

# Beyond Ready

*Thanks to your support, Indiana 4-H prepares young people to thrive and succeed*



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

- Meet the 2024 Premier scholarship recipients
- Announcing our 2024 Emerald and Crystal Clovers!
- Teen Leadership Weekend photo gallery

Since 2020, thousands of Indiana 4-Hers have benefitted from funds provided through the generosity of Premier Companies. For the 2024-2025 cycle, they committed over \$100,000 to 4-H projects across much of southern Indiana! Here is an overview of some of the most recent projects made possible by the Premier Companies gifts:

## **BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY**

**Educator:** Elisabeth Eaton

**Funding Received:** \$2,500

Shade cloth for livestock barn

## **CLARK COUNTY**

**Educator:** Katie Whiteford

**Funding Received:** \$8,100

Mobile Ag Day in schools; livestock workshop; subscription to Judging Team website

## **CRAWFORD COUNTY**

**Educators:** Molley Hasenour  
& Gail Peitzmeier

**Funding Received:** \$5,500

Clovers Initiative 4-H experience in the classroom, K-5

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

**Educator:** Elizabeth Simmermeyer

**Funding Received:** \$4,800

LEGO Robotics Club; 4th grade Farm to Fork

## **JACKSON COUNTY**

**Educator:** Richard Beckort

**Funding Received:** \$3,400

Rabbit cages

## **JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**Educator:** Britt Copeland

**Funding Received:** \$2,500

Horse & Pony Club Camp expansion to hire equine professionals; improve horse barn; nutrition program



## **JENNINGS COUNTY**

**Educator:** Rebekah Cartwright

**Funding Received:** \$5,000

Middle school rocket launch; monthly visits at K-5 schools

## **JOHNSON COUNTY**

**Educator:** Heather Dougherty

**Funding Received:** \$11,582

Curriculum with Reality Works; bus sponsor

## **LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**Educator:** Lesley Lodmell

**Funding Received:** \$5,800

Class to Clover program; Food, Fun & 4-H Around the World program

## **MONROE COUNTY**

**Educator:** Clint Deck

**Funding Received:** \$7,148

Learning labs kits and STEM experiences for electrical and welding components

## **OWEN COUNTY**

**Educator:** Cassie Linville

**Funding Received:** \$2,600

4-H exhibit hall upgrades; project workshops

## **RUSH COUNTY**

**Educator:** Sarah Gettinger

**Funding Received:** \$4,000

Class to Clover program; chick embryology

## **SCOTT COUNTY**

**Educator:** Megan Stone

**Funding Received:** \$3,020

Beginner horseman clinic; livestock workshop series; riding clinics

## **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**Educator:** Taylor Chastain

**Funding Received:** \$3,950

Spring animal science SPARK program with field trip to Feldun Ag Center; Ag in the Classroom; Dog agility/obedience equipment



## **MARTIN COUNTY**

**Educator:** Dena Held

**Funding Received:** \$1,500

Education workshops

## **DECATUR COUNTY**

**Educator:** Christopher Fogle

**Funding Received:** \$2,900

Support half the cost of 4-H camp fees for up to 25 youth

## **SWITZERLAND COUNTY**

**Educator:** Kyle Weaver

**Funding Received:** \$4,500

Leadership, mentorship, civic engagement programs

## **MORGAN COUNTY**

**Educator:** Rena Jo Sheldon

**Funding Received:** \$3,400

Tractor auto-guidance technology for teaching about careers in farming

## **FLOYD COUNTY**

**Educator:** Sam McCollum

**Funding Received:** \$9,000

Purchase equipment specific to safety of animals and increase in youth participation

## **DEARBORN COUNTY**

**Educator:** Liz Beiersdorfer

**Funding Received:** \$800

Educational programs for K-8

## **AREA 2/3: AREA 2 EDUCATION FUND**

**Educator:** Leslie Lodmell

**Funding Received:** \$8,000

Camp counselors retreat/training; offset increase in price for 3-day/2-night camp





# 2024 Emerald & Crystal Clovers



*Your gifts help support Indiana youth!*

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.

As an Emerald Clover or Crystal Clover, 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.

You can support Indiana 4-H with a check or credit card donation by making a one-time or monthly recurring gift to reach tens of thousands of Indiana 4-H Youth.

To discover more ways to give, visit [in4h.org/my-best-gift](https://in4h.org/my-best-gift).



**Giving online is safe, easy, and convenient!**  
[in4h.org/donate](https://in4h.org/donate)

## EMERALD CLOVERS

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

Mr. Bowen E. Akers  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and Glendia Beck  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Deborah Bechman  
Corteva Agriscience  
Mrs. Christy Denault and Dr. Jeffry Denault  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert and Cynthia Grimm  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Shirley Guske  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Cathy Hampton  
June Ann Ladd  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey and Kristen Nagle  
Ms. Peggy J. Naile  
Mrs. Nancy I. Towner

## CRYSTAL CLOVERS

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

Mrs. Evelyn R. Adams  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Kathy Adkins  
Mr. and Mrs. R. Duke and Linda Aldridge  
Dr. and Mrs. Kemal and Cheryl Altinkemer  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Teresa Amick  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin and Nancy Armstrong  
Mr. Dan J. Arnholt  
Ms. Michelle L. Bingle  
Mr. and Mrs. Ty and Sacha Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Jill Coleman  
Community Foundation Alliance – Evansville  
Mr. and Mrs. David and Brenda Day  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Susan Dodd  
Ms. Jordan R. Downham  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Ruth Frette

Mr. and Mrs. James and Michelle Geller  
Mrs. Priscilla M. Gerde  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert and Cynthia Grimm  
Ms. Amy S. Gwinn  
Mr. Steve Hamilton  
Mr. and Mrs. Joel and Kara Hartman  
Mr. John Hatfield  
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall and Janet Hedrick  
Ms. Robyn F. Heine  
Mr. Tommy Herring  
Hog Slat, Inc.  
Dr. and Mrs. Steven and Diana Hubbard  
Mr. and Mrs. John and Gina Huhnke  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Susan Jordan  
Dr. and Mrs. Kerry and Betsy Keffaber  
Mr. Lawrence E. Klink  
Mrs. Shirley A. Kurtzhals  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Lindsey Lamie  
Mrs. Paulette LeCount-Dowden and Mr. Garry Dowden  
Dr. and Mrs. Norman and Cay Long  
Mr. Daniel Luedke  
Mr. James Luzar and Dr. Ella Ingram  
Marion County Farm Bureau, Inc.  
Mr. Lonnie E. Mason  
Mrs. Jane Maxwell  
Mr. and Mrs. Cullen and Rachel Peden McCarty  
Mrs. Sarah McCollum-Knight and Mr. Howard Knight  
Mr. and Mrs. Don and Suzanne McMahon  
Colonel and Mrs. Lelan and Joy McReynolds  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Joyce Meiners  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Carolyn Mendell  
Ms. Ellen D. Meyncke  
Mr. and Mrs. James and Deanne Nagel  
Ms. Kathleen K. Peoples  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Gail Powell  
Mr. Gary Reynolds

Mr. and Mrs. David and Danita Rodibaugh  
Rodibaugh & Sons, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Danny and Charmayne Saylors  
Mrs. Joann Schwartzkopf  
Ms. Sharon E. Semones  
Mr. Roger A. Sherer  
Mrs. Melba G. Shilling  
Ms. Meredith Simmons  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Judy Singleton  
Mr. and Dr. Robert and Erika Slinker  
Mr. David Smith  
Dr. and Mrs. Richard and Sharon Sommers  
Ms. Heidi B. Spahn  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Tinh\* Steinhardt  
Ms. Linda S. Straub  
Dr. Kurt D. Strueh, DVM  
Ms. Vickie Swinford  
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald and Sally Thieme  
Mr. Darrel L. Thomas  
Mr. and Mrs. John and Patricia Torr  
Mr. John Townsend III and Mrs. Ellen Morrison-Townsend  
Mr. Jeffrey T. Troike  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Kathleen Truitt  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas and Barbara Vawter  
Ms. Erica Viar  
Mrs. Sally A. Veenhuizen  
Mr. and Mrs. Don and Joyce Villwock  
Warrick Community Foundation  
Mrs. Annie Watts Cloncs and Mr. Richard Cloncs  
Mr. and Mrs. David and Kendra Weidmayer  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Dana White  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Jeanne Wise  
Mr. Eric Wolfe and Dr. June Javens Wolfe  
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey and Susan Wood  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Anne Young

*\*Donor is deceased*

# Beyond the Call

## Veteran Prioritizes Greatest Need Giving

As a child, Cathy (Coyle) Hampton was fascinated with insects, particularly praying mantises. As a new 4-H member, she wanted to make them the focus of an entomology project, but there was a problem: Entomology wasn't offered in the girls' clubs.

"At that time, the clubs were separated. I was told that in order to take entomology, I had to take a girl's project as well," Cathy said.

And so, she did. In fact, for all 10 years of 4-H, Cathy was a member of both the boys' and the girls' clubs in Tipton County. "In the girls' clubs, I took foods and sewing, but the entomology projects were always my favorite," she said.

Exploring new interests was just one of the many things Cathy loved about her time in 4-H. "I really liked that 4-H promoted leadership development through opportunities like public speaking competitions and demonstration contests," Cathy said. "The leaders always encouraged us to try new things which made those years so formative for me."

After high school, Cathy attended Indiana State University where she majored in Biology. She went on to teach high school Biology for a few years before making a career change - one that would require the leadership skills developed in 4-H.



ABOVE: Cathy was a 10-year member of 4-H.

"At the advice of my brother, a Vietnam veteran, I decided to join the Army. My mother was not happy and my father, a WWII veteran, also had trepidation, but they were still very supportive."

Cathy joined the Women's Army Corps in 1976 and proudly served her country for 20 years as a chemical officer. Her military career took her around the country and around the world, including two assignments in Germany and a deployment to Desert Storm.

Though she was far from home, 4-H always seemed to find her. While stationed at Fort McClellan



ABOVE: Cathy Hampton (bottom row, second from right) served in the U.S. Army for 20 years as a chemical officer.

RIGHT: Today, Cathy is a member of the Emerald Clover Giving Club.



in Alabama, a friend invited Cathy to attend a local 4-H demonstration contest.

"I was immediately hooked again and started volunteering at public speaking and demonstration contests," she said.

After retiring from the military, Cathy and her husband Mark settled in Aberdeen, Maryland, near the last base they were stationed. Once again, 4-H found her.

"I was walking through the mall and saw a bunch of insect cases set up for the county 4-H entomology club. I made a beeline toward them, and later my husband said, 'I've never seen you move so fast!'" After that chance meeting, Cathy volunteered with the club and also with public speaking contests for many years.

Volunteering is just one of the ways Cathy feels she can give back to a program that has given her so much. The other is financial support, particularly for programs funded by the Indiana 4-H Foundation.

Cathy is a member of the **Emerald Giving Club**, which honors donors who make gifts of \$5,000 or more to support the greatest needs of the Indiana 4-H Foundation. **Greatest need gifts** are those that are not restricted to a specific program.

"I will forever thank 4-H for helping me develop the leadership and personal interaction skills that have served me well throughout my life," Cathy said.

"By giving to the Foundation, I hope it will help kids find something that is going to be with them for the rest of their lives and help them be successful."

# Beyond Ready to Give

## 4-H Latecomers Establish County Endowments

David and Sharon White's path to supporting Indiana 4-H looks a little different than that of many donors. In fact, growing up in Allen County, in the 1950's and 60's, neither of them participated in 4-H.

"Sharon was active in Junior Achievement, and as an Eagle Scout, I was very involved with Boy Scouts. We didn't really know much about 4-H," shared David. "We thought it was primarily only for kids who lived on farms and in rural areas."

While they didn't benefit directly from 4-H early in life, they became familiar with the organization as adults and began to realize the breadth of opportunities it provides for youth.

"The manager of my Auburn office volunteered for 4-H for at least 20 years," shared Sharon, whose Premier, Inc. Realtors business has offices in both Allen and DeKalb counties. "We saw first-hand the incredible impact the program had upon its members."

The Whites' positive impression of 4-H grew even stronger with each visit to the DeKalb County and Allen County fairs.

"We were first drawn to the animal activities but soon realized that a huge part of 4-H was outside the show rings. The sheer number and variety of projects entered, displayed and judged were overwhelming.

We recognized these young people were learning life skills that will allow them to be great employees, leaders and entrepreneurs," said David.

"We loved that the projects didn't have to be big or expensive to learn the incredible life lessons like discipline, teamwork and service to community," added Sharon.

This impact inspired the Whites as they explored ways to invest in the communities where they have lived and worked for the past 50 years.

"The communities in Allen and DeKalb Counties have been very good to us, helping yield successful careers," shared David who worked as a manager for Dana Corporation in Auburn and also operated a small business.

"We thought that by supporting 4-H, we could make a lasting impact on children in the counties that supported us during our lives."

David and Sharon connected with Indiana 4-H Foundation leadership as well as DeKalb County and Allen County leadership to learn about the program's needs.

"The depth of leadership and commitment of the County Educators and volunteers is absolutely incredible," Sharon said.

It was during these conversations that the Whites learned about "Greatest Need" endowments.

"We realized this was the vehicle through which we could support the most children and do the most good for the program," said David.

In 2022 David and Sharon generously established two endowments, one for DeKalb County 4-H and another for Allen County 4-H. As "Greatest Need" endowments, the

County Educators have the flexibility to use the funds for the most pressing needs.

"We know that the County Educators really drive the programs and have the best understanding of where the

needs are," shared Sharon. "By giving them control of the endowment income, it allows the gifts to have the broadest reach and support the program's changing needs as the world evolves around us."

The Whites elected to create the endowments now, rather than waiting to establish them through their estate plan.

"We're honored to be able to make this investment in the DeKalb and Allen County 4-H programs," shared David. "We are excited to see how the funds will be used and the impact they will create for members and their communities."

To learn more about county endowments established through the Indiana 4-H Foundation, visit [in4h.org/endowments](https://in4h.org/endowments).



**ABOVE:** David and Sharon White established county endowments through the Indiana 4-H Foundation to provide County Educators with greatest need funding.





# Beyond Ready

Data\* shows that compared to their peers, young people in 4-H are:

2x

more likely to have the goal of being a **leader**

3x

more likely to participate in **community** service

2x

more likely to report living life with **intentionality** and **purpose**

Thank you for your continued support of Indiana 4-H!



\*Tufts University longitudinal study of Positive Youth Development, 2021

Website: [in4h.org](http://in4h.org)

Email: [info@in4h.org](mailto:info@in4h.org)

Follow us on social media:



## SAVE THE DATE! 2025 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, November 15, 2025

### 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!



*2024 Accomplishment Scholarship Recipients*



## INDIANA 4-H: BEYOND READY TO LEAD

More than 225 youth, chaperones, and mentors from across the state gathered at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, IN, for the inaugural Indiana 4-H Teen Leadership Weekend, held March 28–30. Among them were 168 outstanding 4-H members in grades 7–12 who spent the weekend developing leadership skills, making new friends, and stepping up through dynamic workshops, committee presentations, and a formal networking event.

Indiana 4-H is proud to be cultivating the next generation of confident, capable leaders!

Special thanks to our sponsors:



*John A. Garr II*





## Indiana 4-H Foundation Welcomes New Board Members



### CINDY CAMPBELL, WHITE COUNTY

Cindy Campbell was a 10-year 4-H member growing up in Reynolds. She received a B.A. in European History from Purdue University and is currently the Mortgage Lending Officer at Bank of Wolcott. She has been a 4-H club leader and judge for 20 years and has led various 4-H project workshops. In 2023, she received a Volunteer Award of Excellence in Leadership/Civic Engagement Programming from the Indiana 4-H Foundation.



### CLINT DECK, MONROE COUNTY

Clint Deck has been a Purdue Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator since 2020. A former teacher, Clint's passion for developing young leaders has been shaped by his experiences as a 10-year 4-H member growing up on a farm north of Bloomington. Clint holds degrees in Agribusiness Management and Instructional Design and Technology and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Innovation and Leadership.



### ELLA INGRAM, PUTNAM COUNTY

Ella Ingram is the owner and operator of Limestone Creek Farm, a 400-acre farm that includes pollinator and vegetable gardens, row crops, orchard, wooded acreage, and a working limestone quarry. She was formerly a biology professor at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, teaching primarily ecology, evolution, plant science, and research methods. An Iowa native, Ella received degrees in biology from Augustana College and Indiana University.



### RACHEL PEDEN MCCARTY, MONROE COUNTY

Rachel Peden McCarty is a community volunteer, and agriculture and higher education advocate. She was a 10-year 4-H member, spending her first five years in the Hendricks County program and finishing in Monroe County. Rachel is active in her county extension board, the Purdue CARET board, and is the Education and Outreach Coordinator for Monroe County Farm Bureau Inc. A graduate of Franklin College with a political science degree, she serves on the Franklin College Alumni Council.



### DAVID SMITH, HAMILTON COUNTY

David Smith is Field Brand Manager for Keystone Cooperative. A graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Agricultural Economics, David has also worked for Ceres Solutions Cooperative and North Central Co-op.



*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