

a GARDEN *of* GIVING

**County Endowments
Bring a New Season
of Growth for 4-H**

READ THE STORY INSIDE!



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

- Emerald & Crystal Clover Donors
- What You Need to Know About County Endowments
- Photos, an invitation for you, and more!

Jasper County 4-H'ers Sponsor Youth Mental Health Events

4-H'er Zachary Geleott and the Parr Panthers 4-H Club of Jasper County recently completed their YES Grant Community Service Project. The group hosted three Youth Mental Health Awareness Convocations at local high schools, featuring nationally-known youth mental health speaker and author, Jeff Yalden.

The club used the grant as a catalyst to spur community support from the Jasper Newton Foundation along with Rensselaer Central, South Newton, and Kankakee Valley High Schools. Nearly 2,000 youth attended the sessions and received a journal, wristband, and emergency hotline information.

Congratulations to the Parr Panthers 4-H Club on a successful YES Grants project! For more details about our YES Grants program, visit in4h.org/grants. If you'd like to support our ongoing efforts to facilitate youth-



Above: 4-H'er Zach Geleott (back center) of the Parr Panthers 4-H Club and other youth participants meeting with speaker Jeff Yalden (front center).

led community leadership initiatives, please visit our website for more information about donating to our greatest-need fund at www.in4h.org/donate.



YES Grants sponsored by the **Nola Gentry Charitable Trust** and **Corteva Agriscience** support quality service projects organized, budgeted, and implemented by young people in Indiana. **This story is just one of many examples of YES Grants in Action.** See the full list of YES Grant projects at www.in4h.org/grants.

SAVE THE DATE!

2023 4-H LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Meet young future leaders and be inspired by their hard work and volunteer service. Lunch provided by a Hoosier favorite – Jonathan Byrd's catering!

WHEN:

Saturday, October 21, 2023

WHERE:

502 East: Jonathan Byrd's Events & Catering
502 East Carmel Drive in Carmel

TICKETS:

\$50 per person

RSVP INFO COMING SOON:

Keep an eye out for more details to be announced in an upcoming e-news!



Above: 2022 Scholarship recipients pose for a group photo with emcee Rafael Sánchez



A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

Crystal Clover Gift Provides for Greatest Need

Today, a prospective 4-H'er may learn about the program through a website or social media. For Kevin Armstrong, that message came on the chalkboard of his elementary school in Daviess County.

"I saw a notice for a 4-H meeting and mentioned it to my dad, who happened to be a 10-year 4-H member in his youth," Kevin said. "He encouraged me to attend, and when I found out a lot of my friends were joining, I thought, 'why not?'"

Little did he know, that simple chalkboard message would launch his own 10-year 4-H experience – one that would forever shape his life.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the formative experience 4-H provided for me. I didn't recognize at the time that I was developing incredible leadership skills, lifelong friendships and personal interests that are still hobbies to this day," Kevin said.

One of Kevin's favorite programs was the 4-H public speaking competition. After excelling at the county level, he went on to win the state championship, and years later served as a judge. For Kevin, whose career has included leadership positions with the United Methodist Church, DePauw University, Methodist Health Foundation, and IU Health, that experience was invaluable.

"Practicing and competing not only helped me learn to speak well," Kevin said, "it instilled a passion for leadership storytelling which I still use and teach."

More than five decades after his time in 4-H, he has reunited with the organization that made

a lasting impact on his life, joining the Board of Directors of the Indiana 4-H Foundation. Kevin also gives back to the organization through financial support.

"I give to the Foundation out of gratitude for the incredible experiences provided to me and my peers," Kevin said. "When paired with the generosity of others who have had similar experiences, I know we can make a lasting impact."



Above: Kevin Armstrong

Kevin chose to endow his Crystal Clover (an annual gift of \$1,000 or more) to the Dr. Robert Abel and Betty Abel Endowment for the Indiana 4-H Foundation, which is held and invested by the Purdue Research Foundation. The endowment provides annual revenue that the Foundation leadership team can use for its greatest needs.

"While I could have directed this gift to a specific program or county, I chose to allow the Foundation to utilize it for the greatest need. Whether that be creating new programming or keeping the lights on, it's all critical to providing opportunities for youth state-wide."

In doing so, Kevin has gifted a legacy of leadership for generations to come.

For more information about our Crystal Clover giving club, visit www.in4h.org/CrystalClovers.

JOIN OUR CRYSTAL CLOVERS GIVING CLUB!

Crystal Clover members are recognized as being giving leaders for Indiana 4-H. This giving club offers benefits like:

- **Member Only events.**
- **Tickets to special 4-H events.**
- **A Crystal Clover pin to wear to 4-H events.**
- **Personalized communications.**



GARDEN *of* GIVING

County Endowments Bring A New Season of Growth for 4-H

Eric Wolfe spent much of his childhood outside on his family's six-acre property in Clay County. The setting was an ideal place for Eric and his siblings to explore their interest in 4-H programs, which included gardening, raising animals, and other outdoor projects.

"Though my parents grew up in inner-city Indianapolis and didn't participate in 4-H, they encouraged us to have as many new experiences as possible," Eric said. "4-H turned out to be the perfect fit for me."

As a member of the 4-Ever Achievers Club in Staunton, Eric enjoyed raising chickens and ducks and had his first exposure to 4-H leadership as the club's President.

That would be the first of his many leadership roles at the local, state, and ultimately, national level. In 1999, Eric was selected as one of two Indiana Junior Leaders to represent the state at the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. where he was elected as the National 4-H Youth Directions Council Executive Director. The position included a paid internship during which he traveled extensively to meet state and county leaders around the country.

Eric took full advantage of those opportunities and leveraged the skills he learned along the way to cultivate a successful career in real estate beginning in 2005, and



Above: a local newspaper featured Eric Wolfe as a young fair-goer displaying his 4-H awards in 1997.

in 2017 founding Prime Real Estate Group in Greencastle, where he currently lives with his wife, June. He has remained connected to 4-H through the Indiana 4-H Foundation, joining the Board of Directors for a second time in 2020.

"Throughout my career I donated when I was able because I wanted to give back to the programs that had given so much to me," Eric said.

"This endowment campaign is the perfect example of the power of collective generosity."

— Eric Wolfe

When the time was right, Eric and June decided they wanted to make a significant gift that would nurture the community in which they lived. "Because 4-H played such an influential role in my life, I knew that a large gift to Putnam County 4-H could provide a lasting impact for generations to come," he said.

Eric also knew there were many loyal 4-H alumni and others with meaningful connections to 4-H who felt similarly.

Planting the seeds of perennial giving, he began a community-wide fundraising campaign in Putnam County in 2021 to establish an endowment that would provide continuous, unrestricted income for the county 4-H program. Though the minimum amount needed to establish an endowment is \$25,000, Eric was determined to raise \$100,000 from multiple donors.

"This endowment campaign is the perfect example of the power of collective generosity. Every single gift is important, regardless of size," Eric said. Now valued

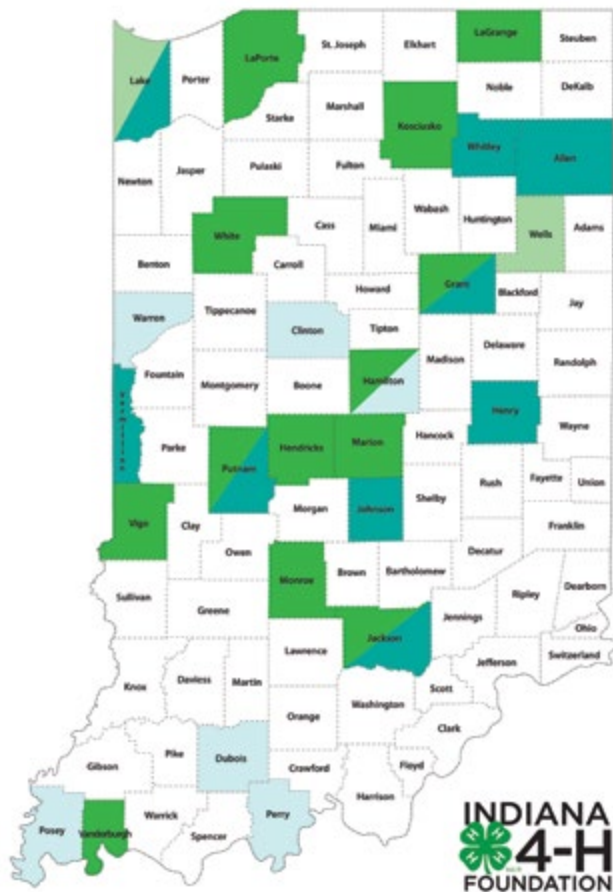


Left: With a lifetime of 4-H involvement, Eric Wolfe currently serves on the board of the Indiana 4-H Foundation.

at more than \$70,000, the Putnam County 4-H Endowment is the largest county endowment in the state – and growing.

Indiana 4-H Foundation Executive Director Shelly Bingle is eager to see similar endowments established for every county. She said, "This type of endowment provides ongoing income that county leaders can use to address their greatest needs as they arise, choosing what to grow in their 'garden' and when to harvest. It also empowers educators with the flexibility to offer the most relevant and impactful programming for their members."

As for Eric, he'll continue to forge ahead in pursuit of his \$100,000 goal for Putnam County. "I'm incredibly grateful to the founding donors who helped establish this endowment and to everyone that continues to help it grow. I know our efforts will create lasting opportunities for the future leaders of our county and state."



ENDOWMENTS BY COUNTY



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ENDOWMENTS



\$25,000 is the minimum amount required to establish a county endowment with the Indiana 4-H Foundation.

An endowment of \$25,000 provides nearly \$1,000 in annual revenue for the county program to use for its greatest needs.

Currently, county endowments earn 3.9% interest on their principal. The Indiana 4-H Foundation does not charge a fee to administer the endowment; therefore the county receives the full amount of interest as income.

County endowments can be established by a single or multiple donors. Gifts to the endowment can be made as one-time or multi-year cash gifts or through estate gifts.

To create your county endowment, contact Shelly Bingle at mbinglec@purdue.edu.

For more information, visit our website at www.in4h.org/endowments.

PUTNAM COUNTY 4-H ENDOWMENT FOUNDING DONORS:



Mr. David E. Berry

Ms. Jinsie S. Bingham

Mrs. Joy J. Evans

Mr. Darrel L. Thomas

Mr. and Dr. Eric and June Wolfe

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Helen Zeiner

Mr. and Mrs. John and Rea Jean Zeiner

North Salem State Bank

Prime Real Estate Group



2022 Emerald & Crystal Clovers



Giving in any form is invaluable to continuing 4-H programs, but greatest-need funding is vital to flexibility and to support lesser known programs and operations. As a member of one of our giving clubs, you will help Indiana 4-H reach new audiences.

By joining, you'll receive personal invitations to special events and personal communication from the Foundation that allows you to be more informed about what is happening with 4-H across Indiana.

Emerald Clovers

Those individuals who give at least \$5,000 in unrestricted funds to the Foundation within a calendar year earn the designation of Emerald Clover:

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin and Nancy Armstrong
Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Deborah Bechman
Everence Foundation, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Robert and Cynthia Grimm
Ms. Robyn F. Heine
Dr. and Mrs. Kerry and Betsy Keffaber
Ms. June Ann Ladd
Ms. Peggy J. Naile
Mr. Gerald H. Shaffer
Mrs. and Mr. Joanne and James* Smith
Miss Nancy I. Towner

Crystal Clovers

Those individuals who give at least \$1,000 in unrestricted funds to the Foundation within a calendar year earn the designation of Crystal Clover:

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Kathy Adkins
Mr. Bowen E. Akers
Mr. and Mrs. R. Duke Aldridge
Dr. and Mrs. Kemal and Cheryl Altinkemer
Mrs. Sharon E. Baumgardt
Baumgardt Family Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and Glendia Beck
Ms. Michelle L. Bingle
Mr. Darwin Brewer
Mr. and Mrs. Ty and Sacha Brown
Ms. Joberta H. Campbell
Mrs. and Mr. Linda and C. Jack Clarkson
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Jill Coleman
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald and Maureen Cook
The CREW Corporation
Ms. Julia D. Crews
Mr. and Mrs. David and Brenda Day
Mrs. Christy Denault and Dr. Jeffry Denault

Ms. Jordan R. Downham
Ms. Penelope S. Farthing
Mr. Mathew Fedor
Mr. Maximilian R. Fitzpatrick
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Ruth Frette
Mr. and Mrs. James and Michelle Geller
Mrs. Pris M. Gerde
Mrs. Susan L. Girod
Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Shirley Guske
Mrs. Abby Gutwein
Ms. Ruth A. Hanenkratt
Mr. and Mrs. Joel and Kara Hartman
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall and Janet Hedrick
Dr. and Mrs. Jason and Angela Henderson
Dr. and Mrs. Steven and Diana Hubbard
Mrs. and Mr. Sharon and Michael Hutchison
Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Susan Jordan
Mrs. Sarah Knight and Mr. Howard Knight
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Marcy Kuhn
Mr. and Mrs. James and Shirley Kurtzhals
Mrs. Paulette LeCount-Dowden and Mr. Garry Dowden
Dr. and Mrs. Norman and Mary Long
Mr. Daniel Luedke
Mr. James Luzar and Dr. Ella Ingram
Marian Inc.
Marion County Farm Bureau, Inc.
Mr. Lonnie E. Mason
Mrs. Jane A. Maxwell
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and Lais McCartney
Mrs. and Mr. Rachel and Cullen McCarty
Dr. Renée McKee and Mr. James McKee
Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Karen McKinney
Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Judy McKinney
Mr. and Mrs. Don and Suzanne McMahon
Colonel and Mrs. Lelan and Joy McReynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Carolyn Mendell
Mr. and Mrs. David and Mary Miers
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew and Tracy Miller
Mr. and Mrs. George and Nancy Morton
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey and Kristen Nagle
Ms. Kathleen K. Peoples
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Gail Powell

Ms. Patti J. Price
Mr. Edward L. Rader
Mr. and Mrs. David and Danita Rodibaugh
Rodibaugh & Sons, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Danny and Charmayne Saylor
Mrs. Joann Schwartzkopf
Ms. Sharon E. Semones
Mr. Roger A. Sherer
Mrs. Melba G. Shilling
Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Judy Singleton
Mr. and Dr. Robert and Erika Slinker
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Thinh Steinhardt
Ms. Linda S. Straub
Dr. and Mrs. Kurt and Lynn Strueh
Mrs. Kathleen Stubbe Truitt
Ms. Vickie Swinford
Dr. and Mrs. Ron and Sally Thieme
Mr. Darrel L. Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. John and Patricia Torr
Tri K, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas and Barbara Vawter
Mr. and Mrs. Edward* and Sally Veenhuizen
Ms. Erica Viar
Mr. and Mrs. Grant and Heather VonDielingen
Mr. Walter P. Waitt*
Ms. Mandy M. Ward
Ms. Susanne Wasson
Mrs. Annie Watts Cloncs and Mr. Richard Cloncs
Mr. and Mrs. David and Kendra Weidmayer
Wells County 4-H Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy and Bonnita Whicker
Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Dana White
Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Jeanne Wise
Mr. and Dr. Eric and June Wolfe
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey and Susan Wood
Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Anne Young

* = Donor is deceased

Since 2020, thousands of Indiana 4-H'ers have benefitted from funds provided through the generosity of Premier Companies. For the Fall 2023 cycle, they have committed over \$100,000 to 4-H projects across much of southern Indiana! 4-H Extension Educators in the Premier Companies county service area should be on the lookout for an email about the next funding cycle to open in August 2023. Here is an overview of some of the projects made possible by the Premier Companies grants in 2022-2023:

BROWN COUNTY

Educator: Katie Finney

Funding Received: \$900

Livestock judging team competition fees

CLARK COUNTY

Educator: Katie Whiteford

Funding Received: \$3,800

Ag Days, project workshops, mentor program, and Livestock Skillathon

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Educator: Elizabeth Simmermeyer

Funding Received: \$3,750

New workshop series

GREENE COUNTY

Educator: Malea Huffman

Funding Received: \$3,800

ADA accessible bathroom facility for barns and show arena

HARRISON COUNTY

Educator: Rebecca Wilkins

Funding Received: \$2,000

Junior Leader Exhibit Hall upgrades

JACKSON COUNTY

Educator: Heather VonDielingen

Funding Received: \$5,530

Club resources, livestock resources, 4-H building resources

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Educator: Britt Copeland

Funding Received: \$2,500

Horse & Pony Club Camp

JENNINGS COUNTY

Educator: Baylee Dwenger

Funding Received: \$2,200

Roof repair and upgrades to show arena at fairgrounds

JOHNSON COUNTY

Educator: Heather Dougherty

Funding Received: \$3,300

Sphero bolts

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Educator: Lesley Lodmell

Funding Received: \$4,780

New exhibit hall racks, new member workshops

MARTIN COUNTY

Educator: Dena Held

Funding Received: \$3,000

4-H Workshops for project based experiential learning and mentorship

MONROE COUNTY

Educator: Clint Deck

Funding Received: \$5,000

Tello drones, tablets, and training adult volunteers

MORGAN COUNTY

Educator: Rena Sheldon

Funding Received: \$1,900

Horse & Poultry OSU kits

RUSH COUNTY

Educator: Carly Holland

Funding Received: \$5,000

Class to Clover program in schools for new audiences, scholarships for statewide trips, and project workshops



Above: Washington County 4-H'ers are proud to partner with Premier Companies

SCOTT COUNTY

Educator: Megan McNeely

Funding Received: \$2,500

Lights and fans in Horse Barn, fans for show arena

SHELBY COUNTY

Educator: Bailey York

Funding Received: \$1,050

Chicken embryology program

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Educator: Megan Broughton

Funding Received: \$4,000

Fitting and grooming workshop, soybean science kit supplies

For more information about the Premier Companies grant program, visit our website at www.in4h.org/premier-companies-grants.

VOLUNTEERING TIME AND TALENT

Welcome, New Board Members!



Board Secretary Mark Lamie, Tipton/Hamilton Counties

Mark Lamie has three children currently active in 4-H, so he sees through their involvement that there is an absolute need in our communities for the programs that 4-H offers. He brings a unique perspective to the Indiana 4-H Foundation, as he is not originally from Indiana. His educational background includes a Bachelor's degree in History and Religion and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership.



Meredith Simmons, Marion/Fountain Counties

As an alumna of 4-H in Fountain County, 4-H was a large part of Meredith's development as a youth. Meredith is Director of Customer Marketing for Catalant Technologies. She earned degrees at DePauw University, CSU Dominguez Hills, and Purdue University. During her term with the Indiana 4-H Foundation, Meredith hopes to provide and nurture a broader awareness of the Foundation's mission.



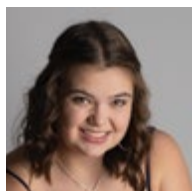
Brian Wise, Hamilton County

Brian Wise brings a wide variety of board leadership experiences to the Indiana 4-H Foundation. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Economics from Purdue University and comes from a long line of farmers in Hamilton County, currently serving as President of Philip Wise Farms, Inc. Brian looks forward to sharing his experience and perspective to help support the Foundation's focused programs.



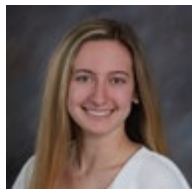
Mark Evans, Putnam County

Mark graduated from Purdue University with a BS in Agriculture Education and an MS degree in Agronomy. Mark has worked with Purdue Extension for 30 years in the roles of Extension Soil Conservation Specialist, Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator, and 4-H Youth Development Educator, while also serving as a County Extension Director in Owen/Clay and Putnam Counties, respectively.



Mackensi Schneider, Young Alumni, Morgan County

Mackensi studies biomedical engineering at Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, with the future career goal of working in a medical lab designing false organs, prosthetics, or doing cancer treatment research. She has extensive community service experience through Morgan County Junior Leaders, Girl Scouts, and being a past recipient of a YES Grant from the Indiana 4-H Foundation.



Amanda Deutsch, Young Alumni, Vanderburgh County

Amanda is pursuing a degree in design and construction integration at Purdue University. Her most life changing 4-H activity was attending the 4-H Global Gateway Experience, which opened her eyes to the challenges of obtaining necessities that those less fortunate face daily. Amanda has directly benefitted from Indiana 4-H Foundation scholarships and grants and looks forward to giving back and supporting 4-H.



Christy Denault, President
Roger Sherer, Vice President
Robyn Heine, Treasurer
Mark Lamie, Secretary
Shelly Bingle, Executive Director



Extension - 4-H Youth Development

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. Angie Abbott, Interim Associate Dean and Director of Purdue Extension

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