

AN EVENING WITH CHARLIE KIMBALL

Indiana 4-H Foundation annual meeting features IndyCar driver, 4-H alum



This year, the Indiana 4-H Foundation hosted an online annual meeting to thank donors and friends who have supported Indiana 4-H youth through generous gifts. The evening featured Charlie Kimball, a ten-year IndyCar veteran driver and recipient of the Distinguished 4-H Alumni Medallion. Before introducing Charlie, Indiana 4-H Foundation Board President, Dr. Sean Sharma, recognized the “consistent and significant” support of donors who have generously given more than \$6 million in the last ten years to support 4-H Youth in Indiana.

Kimball, a self-proclaimed Californian Hoosier, and lifelong advocate for 4-H, appreciates the community aspect of the organization.

As he explained to his virtual audience, “I really believe in the work 4-H does.” Citing aerodynamic lessons from his aviation project, STEM learning from robotics, and public speaking from his leadership roles, Charlie drew parallels between his 4-H experiences and his career as a race car driver and business owner.

“4-H is like having MBA management training as a teen,” Charlie explained as he recalled showing market animals. “It was like running a business.” He also learned the value of hard work, observing that he could tell when his extra effort produced better results.

Although much of his 4-H memorabilia was destroyed in a wildfire that engulfed his parents’ home and avocado ranch in 2017, Charlie shared that he still has his second-place ribbon from his lamb showmanship contest hanging on his wall. It reminds him that to win next time, you must work and train—even if you don’t always feel like it.

That deliberateness and dedication have been necessary for Charlie’s racing career. Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes while racing in Europe in 2007, he has come to rely on his personal work ethic and the expertise of his racing and healthcare teams to propel him forward in his racing career. After finishing second in his first race after his diabetes diagnosis, Charlie explained, “Each lap, corner, race means more than it ever did before.”

In 2011, Charlie became the first licensed IndyCar driver with diabetes to finish a race. A victory at Mid-Ohio in 2013 made him the first to win. When asked about his most significant accomplishment, he explained that winning was the accomplishment, but the experiences he’s had because of his success mean the most. He cited his work as a 4-H ambassador and mentor to youth with diabetes. “I am living proof that 4-H works,” he confirmed, thanking donors for their support of 4-H in all 92 Indiana counties.

Charlie is set to race in May for A.J. Foyt Racing. You can see him May 15 in the GMR Grand Prix and again leading up to Memorial Day weekend as he prepares to qualify for his eleventh Indianapolis 500 race.

IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURE

Annual Meeting with Charlie Kimball

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Peggy Naile

Crystal Clover Donors

CORPORATE DONATION FEATURES

Farm Credit Mid-America

American Income Life

NEWS

Vermillion County Endowment

Lake County Endowment

New Board Members in 2021

INDIANA 4-H FOUNDATION, INC.

Dr. Sean Sharma, President

Jordan Downham, Vice President

Sharon Hutchison, Treasurer

Emily Williams, Secretary

Christy Denault, Past President

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 youth development educational programs to Indiana 4-H 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

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Lake County 4-H Endowment



When Gerald (Jerry) Snyder passed away at the end of 2020, the Snyder family knew they wanted to remember their father by honoring his commitment and service to the Lake County 4-H program. Brian Snyder, one of Jerry's sons, led the effort for his father's memorial gifts to be given to the Lake County 4-H Endowment.

Jerry was a lifelong resident in Lake County and understood the impact of 4-H on energizing rural communities. His experience in the Lake County 4-H program included serving as a member in his youth, then as a leader of the West Creek Wonder Workers 4-H club, and as a 4-H Superintendent at the Lake County Fair. The Lake County 4-H program provided social connection, which Jerry found to be extremely important in rural areas.

In addition, Jerry enjoyed experimenting, which included setting up a rotational grazing system for hogs, a system well-suited for 4-H projects then, before it became more broadly popular in the United States decades later.

Julie Jones, the Interim Lake County Extension Director, said, "These are the first memorial gifts given specifically for our new Endowment, and they will help ensure that 4-H opportunities continue for the next generation of young people. We hope that other families will choose this as a way to remember their loved ones. People can also consider a gift to 4-H as they plan for their estates."

Contributions to the Lake County 4-H Program Endowment directly support 4-H youth development in the county, including hands-on learning in science, healthy living, and civic engagement.

"These funds will support educational trips and workshops, scholarships, life skill and leadership development," said Julie.

Brian is confident that the Lake County 4-H program will make good decisions on how to use the proceeds depending on the needs of the program.

"Even though we have mostly scattered to other parts of the country, it's important to our family that the 4-H program in Lake County continues to flourish, particularly in an area where rural and urban interests intersect, with production and appreciation of good food as a central theme, something that was very important to our father," Brian said.

With a \$25,000 gift given over no more than five years, any donor can start an endowment that is restricted to specific purposes or programs and are spent in such a way that the principal investment remains intact.

Smaller gifts can be given to mission area endowments such as leadership, healthy living, and STEM. Indiana 4-H Foundation's endowment funds are held and invested by the Purdue Research Foundation through a special agreement.

To learn more about how to cultivate a long-term investment to make a lasting impact on 4-H youth, please visit: www.in4h.org/contribute/endowments

New Board Members in 2021



Roger Sherer

Roger Sherer grew up on a Noble County farm in Northeast Indiana, where he participated in 4-H for 10 years. Sherer graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Agricultural Education and Animal Science. He recently retired after serving 40 years as a 4-H Youth Development Educator in Wells County with the Purdue Extension Service.



Annie Smith

Annie Smith leads her own consulting business where she offers individuals and groups insights into cultural diversity that enable participants to advance shared goals and understanding. She currently serves as a member of the Marion County 4-H Advisory Council.



Crystal Clovers Understand True Impact of Indiana 4-H

For Judy Singleton, John Torr, and Annie Watts Cloncs, supporting the Indiana 4-H Foundation means providing opportunities to broaden the capacity of the Indiana 4-H program and reach new audiences. Singleton, Torr, and Cloncs are all Indiana 4-H Foundation Crystal Clovers.

Crystal Clovers are donors who give at least \$1,000 in unrestricted funds to the Indiana 4-H Foundation within one calendar year. Unrestricted funding is essential to support the operations of the Foundation and various Indiana 4-H events and programs.

As Crystal Clovers, these generous donors receive personal invitations to special Indiana 4-H events as well as personal communication about happenings in Indiana 4-H.

Singleton was a 10-year 4-H'er from Hamilton County, and at the end of her tenure in 4-H, she knew she was ready to meet life after college thanks to her 4-H experience.

Singleton believes that "4-H is the gift that keeps on giving." Because of this belief, she decided to become an Indiana 4-H Foundation donor as a "pay-it-forward effort" since she credits 4-H with helping her to become a contributing, self-sufficient citizen.

After her 10 years in 4-H, Singleton went on to earn a degree in Home Economics Education at Purdue University. Since then, she has been a political activist on behalf of women's rights, developing the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series.

She is presently involved in a real estate business with her son. Singleton appreciates the efforts and progress of the Indiana 4-H Foundation to be a leader across the country by continuing to engage with Indiana 4-H alumni.

As a multigenerational 4-H'er in Putnam County, Torr also spent 10 years in 4-H and presided over Indiana 4-H Round-Up during his senior year of high school.

After graduating from Indiana University, Torr built a successful sales and marketing career in a variety of different companies.

Torr said, "I credit 4-H for my success in leadership, project management, event planning, financial literacy, public speaking and balancing a checkbook."

As a successful businessman, Torr understands the necessity for the lessons learned in 4-H, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). He continues to give to the Indiana 4-H Foundation because of the positive impact fostered for participants.

Cloncs understands the importance of skill and leadership development that she gained as a 10-year Indiana 4-H member. She graduated from Purdue University and pursued a 50-year career in the food industry.

Cloncs believes the Indiana 4-H program "evolves to meet the changing needs of our society." Due to COVID-19, she sees many businesses and institutions moving their programs to online, and therefore believes Indiana 4-H can equip the future leaders of tomorrow in this manner.

Additionally, Cloncs wants to support what she values and believes in, and she finds Indiana 4-H uniquely positioned among other nonprofit organizations based on their mission of "learning by doing."

As Crystal Clovers, Singleton, Torr, and Cloncs believe in the future of the Indiana 4-H program and continue to give on behalf of their experience and development in the organization. They, and others like them, are integral to the success of the Foundation and the Indiana 4-H program.

To learn more about the Indiana 4-H Foundation Crystal Clovers, please visit:
www.in4h.org/recognition/crystal-emerald-clovers

New Board Members in 2021



Eric Wolfe

A native of Brazil, Indiana (Clay County), Eric Wolfe graduated from DePauw University with a degree in communications, and currently resides in Greencastle (Putnam County). Wolfe is the owner and managing broker of Prime Real Estate Group. Earlier in his career, Wolfe served as the executive director of the National 4-H Youth Directions Council in Chevy Chase, MD.



Valerie Messmore

Valerie Messmore was a 10-year 4-H member in Kosciusko County. Currently, she is a student at Purdue University studying Finance with a minor in Human Resource Management. Upon graduation, Valerie plans to use her finance degree to become a Financial Advisor and assist families and professionals with achieving their financial goals in various ways.

Vermillion County Establishes Endowment

Vermillion County's commitment to 4-H remains strong, which is reflected in the establishment of the Vermillion County 4-H Program Endowment. Funded through numerous sources including memorials and other private gifts, the endowment ensures that 4-H will remain ever-present in the community.

Nancy Towner, a member of both the Vermillion County 4-H Council and the Indiana 4-H Foundation board of directors, says the endowment will make funds available for 4-H programming in the county.

"We saw the opportunity to get the endowment going, and with the help of Vermillion County 4-H educator, Becky Holbert, it all came together," Towner said.

"4-H goes back to the family, and it is ongoing. The endowment will help us keep our county program strong."

Towner stressed the importance of 4-H in light of COVID.

"Opportunities for young people haven't been there like before," Towner said. "4-H goes back to the family, and it is ongoing. The endowment will help us keep our county program strong."

Holbert said the endowment will have a tremendous impact on the county's 4-H program.

"This endowment will help us not only sustain, but also to grow 4-H programming for the youth in our county," Holbert said. "We are grateful to all of our generous supporters who recognize the significance of 4-H and its impact on our community."



One way individuals can continue supporting the endowment is through memorial gifts. Carl and Sally Swinford, for example, have been active members and generous contributors in Vermillion County 4-H.

When Carl passed away this past December, Sally included the 4-H Foundation as a contribution opportunity for gifts in Carl's memory. These gifts, along with other memorials and donations, have brought the total endowment to \$30,000, which will generate over \$1,200 a year. The goal is to continue growing the endowment to fund larger 4-H programs in the county.



Towner says the endowment "will serve as an avenue for future gifts and memorials to perpetuate 4-H in Vermillion County."

New Board Members in 2021



Luke Schirmer

Luke Schirmer is a third generation and proud 10-year 4-H member, as well as the 2020 Indiana Premier Civic Engagement award winner. Currently attending Vincennes University, Luke is studying Precision Machining and Computer Numerical Control Technology and plans to continue his education in Manufacturing Engineering and Business.



Aaron Sandel

Aaron Sandel is a current sophomore studying at DePauw University, double majoring in Saxophone and Communications. As a 10-year member of Tippecanoe County 4-H, Aaron has been active in Communications, Photography, and Cats, as well as a prominent member of his Junior Leaders club.



Donor Feature: **PEGGY NAILE**

For Peggy Naile, being involved with Indiana 4-H and the Indiana 4-H Foundation has been a lifetime commitment.

She participated in the Marion County 4-H program as a youth member, was a parent representative on the Johnson County 4-H Council, served on the Board of Directors for the Indiana 4-H Foundation from 2001 to 2007, and has been a 4-H club leader for more than 25 years.

Peggy earned her undergraduate degree in German studies from Vassar College in New York. Years later, she attended law school at Indiana University McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis.

Peggy retired from the practice of law in 2018 and currently enjoys spending time outdoors, riding her horses, and serving as an active participant in community groups.

Peggy believes that the 4-H program bundles many fundamental life lessons as the program evolves to meet new challenges, while providing youth with leadership development and community engagement skills.

She said, "Donating to the Indiana 4-H Foundation helps build a strong base of support for 4-H programs and the next generation of community leaders."

Peggy encourages others to pay it forward by giving back to 4-H as a premier youth development organization that cultivates strong leaders and good citizens with well-built values.

She finds that retirement accounts are a great financial giving tool. Peggy has named the Indiana 4-H Foundation as a beneficiary of her retirement

account. She also designated the Indiana 4-H Foundation to receive part of her annual required minimum distribution from that account, giving her some tax savings, and supporting 4-H at the same time.

"You can see your investment in action, whether through annual giving or legacy gifts, as they all help provide tools for learning life skills," Peggy said.

Donating to the Indiana 4-H Foundation grows 4-H programs, rewards 4-H youth, and provides ongoing support through grants or endowments to benefit the Indiana 4-H program and its youth participants.

By providing financial resources, donors help Indiana 4-H youth develop skills that benefit their communities through hands-on experiential learning,

which strengthens leadership, responsibility and communication skills. The Indiana 4-H program prepares youth to excel in civic engagement, healthy living, and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

For many 4-H participants, the impact of being involved with 4-H is lifelong. "The best part is when a former 4-Her becomes an adult 4-H leader, because that extends the cycle even further," said Peggy.

She continues to stay engaged with Indiana 4-H to further her cycle and support an organization that empowers her to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

***"You can see your investment in action,
whether through annual giving
or legacy gifts, as they all help provide
tools for learning life skills."***

**To contribute to the Indiana 4-H Foundation,
please visit:
www.in4h.org/contribute**

American Income Life Makes Significant Gift To Bill Viar Memorial 4-H Scholarship



Bill Viar was a longtime friend and supporter of the 4-H community until his passing on April 17, 2020.

Well-known for his work as a volunteer for the Indiana 4-H Foundation, Bill also built relationships with the 4-H community through his work in the Special Risk Division of American Income Life, which provides blanket accident policies for youth-serving organizations.



In recognition of his support and dedication to 4-H, the Indiana 4-H Foundation Board of Directors elected to establish a scholarship endowment in Bill's memory. Through the support of numerous donors, a one thousand dollar scholarship has been endowed.

We hope to continue to grow the endowment so many more scholarships can be given to 4-H youth in Bill's memory.

Special thanks go to American Income Life Insurance Company, which contributed \$10,000 to the endowment in memory of its

former associate. Erin Bain, American Income Life Special Risk Division director, explains why making this gift was important to the company:

"The Special Risk Division of American Income Life and our parent company, Globe Life, were thrilled to be able to donate a sizable amount to the Bill Viar Memorial Scholarship Fund through the Indiana 4-H Foundation.

"Bill worked for the Division for over 25 years, and his connection to 4-H was a huge part of his pride and passion for the work. He always told everyone he grew up a city boy in New York and didn't really know much about 4-H before working with us, but Bill bled green just as much as anyone I've ever known. He truly lived by both the 4-H Motto of "To Make the Best Better" and the Special Risk Division's of "Serving Those Who Serve Others" every day. He will be sorely missed by our colleagues, family, and friends, and we are glad to honor his legacy with this gift."

The Foundation looks forward to making the first award from this endowment at this year's scholarship luncheon.

Learn more about the Special Risk Division of American Income Life by visiting www.ailspecialrisk.com

Farm Credit Mid-America Challenge Grant Supports Indiana 4-H



Indiana 4-H Foundation Board Member Lori Tennell understands the value of learning through hands-on experiences citing her involvement with Shelby County 4-H as a youth. "The skills 4-H'ers learn in their local clubs - how to conduct meetings, serve as club officers, create and deliver project demonstrations - and the friends they make in their 4-H club are all skills 4-Hers use when they move from students to employees," says Lori.

Today, Lori serves as vice president of retail operations for Farm Credit Mid-America, a lender to agriculture and a perennial supporter of Indiana 4-H. From investing in Jr. Leader programming to backing Global Gateway initiatives, she can think of no better way to advance farming and rural communities than to help 4-H'ers in their quest to rise up to meet new challenges and make the world a better place tomorrow.

To enhance the partnership, Farm Credit issued a challenge grant near the end of 2020 which enabled contributions made to Indiana 4-H to be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$25,000. Together, they raised an additional \$122,901 to support Indiana 4-H youth participants.

"Farm Credit Mid-America's purpose is to secure the future of rural communities and agriculture - one home, one farm, one business at a time. One of the ways we fulfill our mission is by supporting 4-H," Lori says.

Farm Credit Mid-America cares about youth, education and leadership. Those funds are used for programming for 4-H'ers across the state to help Indiana youth evolve into the next generation of leaders.

Additionally, Lori notes that, *"Farm Credit Mid-America has very close bonds with 4-H in Indiana. Many of our employees were 4-H members themselves and so are their children/grandchildren. Many are 4-H leaders in their communities today and they serve on Extension boards or 4-H Advisory Councils."*

The 4-H experience equips youth with leadership opportunities, which then carry into college and a successful life. The Indiana 4-H Foundation sincerely appreciates the steadfast support from Farm Credit Mid-America and thanks them for their contributions to enable state-wide youth programming.

To learn more about Farm Credit Mid-America, please visit: www.e-farmcredit.com