



# BEYOND READY TO LEAD

Indiana 4-Hers gain valuable skills and experience at 2nd Annual Teen Leadership Weekend

*photo credit: Abby Carlyle, Beyond the Pines Photography*



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

- Premier Companies gifts \$100,000 to southern counties
- Announcing our 2025 Emerald, Sapphire, and Crystal Clovers!
- YES Grants in action
- Planning a legacy gift



# Premier Companies Awards \$100,000 for 4-H Projects

Since 2020, tens of thousands of Indiana 4-Hers have benefitted from funds provided through the generosity of Premier Companies. During the last cycle, 7,829 youth were positively impacted by these gifts. For the 2025-2026 cycle, they committed \$100,000 to 4-H projects across much of southern Indiana! The following is an overview of the most recent initiatives funded by Premier:

## **BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY**

Educator: Elisabeth Eaton  
Funding Received: \$6,000  
*Drones and livestock skillathon*

## **CLARK COUNTY**

Educator: Katie Whiteford  
Funding Received: \$5,700  
*Mobile Ag Day in schools; livestock workshop; mini livestock mentorship program; Southern Indiana 4-H Camp counselor training*

## **CRAWFORD COUNTY**

Educator: Molley Hasenour  
Funding Received: \$6,000  
*4-H Experience in the Classroom; project supplies; STEM/teaching supplies*

## **DEARBORN COUNTY**

Educator: Liz Beiersdorfer  
Funding Received: \$1,685  
*Eggcytology program; youth animal education and bio-security lesson supplies; youth ag day agricultural product ; POULT turkey project; discovering ag careers*

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Educator: Elizabeth Boyd  
Funding Received: \$8,863  
*Hosting a spring break STEM camp with robots and drones*

## **HARRISON COUNTY**

Educator: Anna Denny  
Funding Received: \$3,630  
*Blender Bike project; Blender Bike Ag Day Demonstrations*

## **JACKSON COUNTY**

Educator: Brier Ryver  
Funding Received: \$1,900  
*Handwashing stations for barns*

## **JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Educator: Britt Copeland  
Funding Received: \$2,000  
*4-H Horse and Pony Camp*

## **JENNINGS COUNTY**

Educator: Rebekah Barger  
Funding Received: \$3,500  
*Monthly life skills program*

## **JOHNSON COUNTY**

Educator: Heather Dougherty  
Funding Received: \$3,100  
*4-H camp bus transportation and crafts*

## **LAWRENCE COUNTY**

Educator: Lesley Lodmell  
Funding Received: \$10,300  
*Supporting 4-H camps and trips; Hoosier Uplands afterschool membership offer; youth-led finishing touches after Exhibit Hall renovation; technology upgrade*

## **MONROE COUNTY**

Educator: Kip Harmon  
Funding Received: \$10,797  
*RC Tractor Pull Challenge; STEM and career readiness initiative for 4-H workshop; animal science, plant identification, and farm safety program*



*Above: Owen County 4-Hers*

## **MORGAN COUNTY**

Educator: Rena Sheldon  
Funding Received: \$3,700  
*Morgan County 4-H Mini graduation to 4-H; new rabbit cages*

## **OWEN COUNTY**

Educator: Cassie Linville  
Funding Received: \$5,050  
*Project of the Year; project workshops; project fair activities; 4-H exhibit hall and fairgrounds repairs*

## **RUSH COUNTY**

Educator: Sarah Gettinger  
Funding Received: \$12,500  
*Class to Clover program; chick embryology; winter project workshop; summer camp*

## **SCOTT COUNTY**

Educator: Megan Broughton  
Funding Received: \$2,520  
*All-species round robin showmanship workshop*

## **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Educator: Taylor Chastain  
Funding Received: \$5,950  
*Judging team training subscription; Area 2 livestock bootcamp; Vet Science Spark Club; ag in the classroom*



# INDIANA 4-H Teen LEADERSHIP Weekend 2026

## INDIANA 4-H: BEYOND READY TO LEAD

More than 300 youth, chaperones, and mentors from across the state gathered at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, IN, for the second annual Indiana 4-H Teen Leadership Weekend, held March 27-29. Among them were 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!

*Photo credits: Abby Carlyle, Beyond the Pines Photography and Indiana 4-H program staff*

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



*John A. Garr II*





# 2025 Giving Club Membership Roster

Your gifts help support learning opportunities for 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 an Emerald Clover, Sapphire 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](http://in4h.org/my-best-gift).



Giving online is safe, easy, and convenient!  
[in4h.org/donate](http://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. Steven and Deborah Bechman
- Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and Glendia Beck
- Corteva Agriscience
- 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. Tom and Karen McKinney
- Ms. Peggy J. Naile
- Mr. and Mrs. Cullen and Rachel Peden McCarty
- Mr. Gerald H. Shaffer
- Mrs. Nancy I. Towner

## SAPPHIRE CLOVERS

Those individuals who give at least \$2,500 in greatest-need funds to the Foundation within a calendar year earn the designation of Sapphire Clover:

- Mrs. Priscilla M. Gerde
- Mr. and Mrs. Marshall and Janet Hedrick
- Mrs. Shirley A. Kurtzhals
- Mr. and Mrs. David and Brenda Day
- Keystone Cooperative

## 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 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. Mark Baller
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Jackie Baumann
- Ms. Michelle L. Bingle
- Bright Veterinary Clinic
- Mr. and Mrs. Ty and Sacha Brown
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery and Cynthia Campbell
- Dr. and Mrs. Ellsworth and Nancy Sue Christmas
- C. Jack and Linda J.H. Clarkson
- Ms. Diane Clifford
- Julia Angle Memorial Fund
- Mr. and Mrs. Ronald and Maureen Cook
- Demeter LP
- Mrs. Christy Denault and Dr. Jeff Denault
- Ms. Deb Dierdorf
- Mr. and Mrs. Gayl and Beverly Doster
- Mrs. Jordan R. Downham
- Dr. and Mrs. Steven and Diana Hubbard
- Mrs. Carolyn Elliott and Dr. Russell Elliott
- Mrs. Joy J. Evans
- Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Ruth Frette
- Mr. and Mrs. James and Michelle Geller
- Ms. Amy S. Gwinn
- Mr. and Mrs. Joel and Kara Hartman
- Ms. Robyn F. Heine
- Hog Slat, Inc.
- Mr. Jeff C. Holland
- Dr. and Mrs. Philip and Judith Howell
- Dr. and Mrs. Steven and Diana Hubbard
- Mr. and Mrs. John and Gina Huhnke
- Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Rena Humerickhouse
- Indiana Association of Fairs, Festivals & Events
- Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Susan Jordan
- Dr. and Mrs. Michael and Nora Joyner
- Dr. and Mrs. Kerry and Betsy Keffaber
- Mr. Lawrence E. Klink
- Mrs. Paulette LeCount-Dowden
- and Mr. Garry Dowden
- Mr. Daniel Luedke
- Mr. James Luzar and Dr. Ella Ingram

- Mr. Lonnie E. Mason
- Mrs. Jane Maxwell
- Ms. Darby A. McCarty
- Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Judy McKinney
- Colonel and Mrs. Lelan and Joy McReynolds
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Joyce Meiners
- Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Carolyn Mendell
- Mr. and Mrs. Andrew and Tracy Miller
- Mr. and Mrs. James and Deanne Nagel
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey and Kristen Nagle
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Stephanie Paradine
- Ms. Kathleen K. Peoples
- Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Gail Powell
- Mr. Gary Reynolds
- Mr. and Mrs. David and Danita Rodibaugh
- Rodibaugh & Sons, Inc.
- Mrs. Joann Schwartzkopf
- Mr. Roger A. Sherer
- Mrs. Melba G. Shilling
- Mr. and Dr. Robert and Erika Slinker
- Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Peggy Smith
- Dr. and Mrs. Richard and Sharon Sommers
- Stone Horses
- Ms. Linda S. Straub
- Dr. and Mrs. Kurt and Lynn Strueh
- Ms. Vickie Swinford
- Dr. and Mrs. Ronald and Sally Thieme
- Mr. and Mrs. John and Patricia Torr
- Ty and Sacha Brown Farms
- Mr. and Mrs. Douglas and Barbara Vawter
- Mrs. and Mr. Sally and Edward\* Veenhuizen
- Ms. Erica Viar
- Mr. and Mrs. Don and Joyce Villwock
- Mrs. Annie Watts Cloncs and Mr. Richard Cloncs
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Dana White
- Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Jeanne Wise
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Gail Wolfe
- Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey and Susan Wood
- Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Anne Young

# The Silver Lining of Losing: Creating Her Own Seat at the Table

*Sapphire Clover and former Morgan County 4-H member recalls a life-changing experience*

Of the many skills Pris Gerde gained from 4-H, one of the most memorable was learning how to handle defeat. In elementary school, she entered her forestry project at the Morgan County fair, one she had worked on tirelessly.

"My father encouraged me to make it the absolute best I could and I really embraced that," Pris said. "A leader told my parents that as she looked at my poster and woodblocks, my project was the clear winner. I got a blue ribbon, but I didn't win. I learned that a judge said, "This couldn't possibly be her project. The parents had to have helped because no girl could ever have done such a fine job sanding."

Though the decision wasn't fair, Pris knows the lesson she gained from that experience was far more valuable than if she had won. "My parents and club leader helped me understand the bigger picture. People may make mistakes and make assumptions, but it doesn't diminish your effort or what you accomplished. We all have times in our life when we must handle disappointment and learn from it."

When Pris' parents encouraged her to join 4-H in 4th grade, they may have known this was the kind of character-building experience she would gain. Through her club in Martinsville, she enjoyed forestry, sewing, baking, and home furnishing projects.



"The antique walnut chairs (see photo at left) that I refinshed more than 55 years ago still sit in my living room to this day," she shared.

While Pris values the learning opportunities that came along with those projects, it was another aspect of 4-H that held even greater value.

"The hallmark of 4-H for me was the leadership and skill development I gained. Those

opportunities helped me become a little less introverted and better at engaging with others. I learned how to lead a meeting, understand parliamentary procedure, speak comfortably in public, and so much more that would help me succeed in college and the workplace," she said.

Participating in 4-H also allowed Pris to grow relationships outside of her Morgan County circle. "Going to Round-Up, 4-H camp in Shakamak, working at the state 4-H center in Tippecanoe County as camp counselor – those were all terrific opportunities to meet new people and put my leadership skills into practice."

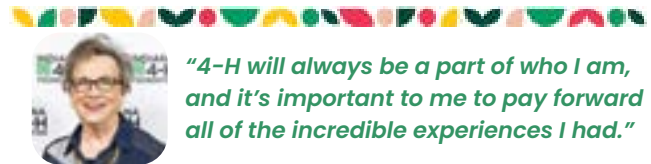
After high school, 4-H was a driving factor in choosing a college. "I got to Purdue totally because of 4-H. I wanted to go where my 4-H background had led me."

Though she wasn't actively involved with 4-H while at Purdue, Pris still felt its benefit. "I would meet other students that had been in 4-H in another county, and that shared experience really helped form a bond."

After graduating with a degree in political science, Pris worked for the Indiana Department of Commerce under two lieutenant governors. That experience led to her first job at Eli Lilly and Company, where she spent 37 years in various roles, including more than half of that time in human resources.

In 2011, Pris retired – for 23 days. "The Business School at Purdue invited me to coach graduate students in their career services center, and so I flunked retirement," she laughs.

Fifteen years later, Pris is still using her 4-H-grown guidance skills to advise graduate students as they pursue degrees in human resources and other business specialties.



*"4-H will always be a part of who I am, and it's important to me to pay forward all of the incredible experiences I had."*

To that end, Pris' support has taken many forms over the years, including volunteering at the Indiana State Fair, becoming a donor to the Indiana 4-H Foundation, and serving on its Board of Directors.

As an annual donor, Pris has enjoyed seeing how her gifts help 4-H programs create meaningful opportunities for today's members. That experience led her to consider other impactful ways she could support the organization.

"Knowing that my intent is to leave my estate to charity, my financial advisor suggested creating a life insurance policy. By doing so, I was able to designate charitable organizations as beneficiaries, including the Indiana 4-H Foundation." By making the estate gift now, Pris enjoys staying connected to the organization, knowing that there will be additional funding later.

"By the time the Foundation receives the life insurance gift – which I hope isn't for a long time – I know that 4-H will have evolved to meet the needs of the next generation. I'm honored that I can help pay forward the incredible opportunities I had."

As Pris experienced, sometimes those opportunities will come with a bit of disappointment. Thankfully, in 4-H, losing is just a life lesson in disguise.

*To learn how you can support the next generation of 4-H members through an annual or estate gift, contact Executive Director Shelly Bingle at [shelly@in4h.org](mailto:shelly@in4h.org).*

# Gift Planning: Leaving a Legacy with Life Insurance

*Help fulfill the mission of Indiana 4-H by planning a gift that is meaningful and lasting*

Naming the Indiana 4-H Foundation as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy is a simple and meaningful way to create a lasting impact. This approach allows you to make a significant future gift while minimizing the effect on your current financial needs.

By choosing a policy with a premium that fits your budget today, manageable monthly or annual payments will ultimately become a transformative gift that will benefit generations of 4-Hers to come.

If you'd like to make the Indiana 4-H Foundation the beneficiary of your life insurance policy, please contact Shelly Bingle at [shelly@in4h.org](mailto:shelly@in4h.org)



Be sure to visit our new gift planning website packed with the most up-to-date information in estate planning, including a no-cost will creation tool, at [indiana4hforever.org](http://indiana4hforever.org)

## Here's how to name the Indiana 4-H Foundation or another charitable organization as a beneficiary:

- **CHOOSE THE POLICY:** You can name a charity the beneficiary of a current policy or a new one. Beneficiaries can be named for term, whole life, and universal policies.
- **DECIDE HOW MUCH TO GIVE:** You can make the charity the full beneficiary (100% of the policy) or a partial beneficiary, sharing the benefit with family, other individuals, or charitable organizations.
- **UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION:** Contact your insurance company to create a new life insurance policy or to update the beneficiary of a current policy.
- **LET THE CHARITY KNOW:** While not required, notifying the charity allows them to recognize your gift and to ensure your wishes for the gift are clearly understood.

## YES Grant Projects: Developing Future Community Leaders

*Youth Engaged Service (YES) Grants provide funding for local community service projects led by 4-Hers*



### **Project: Fire Safety 2.0** **Youth Lead: Anna Fritch, Morgan County**

Thanks to YES Grant funding, Anna was able to purchase fire blankets to hand out to the public at the Morgan County Fair. She also gave a presentation to a class of 4th and 5th graders to teach them about the importance of fire safety.

*"I learned that one person has the capability of significantly improving their community and can also help provide opportunities for other people to help. Being in charge of the YES Grant made me much more aware of all the things that had to be done to successfully complete a big community service project."*



### **Project: Grow & Show: Educational Planters for a Greener Fair** **Youth Lead: Hallie Farmer, Hancock County**

Hallie and her friends in the Junior Master Gardener Club created interactive planters to teach county fairgoers about gardening, pollinators, and sustainability.

*"One of the most valuable skills I gained was learning how to approach and communicate with potential sponsors. I learned how to explain the purpose of the project, ask for support in a professional way, and follow up with gratitude."*

[Read more about the YES Grants initiative at in4h.org/grants.](http://in4h.org/grants)

# Introducing the Sapphire Clover

We are pleased to introduce a new level to our Clover giving club, the Sapphire Clover. The Sapphire Clover giving level recognizes individuals who give at least \$2,500 in greatest-need funding within a calendar year.



The importance of greatest-need giving can't be overstated. Clover donors of all levels give the Foundation the flexibility to support lesser known programs, and to offset the cost of essential operational expenses. Here are a just few ways greatest-need gifts have been utilized:

- Supporting **Ignite 4-H**, a four-day conference in Washington, D.C., that offers hands-on workshops in key programming areas where teens explore traditional and emerging career paths while networking with other teens from across the country.
- Subsidizing software programs that track and assess **grants, scholarships, endowments, and interest distribution** to county programs.
- Providing **meals** for extension educators during conferences.
- Purchasing awards for the **extension 4-H educator awards** program.
- Printing and mailing this **newsletter!**

Thank you to all of our Emerald, Sapphire, and Crystal Clover donors!



Website: [in4h.org](http://in4h.org) Email: [info@in4h.org](mailto:info@in4h.org) Follow us on social media: [f](#) [@](#) [in](#)

## Save the Date!

### 2026 INDIANA 4-H FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Join us as we honor our Accomplishment Scholarship recipients at the Foundation's annual premier event! All Indiana 4-H members, volunteers, supporters, friends, and family are welcome to attend and enjoy the festivities with this impressive group of future Hoosier leaders. Lunch provided by Jonathan Byrd's catering.

**WHEN:**

Saturday, November 7, 2026

**WHERE:**

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

**RSVP INFO COMING SOON:**

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



2025 Accomplishment Scholarship Recipients

## Indiana 4-H Foundation Welcomes New Board Members



### BRIAN ARWOOD, MIAMI COUNTY

Brian A. Arwood, DNP, PMHNP-BC, CNE, is a faculty member at Indiana University Kokomo and a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner who serves as a 4-H club leader, project superintendent, and camp nurse in Miami County. Brian earned his Doctor of Nursing Practice from Purdue University and holds multiple certifications in nursing education and mental health. He has served in leadership positions with the Indiana State Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, and the Indiana Chapter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.



### JAY ARTHUR, MARION COUNTY

Dr. Jay Arthur is an Educational Consultant and CEO of Imperative Leadership and currently serves as the Director of the ASSET, an alternative teacher licensure program. He is a former school superintendent, director of special education, and director of student services. Jay graduated from Ball State University with a B.S. in Special Education and a M.A. in Counseling Psychology. He completed his doctorate in Educational Leadership and Curriculum Studies at Indiana University. Jay is a lifelong 4-H volunteer, most notably working with youth at the Indiana State Fair each year.



### SYDNEY CLEMENTS, JOHNSON COUNTY

Sydney Clements is a medical student at the Indiana University School of Medicine. She is a graduate of The University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. Sydney was a 10 year 4-H member in Johnson County, where she was involved with the Clover Power 4-H Club, the 4-H Ambassador program, Honor Group, and Junior Leaders; in youth roles on the Johnson County Extension Board, 4-H Council, and Expansion and Review Committee; and with the Johnson County Fair Queen's Court. Sydney also volunteers with Indiana's Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar.



### MARY FRITCH, MORGAN COUNTY - YOUNG ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE

Mary Fritch is a geography student at IU Indianapolis. She was a 10-year 4-H member in Morgan County and held a variety of leadership roles throughout that time. Her favorite positions include serving as president of the Morgan County 4-H Junior Leaders Club as well as Junior Director for 4-H Camp Shakamak. Mary is a member of several campus organizations, including Academics for Civic Engagement and the Student Sustainability Council.



### ZACH GELEOTT, JASPER COUNTY - YOUNG ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE

Zach Geleott is a full-time student at Wabash College and a business owner, operating a digital marketing agency. Zach grew up in Northwest Indiana and was a 4-H member in Jasper County. Zach is forever grateful for his time in 4-H, those he interacted with, and the skills he developed as his 4-H club president, a 2022 YES grant recipient, and a Junior Leader.



**Roger Sherer, President**  
**Gary Coleman, Vice President**  
**Brian Wise, Treasurer**  
**Clint Deck, 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. Angie Abbott, Associate Dean and Director of Purdue Extension  
 Dr. Danielle Lay, Indiana State 4-H Program Co-Leader