COUNTY

KATIE STAM IRK SERVANT LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Sponsored by Gerald and Robin Nickel



**Ethan Buck**  
TIPPECANOE COUNTY

PLANT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts



**Megan Ashby**  
CARROLL COUNTY

HEALTHY LIVING, FOOD, AND NUTRITION SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by Paulette LeCount-Dowden Scholarship Endowment



**Sydney Clements**  
JOHNSON COUNTY

LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by Stubbe Truitt 4-H Scholarship Endowment for Leadership



**Madelyn Milharcic**  
HENDRICKS COUNTY

LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by Thomas P. Murphy



**Cameron Early**  
MIAMI COUNTY

PLANT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by AgReliant Genetics



**Abigail Stuckwisch**  
JACKSON COUNTY

HEALTHY LIVING, FOOD, AND NUTRITION SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by Corinne Wagner



**Amanda Deutsch**  
VANDERBURGH COUNTY

KATIE STAM IRK SERVANT LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Sponsored by Gerald and Robin Nickel



**Kourtney Otte**  
JACKSON COUNTY

LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by John A. Garr II



**Logan McFtridge**  
WARREN COUNTY

PLANT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by John A. Garr II



**Molly Knight**  
MARION COUNTY

HEALTHY LIVING, FOOD, AND NUTRITION SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by June Ann Ladd



**Saniia Hunt**  
MARION COUNTY

LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by Dr. Robert and Cecilia Ritchie Scholarship



**Noah Retherford**  
TIPTON COUNTY

LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by Thomas P. Murphy

# Premier Companies Donates \$50,000 to 4-H in Southeast Indiana

**Premier Companies**, headquartered in Seymour, Indiana, has announced a \$50,000 gift to support 4-H in southeast Indiana, acknowledging the importance of 4-H especially in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Harold Cooper, CEO of Premier Companies, is dedicated to inspiring the next generation of agri-business leaders. Premier Companies began in 1927 with the goal of providing energy and agricultural services in Indiana. Since then, the company has grown to reach multiple states and has become a strong supporter of rural youth.

Premier has been a generous sponsor of the Indiana 4-H Leadership Summit the past two years and has been committed to supporting 4-H members directly through 4-H livestock auctions. Many of those auctions were cancelled this year in the midst of the pandemic.

“The Premier Board of Directors unanimously approved appropriating \$50,000 to go towards 4-H in Southeast Indiana,” said Cooper. “The funding for this gift comes from what Premier has traditionally spent at livestock auctions. The coronavirus pandemic, with the early closing of public school facilities and suspension of extracurricular activities, makes organizations like 4-H all the more important.”

Premier Companies chose to continue their support of 4-H through a gift to the Indiana 4-H Foundation to broadly support 4-H in southeast Indiana. Premier Companies is proud to support opportunities for youth to gain understanding in plant and animal science and agricultural related career programming.

“4-H provides local students and families the opportunity to experience together projects like raising livestock, woodworking, baking, weather, photography and many, many more. We are pleased to be making this investment in our youth. Especially with the coronavirus pandemic, 4-H has never been more important to rural communities and youth,” said Cooper.

Jackson County 4-H Youth Educator, Heather VonDielingen, helped facilitate the partnership with Premier.

“4-H is dedicated to investing in the youth we serve and raising up the next generation of community leaders,” said VonDielingen. “This partnership with Premier Companies is a natural fit to move 4-H programs forward in southeast Indiana.”

Extension educators in southeast Indiana will have the opportunity to direct Premier’s funding toward resources and programs of their choosing. This funding will allow for growth and expansion in areas that county programs have previously been unable to reach on their own.

Premier Companies’ thoughtful and considerate support of Indiana 4-H will provide 4-H youth with greater opportunities for growth and learning. With tremendous gratitude, the Indiana 4-H Foundation thanks Premier Companies for their investment in our youth, as we continue our mission to provide resources that give the opportunity for all Indiana youth to develop life skills that benefit their communities.

“I don’t know how big 4-H is dreaming,” said Cooper, “but what a moment to be transformative. Premier is excited, even in a small way, to get behind their efforts.”

## Foundation Launches Updated Website

Ten years after the launch of its original website, the Indiana 4-H Foundation is introducing its newly redesigned website at [www.in4h.org](http://www.in4h.org). The new site features a streamlined, modern design, improved functionality, and easy access to important information for current and prospective donors.

“It was time to modernize and improve the functionality of the site for our users. We are excited to showcase the new look and feel and easy navigation of the redesigned website,” said **Christy Denault**, Indiana 4-H Foundation president. “Created with the user experience in mind, the site will continue to serve

as the primary platform to highlight the latest information about the county and state programs we fund, the impact the Foundation is making on Hoosier youth development, and important information for donors but now in a more user-friendly design.”

Visit the new site at [www.in4h.org](http://www.in4h.org) and let us know what you think. Don’t forget you can also connect with the Indiana 4-H Foundation at [www.facebook.com/Indiana4HFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/Indiana4HFoundation) and [Twitter at @IN4HFoundation](https://twitter.com/IN4HFoundation).



# Rebecca Wilkins Brings Passion to Role as Extension Educator

**Rebecca Wilkins** is the Purdue Extension-Harrison County 4-H Youth Educator. Unlike many people, Rebecca began her 4-H journey as an adult. Having grown up in Nashville, Tennessee, where traditional rural 4-H programming was not available, Rebecca turned to friends and family to help fulfill her passion for horses.

As a young adult, Rebecca earned a bachelor's degree in equine science and management. She then went on to receive a master's degree in agriculture education. While completing her master's degree, Rebecca was an intern for Philip Morris. It is there that she discovered Extension education and 4-H. She jokingly refers to her 4-H background as being "a First-Generation Adult 4-H Member." Rebecca has enjoyed pursuing a career as a 4-H Youth Educator because it neatly combines her passions for horses and education. As an educator, Rebecca seeks to meet the passions of youth as they discover a desire to learn about agriculture—an opportunity that was not provided by the programming in her hometown.

Rebecca seeks to help others understand the connection between agriculture and the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and math and how 4-H bridges this understanding. She hopes to help others realize that "things in our natural world do not only apply to farmers, but to science as well." Rebecca was able to meet her most recent "big work goal" by taking a bus full of 4-H members to the U.S. Space & Rocket Museum in Huntsville, Alabama. Her next goal is to provide more hands-on equine education. She would like to take advantage of the resources around her in Harrison County by visiting the Indiana Downs or Churchill Downs with youth in her community.

As the recipient of the 2020 Janet Allen Professional Development Scholarship, Rebecca was able to attend and present at the annual Extension Horses meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Each year, this collaborative group of equine specialists from land grant universities meets to network and discuss new ideas, as well as set goals and plan programs for the

upcoming year. Because of the Extension Horses team, Rebecca has made connections nationwide that allow her to work on her strengths in equine studies.

Rebecca is also a member of a round table team which specializes in equine education for the National 4-H Professional Development Conference (NAE4-HYDP). On this team, Rebecca works as a representative of youth perspectives in equine education conversations. One project her team is excited to promote is their collection of online resources which have been compiled for educators who may lack equine knowledge.

Rebecca and her husband live with their daughter, Herriot Ann, on a ten-acre mini farm. Here, she enjoys caring for horses, goats, chickens, their 100-year-old home, and housing her husband's antique car collection. They affectionately refer to their farm as the Rally Point.



## \$15,000 Grant Focused on Teaching Youth About Energy

Teaching youth about the energy field is the focus of a new \$15,000 grant from Duke Energy. By partnering with Indiana 4-H, Duke Energy's funds will create opportunities for Indiana youth to explore the fundamentals of electricity, renewable technologies and energy conservation, and energy-related careers.

The concepts and knowledge gained through this program will be tailored to meet the needs and resources of the youth and communities that participate. Counties served by this program include Daviess, Greene, Henry, Knox, Parke, Putnam, Scott, Tippecanoe, Union, Vermillion, and Vigo.

During ten in-person, hands-on events, youth will meet professionals, explore real-life applications of the industry, and complete a project pertaining to the program experience. These hands-on activities will allow participants to finish the program with a better understanding of energy, its people, skills and tools, as well as recognition of the role they can play in the future of the energy industry. Purdue Extension commits to the safety of participants and volunteers at these in-person events by utilizing established social distancing guidelines. Face coverings will be required when social distancing is not possible. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant supplies will also be available at each event.

"Duke Energy is proud to support Indiana 4-H STEM education programming," said Dan Rhodes, a manager of Duke Energy Community Relations. "The energy industry opportunities are growing in Indiana, and we believe this new program will provide a real career advantage for 4-H members who take part."

Goals of the program include expanding 4-H electric initiatives into new communities to teach energy science concepts, and to increase vocabulary and reinforce skills in communication, critical thinking, and collaboration in the energy sector.