

A 4-H VOLUNTEER IS DOING SOMETHING

# “Sew” INSPIRING



*Read the story inside!*

Indiana 4-H  
Fashion Revue



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## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

When “YES” Leads to Results  
&  
A Great Spin on Leadership  
With Our WNBA Home Team CEO





# A New Spin on Leadership with:

## *Indiana Fever's Allison Barber*

Join your 4-H friends and family for the **Indiana 4-H Foundation Annual Meeting** at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Fever President and CEO **Allison Barber** will speak on leadership (she has a PhD in Leadership, and her career includes working as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense).

A **complimentary lunch** will be served, and then you will be a guest for a great game of hoops as the **Indiana Fever take on the Atlanta Dream** for an exciting WNBA matchup. Support women's basketball and the future of 4-H!



Photo Credit: Matt Kyger

*You're Invited!*

**JOIN US AND CHEER ON  
THE INDIANA FEVER  
AND THE FUTURE OF 4-H!**

**WHEN:**

Sunday, May 15, 2022  
at 1:00 p.m.

**WHERE:**

Gainbridge Fieldhouse  
125 S. Pennsylvania St. Indianapolis

**RSVP:**

visit [www.in4h.org/RSVP2022](http://www.in4h.org/RSVP2022)  
or email [info@in4H.org](mailto:info@in4H.org)

# A Gift That's "Sew" Inspiring

## — A Volunteer Story —

If you've created a garment from scratch, you know it's a labor of love! From the first cut of fabric to hand-sewing that final button, every snip and stitch takes focus and patience. The annual 4-H Fashion Revue is a testament to that patience. For many, the inspiration leads to a lasting love for the craft and sometimes, a career in fashion.

One person who knows plenty about this labor of love is Paulette LeCount-Dowden, a volunteer commentator for Indiana 4-H Fashion Revue for nearly 50 years. Since 1973, Paulette has delivered lively and informative narration as fashion revue finalists take the stage.

A 4-H alum who grew up in the Noble County town of Wawaka, Indiana, Paulette earned her way through school sewing and altering clothes for others. This led to a career in fashion merchandising and management. She feels a 4-H fashion experience is a great foundation for life.

"You learn responsibility, communication and competitiveness as well as the skills of the project," said Paulette.



at right:  
Paulette LeCount-Dowden

Paulette wants to make sure aspiring sewers and future fashion professionals have every opportunity to hone their skills and prepare for a successful future.

She is very supportive of 4-H and donates more than just her time.

*"There are so many ways to create a garment, and it's the same with charitable giving. There are a wide variety of ways to fashion a donation."*

In 2012, Paulette created the annual Sewing/Fashion Revue Scholarship, and to date has funded 10 scholarships at \$1,000 each.

This year, Paulette is making another meaningful charitable contribution with a gift that is "sew" very interesting. Paulette has named the Indiana 4-H Foundation as the beneficiary of a home she owns in South Dakota.

Shelly Bingle, the Foundation's Executive Director says Paulette found a "very practical, smart and even creative way" to make a charitable gift.

"There are so many ways to create a garment, and it's the same with charitable giving. There are a wide variety of ways to fashion a donation."



## Did you know?

### Real estate is a popular way to make a charitable donation

Donors like Paulette LeCount-Dowden have discovered that making a charitable gift with real estate is a wonderful – and practical - way to donate to an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization like the Indiana 4-H Foundation.

#### People make charitable gifts by donating:

- Farmland
- Rental property they no longer wish to manage
- Unused vacation homes
- Naming a charity as the beneficiary of a property in their will

**Note:** There can be significant tax-savings for charitable gifts of real estate and in some cases, you may be able to make a gift AND receive income for life.



If you would like to have a no-obligation conversation about the potential for making a gift of real estate, please contact Shelly Bingle at [shellyb@purdue.edu](mailto:shellyb@purdue.edu)

Learn more about making a gift in your will, a gift of real estate or other planned gifts by visiting [in4h.org/wills](https://in4h.org/wills)

## NEWS ACROSS INDIANA

### Jackson County 4-H now has a permanent endowment!



What's an endowment? It is a permanent fund that grows and provides financial resources for years to come and helps secure the future of 4-H in your county!

In Jackson County, raising the \$25,000 to start the endowment was a true community effort! County Extension Director and 4-H Youth Development Educator Heather VonDielingen shares this with us:

*"It started in March 2020 with an anonymous donor pledging \$10,000 and gained momentum with a \$5,000 pledge from Excel Manufacturing (owned by Brent and Sandy Kilgas) along with the Jackson County 4-H Council. The Jackson County 4-H Junior Leaders donated proceeds from their Third Annual Dinner and Dessert Auction, too."*

With more funds from supporters and a Giving Tuesday campaign, Jackson County reached its \$25,000 goal! The endowment will help support programs, supplies and other needs for years to come. Congratulations!

**Would you like to start an endowment in your county? Please reach out by texting, calling or sending an email to:**

**Shelly Bingle, Executive Director**  
Indiana 4-H Foundation  
317-445-7977 [shellyb@purdue.edu](mailto:shellyb@purdue.edu)



## YES GRANTS IN ACTION

# Glam & GRIT

### Vanderburgh County 4-Hers Make Life Better for Foster Care Teens

Reagan Koester is familiar with the plight of those in foster care because her own family members have fostered children. She recounts a phone call her aunt received...

"We need your help. There are these two children found on the street with nothing but their clothes on their back. They need you to become their foster parents."

Reagan says someday she may become a foster parent, but right now, she wanted to do something to help. She organized a project called "Glam and Grit" to provide teens in foster care with beauty supplies and other resources to help boost confidence and self-esteem.

"I did not do this all on my own. With the help of my 4-H extension agent, I secured a \$1,000 grant through

the Indiana 4-H Foundation YES Grant program and recruited the Vanderburgh County Junior Leaders for help."

Reagan reports that in collaboration with The Stand Up Foundation, 70 teens in foster care benefitted from this project. She thanks the 29 Junior Leader volunteers from four Indiana counties for their help!

*"I can count on my 4-H peers to jump in and help serve the community."*

Reagan says through this project, she learned many important lessons including budgeting, collaboration and the power of 4-H. "I can count on my 4-H peers to

jump in and help serve the community."

To see a wonderful video about this project and to learn about other YES grant projects, please visit [www.in4h.org](http://www.in4h.org) and click on the "News" tab.



2022 YES Grants sponsored by the **Nola Gentry Charitable Trust** and **Corteva Agriscience**.



## Do YOU Have a Forever 4-H Pin?

Have you spotted one of our new Forever 4-H pins at one of our events? This new pin is presented to members of the Indiana 4-H Foundation Legacy Society. These loyal supporters of 4-H have taken the (surprisingly simple) step of naming the Foundation in their will or other long-range plans.

You can learn more by visiting [www.in4h.org/wills](http://www.in4h.org/wills)



Volunteering Time and Talent

# WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



## Erica Viar, Marion County

Erica is inspired to help 4-H advance its mission of providing hands-on learning and life skills. An attorney who graduated from the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University, Erica works for Ascend Indiana, consulting with Indiana’s employers and workforce stakeholders to develop pipelines and strategies to connect Hoosier talent with in-demand jobs across the state.



## Gary Coleman, Madison County

Gary is a proud 4-H alum who showed cattle and woodworking projects while growing up on a grain and cow/calf farm in his native Missouri. A former U.S. Army Reservist, Gary holds a degree in Agricultural Economics and is a past board member of the Indiana FFA Foundation. He is Regional Vice President for Farm Credit Mid-America.



## Heidi Spahn, Hendricks County

Heidi grew up on a farm in Poseyville, Indiana and spent 10 years as a 4-H member. A longtime community volunteer, Heidi served as a Girl Scout leader and currently volunteers with charities focused on food insecurity. A Ball State graduate, Heidi is Global Community Investment Manager at Corteva Agriscience, responsible for corporate charitable giving in Indiana and Iowa.



## Kevin Armstrong, Daviess and Marion Counties

Before his career in healthcare, Kevin was associate chaplain at DePauw University and pastor of three United Methodist congregations in Indianapolis. A DePauw graduate, he also attended law school and seminary. He cares deeply about charities related to education, healthcare, food sustainability and restorative justice. Kevin is currently Chief of Staff and Executive Vice President at IU Health.



## Sharon Semones, Johnson County

Sharon is a 4-H mom who says her son “had so many opportunities to grow” thanks to 4-H. She cares about developing future leaders, spending many years volunteering with Girl Scouts of Central Indiana. Professionally, Sharon is an Advisor for Venture Science, Academic Collaborations for Eli Lilly & Company, managing scientific aspects of the company’s venture capital funds.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:



### PRESIDENT

Jordan Downham  
Marion/Tippecanoe Counties



### VICE PRESIDENT

Roger Sherer  
Wells County



### TREASURER

Robyn Heine  
Boone County



### SECRETARY

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Jackson County



Jordan Downham, *President*  
Roger Sherer, *Vice President*  
Robyn Heine, *Treasurer*  
Heather VonDielingen, *Secretary*  
Christy Denault, *Past President*  
Shelly Bingle, *Executive Director*



### 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 and Indiana State 4-H Program Leader