


# Learning for a Lifetime

Retired Lake County  
teacher shares a lesson  
in giving back

*Read the story inside* 



## ***ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...***

- Meet the 2024 Premier scholarship recipients
- YES Grant funds Comfort Care Kits in Marshall County
- Photos, an invitation for you, and more!

## Marshall County 4-H Youth Provide Comfort Care Kits to Those in Need

The Indiana 4-H Foundation YES Grant program gives youth-led projects the financial boost they need to get off the ground and start making a difference in the community.

In 2024, the Indiana 4-H Foundation awarded 23 YES Grants for a total of \$21,606.30! The grantees received funding based on proposals they submitted to the Indiana 4-H Foundation.

In Marshall County, Travis Barnhart and his fellow Junior Leaders were awarded \$1,000 for their Comfort Care Kit initiative.

The kits included essential personal hygiene and household cleaning items to support individuals in the community who may lack access to these fundamental necessities.

The group used YES grant funds to create five different types of kits: Household Wash, Body Wash, Shaving, Feminine Hygiene, and Dental. A total of 367 kits were distributed to seven food banks and pantries in Marshall County.

The effort was impactful for the Junior Leaders, the recipient organizations, and the community.

Karen Worsham from Bourbon Helping Hands Food Pantry expressed her gratitude, saying, "We are so grateful for the boxes of kits to help our community. Last year, we received Birthday Boxes from the YES grant, and we were hopeful for another donation this year."

"Throughout this experience, I have learned that with effort and determination, a group of young kids can accomplish remarkable things and make a drastic improvement in people's lives," shared Travis.

Their efforts didn't go unnoticed in the community. "As we were shopping, area stores applauded our efforts and expressed interest in helping fund future projects," Travis said. "One shopper overheard what we were doing and gave us \$20 to help buy more supplies. She was blown away by the efforts of the Jr. Leaders to do good and to help others. We learned quickly that the community sees and is aware of the impact 4-H has."



*Above: Marshall County Junior Leaders used YES Grant funding to assemble and distribute 367 Comfort Care Kits to food banks and pantries.*



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 [in4h.org/grants](https://in4h.org/grants)

### YES GRANT PROFILE

**NAME:** Travis Barnhart

**SCHOOL:** Triton High School, Class of 2025

**HOBBIES:** Flying, Running & Raising Swine

**FAVORITE 4-H ACTIVITY:** Flipping pancakes at the Marshall County 4-H Council Blueberry Pancake breakfast.

**4-H MENTOR SHOUT OUT:** Trent, my older brother. His guidance and support have made a significant impact, showing the ropes in 4-H and being there every step of the way. He embodies what it means to be a true mentor and brother.

**FUTURE PLANS:** My plan after graduation is to become an agricultural engineer.



## 4-H Volunteers Give Time, Talent, and Treasure

Anywhere a 4-H logo appears, you can be sure there is a volunteer close by. It takes an army of club leaders, judges, trip chaperones, camp leaders, committee members, and so many more to support Indiana 4-H.

Perhaps no one understands this impact more than Jamie Morris, Purdue Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist.

"My role at the state 4-H office is focused on volunteer development and support," Jamie said. "I serve our educators by helping them with all of their volunteer management needs because they are truly the ones that recruit and utilize the volunteers in the 4-H program."

Indiana is fortunate to have at least one educator in every county. Buoyed by the efforts of nearly 10,000 officially trained volunteers, it's easy to see why Indiana 4-H is able to provide such a breadth of programs and experiences to youth members.

"Quite simply, the program couldn't function without our volunteers," shared Jamie. "Many of them participated in the program themselves and have volunteered for decades. They bring incredible skills and a wealth of history and knowledge to their roles."

Jamie came to Indiana 4-H in October 2023 from the Maryland 4-H program where she served for seven years as a Volunteer Specialist and four years as a County Educator. An Iowa native, the Indiana position not only brought her closer to home, it also provided an appealing challenge.

"The Indiana program is much bigger than Maryland's, and I was excited to be a part of it," Jamie said. "I'm passionate about fostering youth and adult partnerships, creating a culture of appreciation, and supporting 4-H volunteers, families and professionals. This role was the perfect next step for me."

One of Jamie's responsibilities is supporting volunteer development opportunities including the required annual volunteer training for all Indiana 4-H volunteers.



**Above: Purdue Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist Jamie Morris (center) is pictured with 4-H volunteers at the Indiana State Fair.**

"This training is necessary to ensure both the safety of our youth and to create a consistent experience for participants across the state. I'm working very hard to make it as engaging as possible and I always look for new and unique learning opportunities," shared Jamie.

As she travels the state to meet with volunteers and educators, Jamie sees volunteers putting this training into action. "It's incredible to see how excited they are to give their time and talent and just be a caring adult for the youth they serve. They're incredible role models and they inspire members to serve as volunteers later in life."

In addition to giving their time, many current and former volunteers are also generous donors to the Indiana 4-H Foundation. Jamie sees the impact of this as well.

"By providing everything from materials to scholarships, their donations support the greatest needs of programs around the state," Jamie said. "These gifts further enhance the opportunities volunteers can provide, and I'm incredibly grateful."

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— Jamie Morris

# Learning for a Lifetime

Retired Lake County teacher  
shares a lesson in giving back



Left and right:  
Don Guske  
as a young 4-Her  
with his Herford steer  
in Northwest Indiana.

Don Guske was raised in Crown Point, Indiana, on a 103-acre family farm that his father purchased from his grandfather in 1942.

"We had dairy cows, some swine, and a big garden, and all of the things that make up a farm," Don said. "I started 4-H when I was 10, and as a family we were very involved in the program."

He had a bit of four leaf clover luck right out of the gate. "My first 4-H experience was attending the Farm Bureau Co-op's annual meeting with my parents. They were raffling off a young steer for the 4-H project of raising an animal. My name was called, and I got to go down and pick a Hereford that I took to the fair, and I thought, "Oh wow, this is really a way to start!"

Throughout his 4-H membership, Don was busy with various activities, including gardening, woodworking, entomology, and showing animals.

"I loved the companionship of the other 4-H members at our meetings and all of the educational trips we took," Don said. "It was a really enjoyable experience."

He is grateful for the opportunities and personal growth he experienced through 4-H. "First of all, the leadership component of the program carried over into so many areas of my life. But more than that, it taught me to listen and respect other people's opinions.

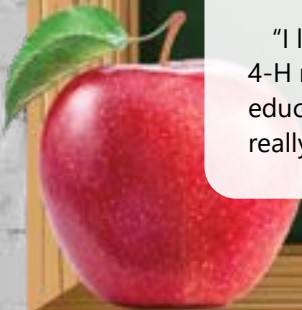
"I learned that other people will have different views than me, but we can still work through problems and create solutions together," he shared.

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"I like that my donations can be used by  
the educators in the counties for whatever  
they see as the most pressing need."  
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After high school, Don attended Purdue University and earned a degree in Agriculture Education. The interpersonal skills learned in 4-H were invaluable

for Don in his career as a teacher, counselor and administrator in several Indiana schools.

After serving as an educator in Lakeville and Freemont, Don found his way back to the Crown Point area where he and his wife, Shirley, raised their family. In 1999 he retired after working in the Munster School system for 30 years, the last 10 of which he was principal of national Blue-Ribbon winning Wilbur Wright Middle School.





Left: Don with his Grand Champion 4-H garden project at the Lake Co. fair.

Above: Don and his sister, Doris, received chests of silverware as an award for 4-H achievement and leadership in 1955.

Though he was busy with school related obligations, he maintained his appreciation for 4-H and continued to go to the county fair, where he enjoyed visiting the 4-H members and their animals, especially the rabbits. Then, several years ago, something caught Don's eye in the local newspaper that drew him back into more active 4-H involvement.

"I read that Lake County had received a gift from Jerry Snyder's estate to establish the Lake County 4-H Endowment," Don said. "I decided that I need to do something, too, because 4-H had given so much to me." That article inspired Don to become a donor himself.

"Here in Lake County, we have such a diverse population, and it's wonderful to see how 4-H has expanded into the bigger cities like Gary and East Chicago," Don said. "We can't all raise animals, so it's great to see the expansion into technology projects and alternative ways of growing plants that don't require 25 acres."

Today Don supports the Indiana 4-H Foundation by donating to the Lake County Endowment, as

well as maintaining an Emerald Clover, where his unrestricted gifts support the greatest needs of the 4-H program.

"I like that my donations can be used by the educators in the counties for whatever they see as the most pressing need, or biggest opportunity to grow the programs," Don said.

"While it's appealing to restrict a gift to a certain project or scholarship, the county leaders know better than I do what will create the biggest impact. I think it's important to give them flexibility in how to use the donations."

His hope for the future is that the 4-H program continues to grow around the state, buoyed by donor support.

"It feels good to know you are helping our youth in Indiana. Any amount that donors can give will be well managed by the 4-H program and will truly make an impact.

"I'm excited to see what's to come, both here in Lake County and around the state."

Ready to make your own  
"Greatest Need" gift?  
Visit [in4h.org/donate](http://in4h.org/donate)

## OUR PLEDGE TO GREATER LOYALTY

# GIVING 101: Our Crash Course in How to Give Back to Indiana 4-H

School is back in session, and it's the perfect time for a refresher course on the many ways you can provide life-changing opportunities for kids around the state.

**ONE TIME GIFTS** can be made online or mailed to us at:

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

**MONTHLY DONATIONS** can be initiated online and provide sustaining support throughout the year.

**STOCK DONATIONS** can be made with the assistance of your brokerage firm. To initiate a stock transfer as a gift to the Indiana 4-H Foundation, please provide Notification of Stock Transfer (IN4H) to your broker. This form is linked on our website at [in4h.org/my-best-gift](http://in4h.org/my-best-gift) under the Donate Stock tab.

**ESTATE GIFTS** are created when a donor names the Indiana 4-H Foundation as a beneficiary of their estate plans. Indiana 4-H Planned giving, is an easy, affordable, and accessible way to give. You can provide for your family and loved ones and receive tax benefits while helping Indiana 4-H continue to serve young people forever.

**MEMORIAL/TRIBUTE GIFTS** honor the life and legacy of friends and family members. Memorial gifts make a lasting tribute to the memory of family members and friends. Tribute gifts recognize the contributions and talents of living persons or celebrate a special occasion such as a birthday, graduation or anniversary.

**ENDOWMENTS** are established with a principal investment donation that remains intact in perpetuity. Interest earned off the principal amount is used to support 4-H programs. An endowment gift of \$25,000 will provide roughly \$1,000 in funding for the county 4-H program of your choice.



**SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES** display your clover pride! When you purchase an Indiana 4-H Foundation Specialty License Plate, the fees support

programs for young people state-wide, and a portion of the money from each plate sold goes right back to 4-H in the county where the plate was purchased! You can purchase or renew your Indiana 4-H Foundation Specialty Plate at your local BMV branch or at [in.gov/bmv](http://in.gov/bmv).



## ARE YOU A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE OR RETIREE?

  
**GIVE HAPPY**

Then GIVE HAPPY to us through the CFC using charity code **56349**. One of the great benefits of the CFC is that you can give through payroll deduction or through your retiree annuity, giving a little each pay period and supporting our mission all year long.



Scan this code with your phone's camera to access more info about CFC!

## WHAT IS "GREATEST NEED" GIVING?

When a donor allows their gift to be used for the greatest need, it gives the Foundation the flexibility to address both immediate needs and to fund local community programs like YES Grant service projects, support grants to county 4-H educators and programming needs as well as statewide leadership programs such as Round-Up and 4-H Academy — not to mention life changing experiences like 4-H Camp and National Trips to Washington, DC. This type of gift also empowers county educators to meet the needs specific to 4-H members and programs in their county.



# TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

## 2024 INDIANA 4-H FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

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

### WHEN:

Saturday, October 26, 2024

### WHERE:

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

### TICKETS:

\$50 per person

### RSVP ONLINE BY OCTOBER 11:

[in4h.org/luncheon-rsvp](https://in4h.org/luncheon-rsvp)

### THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:

Farm Credit Mid-America • Countrymark  
Corteva Agriscience • Premier Companies  
Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management  
The Andersons

Swartz Family Community Mortuary & Memorial Center



*Above: 2023 scholarship recipients*

*This year, 45 4-Hers will receive scholarships, including our Premier Scholarship winners:*



*Eleanor Howat*  
**LAWRENCE COUNTY**

Premier Civic Engagement  
Scholarship  
*sponsored by*  
Corteva Agriscience



*Bennett Schirmer*  
**HENDRICKS COUNTY**

Premier Achievement  
Scholarship  
*sponsored by*  
Allen and Sherer Families  
in Memory of Janet Allen



*Mary Fritch*  
**MORGAN COUNTY**

Premier Leadership  
Scholarship  
*sponsored by*  
Indiana State Fair  
Commission

## SUMMERTIME SOIRÉE

### *Farm-to-Fork Picnic on the Lawn*



Long-time friends of the Indiana 4-H Foundation spent an evening at the Governor's Residence learning more about the positive impact of YES Grants while sharing a delicious meal and delightful conversations.

Special thanks to our hostess, Indiana 4-H alum and First Lady of Indiana, Mrs. Janet Holcomb, and to Ted Somerville Photography for capturing some special moments.



*Christy Denault, President*  
*Roger Sherer, Vice President*  
*Robyn Heine, Treasurer*  
*Mark Lamie, Secretary*  
*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. 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

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