After devastating storms tore through Oklahoma, youth from across the state and nation stepped up and began raising money and supplies to help those in need.

If you would like to help with relief efforts to aid 4-H families, Oklahoma farms and ranches, or the rebuilding effort for the Oklahoma Trap Association, please contact the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation.

Oklahoma 4-H Foundation
205 4-H Youth Development Bldg.
Stillwater, OK 74078
405-744-5390
oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/Foundation
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Dear Friends of Oklahoma 4-H:

We are beginning to sound like a broken record, but 2012 was another fantastic year for 4-H in Oklahoma. This annual report helps highlight the fact that both the 4-H Youth Development Program and the 4-H Foundation had tremendous success this past year. We hope you will enjoy reading articles about outstanding member accomplishments; new innovative programs to address critical needs among our Native American youth; how our Foundation enhancement grants are making a difference in the counties; the importance of historical figures from our past; and as always the facts and figures regarding the success of our 4-H Foundation.

Participation in 4-H programs has continued to grow with an interesting trend over the past several years. The number of teens staying in 4-H continues to grow. While we do not have any formal data to explain why this has happened, there are several reasons on which we can speculate. For example, we know more teens are involved in projects like shooting sports, food showdown, and leadership through officer teams and ambassadors. Thanks to the support of our friends at the NRA and other donors who are helping 4-H Shooting Sports we have seen an increase in the number of adult male volunteers in 4-H as well. The goal now is to grow an endowment for this program which will help support the teams that travel to the national contest to represent our state.

Another major growth area in the 4-H program has come as a result of the 4-H Mentoring Program which focuses on reaching Latino and Native American youth audiences. Thanks to a grant from National 4-H Council and OJJDP we have been able to support this effort, which you can learn more about on page 4 of this report.

Our 50th anniversary homecoming celebration for the Foundation was a great success last September. We had nearly 300 donors, alumni, current and past board members and staff attend a fun afternoon of fellowship and celebration. We also got to tour the new athletic facilities at OSU. Thanks to everyone who helped make that a wonderful day to remember the past 50 years of 4-H Foundation success.

With the addition of the Rule of Law Scholarship Program we introduced last year and several new scholarships jointly funded by the 4-H Foundation and donors to the OSU Foundation, we will be offering over $80,000 in scholarships at the upcoming 4-H Roundup. After a highly successful year in 2011, the Foundation’s assets grew by another $1 million. As you will see on page 23, our total assets at the end of 2012 were in excess of $7 million. Thank you and congratulations to all the donors who helped make that happen.

We are very pleased to share this annual report with you, and hope you will enjoy learning more about the dynamic 4-H program that is serving all of Oklahoma today.

With warmest regards,

Charles B. Cox  
Oklahoma 4-H Program Leader  
Executive Director, OCES

Jim Rutledge  
Executive Director  
Oklahoma 4-H Foundation Inc.

Jim Eden  
President  
Oklahoma 4-H Foundation Inc.
As the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation’s new director of development, Tomas Manske shows a desire to see this life-changing organization grow for generations to come.

“N o one ever achieves alone what he can do when partnering with others.” These inspiring words from John C. Maxwell hang in Tomas Manske’s office, next to his computer, several awards, photographs, and “I’m Your Huckleberry” artwork. Like all of these items, this quote represents a part of who Manske really is – a caring, hard-working individual who believes in teamwork and the power of the Oklahoma 4-H program.

Manske has brought this passion, his incredible work ethic and years of experience in the Cooperative Extension Service to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation as its director of development.

“Tom has been a part of the Oklahoma 4-H family for more than 20 years, and I am very excited to welcome him to the state 4-H office,” said Jim Rutledge, the executive director for the Foundation. “He has a wealth of experience with fund development on the county level, and I am looking forward to working with him to expand the reach of the Foundation.”

Manske was raised in Shattuck, Okla., and he has both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in agricultural education from Oklahoma State University. He began working as a 4-H and youth development Extension educator in Canadian County in 1993, where he coached and coordinated numerous competitive judging teams, worked with thousands of young people to develop 4-H projects, and took a lead role in the creation and development of the Kirkpatrick 4-H Farm and the Canadian County 4-H Foundation.

“Having worked in a county program, I experienced successes and challenges associated with that line of youth work,” Manske said. “One of the constant challenges was the cost of activities, events, camps and trips. These challenges gave me the basis for working with local donors and educators to develop the Canadian County 4-H Foundation to provide financial support for youth and families involved in the 4-H program.”

Because of this experience, Manske said he is familiar with the duties of fundraising, networking with potential donors both large and small, and finding creative avenues for securing grants and funding. In fact, much of Manske’s career has revolved around networking with supporters and his peers.

“Tom is not afraid to approach someone new and open a discussion about 4-H and its benefits,” Rutledge said. “This is a unique quality that is absolutely essential to his position with the Foundation. I think his background as a county educator and his enthusiasm for the 4-H program will be an asset in the coming years.”

Manske has certainly demonstrated a passion for Extension and 4-H that goes beyond the norm. For many years, he has been an active member in both the Oklahoma Association of Extension 4-H Agents and the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. In these organizations, Manske has taken on numerous leadership roles, including serving as the OAE4-HA president, the NAE4-HA Southern Region director, and the NAE4-HA vice president of professional development. For his incredible dedication to both of these associations and to his county 4-H program, Manske has been recognized with such awards as the Achievement in Service, Distinguished Service, and most recently the Meritorious Service Award.

“I am passionate about 4-H because I have seen what it can do for a child and family,” Manske said. “There is nothing more gratifying than to see a student enroll in 4-H who may not have the confidence and/or skills to succeed and then watch them blossom into mature, productive, confident young adults.”

With such a background and love for the program, Manske said he was eager to help youth and families on a larger scale at the state level when the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation created this position. Though he has only been in this role for six weeks, Manske has already visited many of the Foundation board members and organizational supporters across the state, and he is currently scheduling visits with donors and groups who traditionally provide assistance to the 4-H program. In the future, Manske plans not only to continue working with these established supporters but also to cultivate new partnerships in areas such as energy, agriculture and urban businesses across the state.

“Oklahoma 4-H has an enrollment of over 100,000 youth, but I see so many opportunities to bring new people into the 4-H family,” Manske said. “With such a rich history and a firm foundation in youth development, 4-H is truly an amazing organization, and it will be my privilege to share its virtues with the state’s business leaders. Together, as partners, we can grow the financial underpinning of this program and provide support and recognition to its outstanding members for years to come.”

Tomas Manske
According to the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute, 32.4 percent of American Indians under 18 live in poverty, and their national graduation rate is just 49.3 percent, compared with 76.2 percent for white students. Even more telling, the alcoholism mortality rates for American Indians are 514 percent higher than the general population, and violence—including intentional injuries, homicide and suicide—accounts for 75 percent of the deaths for American Indian youth age 12 to 20.

Because of these alarming statistics, the Tribal Youth Mentoring Program has been implemented. Despite the progress the country has made in the past century, the Native American community, in some areas, is still suffering from the effects of its troubled and heartbreaking past. With a series of generous grants from the National 4-H Council, Oklahoma 4-H has implemented programming specifically engineered to help youth and families in at-risk communities across the state.
and the outstanding youth development programming provided by 4-H, the Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has provided a $1 million grant to the National 4-H Council specifically engineered to strengthen and expand the impact of 4-H mentoring activities with Native American youth nationwide.

“This is an exciting opportunity to deliver high-quality youth development resources to at-risk populations in communities throughout the nation,” said Donald T. Floyd Jr., president and CEO of the National 4-H Council. “Through the Tribal Youth National Mentoring Program, land-grant institutions will have the opportunity to adapt an evidence-based 4-H program that will lead to positive outcomes, such as reduced juvenile delinquency and strengthened family relationships.”

Oklahoma 4-H has received nearly $150,000 to adapt the 4-H Mentoring: Youth and Families with Promise program, which is designed to create lasting bonds between local churches, schools, 4-H clubs and Native American tribes through after-school programs, family nights out, 4-H activities and one-on-one or group mentoring sessions.

“This program is designed to increase youth’s interpersonal competence, improve academic prowess and fortify family bonds,” said Debbie Wilson, an extension program assistant in Hughes County. “By uniting youth, families, dedicated staff and volunteers, we are helping youth achieve their dreams and potential.”

Since the program began in 2012, the 4-H staff funded by the Oklahoma 4-H Tribal Youth Mentoring Program have worked closely with 16 schools in five counties and enrolled nearly 450 4-H members, recruited 165 teens and adults to serve as mentors, and had an immeasurable impact on families of all shapes, sizes and backgrounds across the state.

“I am passionate about this program because I feel like students in today’s society need a mentor and a positive role model,” said Tristan Dean, the extension program assistant in Cherokee County. “At the end of the day, if I can give one student hope, I’ve done what I set out to do.”

Check out what each of our county programs are doing!

**Cherokee County**

Though Cherokee County’s 4-H Tribal Youth Mentoring Program has been running for more than a year, it reached greater heights when Tristan Dean, an Extension program assistant, took charge in February 2013. She works with seven schools in the county and has had more than 50 4-H members enroll since she began.

She has concentrated on teaching healthy living activities, including manners, respecting others, and Ag in the Classroom. With each lesson, Dean said she tries to build on previous knowledge and plans lessons that give the students something to take home each week. In two short months, she has taught nearly 50 lessons overall and recruited over two dozen college students to mentor the youth in her program.

“I feel like we are having an impact, and I love working with the students,” Dean said. “They are receptive to our lessons and messages, and they are currently talking about how excited they are for our summer youth programs!”

In the future, Dean plans to increase the number of youth enrolled in her 4-H clubs and wants to continue developing the leadership and citizenship skills of her members to be used in their daily lives.

Cherokee County participants show off their work after a “My Plate” lesson from Ag in the Classroom. In this exercise, the students learned about physical fitness, nutrition and healthy lifestyles. Each week the groups’ lessons build on each other and engage the students in activities that build life skills.

**Hughes County**

In Hughes County, Debbie Wilson, the extension program assistant running the tribal mentoring program, has concentrated on three components: one to one mentoring, family night out events, and 4-H activities. With this plan, the programs in Calvin and Stuart, Okla., have flourished under her care.

Teen mentors from Calvin, Okla., prepare to play and teach younger 4-H members the traditional Native American game stick ball.

In Calvin, the 4-H club has aligned with two churches and the school to provide a weekly after school program followed by dinner and an educational program about 4-H projects or Native American culture. Through this mentoring program, the Calvin 4-H Club has grown to 93 4-H’ers, with 25 adult and 21 teen mentors who help each week.

In Stuart, Wilson holds meetings every second and fourth Monday with programming from the Choctaw, Creek and Chickasaw Nations and from various 4-H curricula about health and bullying prevention. The 4-H enrollment in Stuart has increased to 60 youth, with 25 Cloverbud members and 13 adult and teen mentors.

At family night out events, Hughes County usually has 60 to 100 participants. This summer, the county will also be holding day camps every Wednesday with several field trips and educational workshops.

“I know we’re making a big difference in the lives of these kids,” Wilson said. “At the end of the day, we see our efforts repaid in the way our kids are learning, engaging, and growing and in the way our communities have come together. It’s really a sight to see.”
At Stonewall in Pontotoc County, the tribal youth mentoring program has been wholly incorporated into the 4-H club, and the results have been phenomenal. The club meets at least twice a month and engages in a variety of activities, including homework sessions, one-on-one mentoring, community service projects, educational guest programming, and 4-H project work, activities and competitions. The club also hosts family nights for the community. At their latest event, all of the students at Stonewall Public Schools were invited to a literacy night; more than 250 attended, and each child attending received a free book.

Casey Thomas, the Extension program assistant in charge of the Stonewall program, has really pushed community service with the 4-H members. They have organized a food drive, given goody bags to the local volunteer fire departments, and collected Change for Change for the Oklahoma City Children’s Hospital. Casey is planning a trip to the Chickasaw Cultural Center and will be leading a three-day 4-H camp this summer.

“I am a teacher, so I feel very strongly about working with our nation’s youth,” Thomas said. “This program has been an asset to our students, school and community. With help from this grant, we can continue to reach out to the students who have the most need and change their lives for the better!”

The Tulsa County 4-H Tribal Youth Mentoring Program hit the ground running when they received funds in March 2012. Donna Dunkerson, the Tulsa County Extension program assistant in charge of 4-H mentoring, implemented a three-pronged plan to improve the lives of the area’s tribal youth. First, she forged a partnership with the Broken Arrow Public Schools and began teaching middle school students at five schools in the system. She has taught the students lessons on a wide variety of subjects, including everything from career planning and interviewing to bullying prevention, good nutrition, and farm-to-table facts about food.

In conjunction with her instruction at the schools, Dunkerson has formed the Tulsa County Tribal Youth 4-H Club and organizes a family night out every other month, during which participants play games, eat dinner with their families, and interact with a guest speaker. Thus far, they’ve hosted speakers from the Tulsa Air & Space Museum, the Muscogee Creek Rescue Trailer, the Broken Arrow Police, and the Tulsa Children’s Museum, just to name a few.

“It is so much fun to see the families spending quality time together,” Donna said. “That’s what the grant is all about – building family time and stronger community relationships so the students have a better chance to make it.”

To further instill positive youth development in Native American youth, Dunkerson has also formed the Tulsa County Tribal Youth 4-H Club. The club members often participate in the family night out events on top of other 4-H activities, and the county teen leaders have taken a lead role as mentors for the club. Overall, the Tulsa County 4-H Tribal Youth Mentoring Program has nearly 280 youth involved on a regular basis and has recruited 39 mentors, who help in the classroom, at club meetings, and with family night out events.

“This is a great grant,” Dunkerson said. “The program has provided so many opportunities for the students to grow and build their self-confidence while learning about life skills. I am glad I have the opportunity to be involved!”

Centennial Middle School students show off their “respectables,” which they made as part of the 4-H Take A Stand bullying curriculum.
Does the Ronald McDonald House actually help people in my neck of the woods?

2012 marked the 25th anniversary for the long-standing Oklahoma 4-H Kids Helping Kids Campaign, and the future for the program couldn’t look more promising.

“The Kids Helping Kids Campaign is the longest running service project/fundraiser in Oklahoma 4-H history, for good reason,” said Suzanne Simpson, the state 4-H marketing coordinator. “I remember participating in the campaign as a young 4-H member, and I think it has remained so relevant throughout the years because it isn’t just another fundraiser for a youth organization. It’s so much more.”

While Kids Helping Kids is a fundraiser for local 4-H clubs across the state, it is also a community service project for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oklahoma City, a nonprofit that provides a “home away from home” for families with seriously ill or injured children who are being treated in the Oklahoma City area.

In the campaign, 4-H members ask for donations for RMHC-OKC. For every dollar given, donors receive a coupon to the invaluable participating McDonald’s restaurants in Oklahoma. Of the funds raised, half goes to the Ronald McDonald House, one third remains in each county’s program and one sixth is given to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation. To date, Oklahoma 4-H’ers have raised more than $830,000 to help their local clubs and families who are facing crises larger than most of us could ever imagine, Simpson said.

“Since opening their doors in Oklahoma City in 1984, the Ronald McDonald House has housed nearly 15,000 families, including many 4-H members,” Simpson said. “Unfortunately, with their current facilities, they must turn away hundreds of worthy families each year. That’s why they need our help now more than ever before, and that’s why this campaign will continue to be relevant for another 25 years.”

To update the program, Simpson has re-vamped the marketing tools with a new logo, campaign focus and design. The prizes have also been updated for 2013 and include an iPad 3®, a Kindle Fire® and a Canon Powershot® camera for the top three fundraisers in the state.

The campaign kicks off Jan. 1 of each year and runs until the end of February. Please be on the lookout for information about Kids Helping Kids in the fall.
Behind Every Good Man is a Great Woman

Oklahoma 4-H would not be the same without the contributions of B.A. Pratt; conversely, Pratt, who was one of the most influential leaders of the 4-H movement, would never have been the same without his wife of 39 years, Nellie.

If you know much about Oklahoma 4-H history, then you have heard of B.A. (Benjamin Albert) Pratt, who served as the state 4-H club agent during the 20 most formative years of our history. Appointed to the post in 1921, Pratt was present at the first National 4-H Congress and helped many 4-H members win national and international titles. Because of his outstanding efforts and incredible accomplishments in this role, he was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in 2011.

Before building "a monument in the hearts of ... youth," as his legacy was described in the Daily Oklahoman, Pratt met and married the woman who changed his life forever.

Nellie Sheldon – later known as Nellie Pratt – married B.A. Pratt in 1910, and they were married until his death in 1949. Together, they had five sons and one daughter, Jean Garrett.

Garrett said Nellie accompanied B.A. on all of his major 4-H trips, such as the Kansas City Royal, the International Livestock Expedition in Chicago, National 4-H Congress, and National 4-H Camp (now known as National 4-H Conference).

"Nellie was always in the front row when major assemblies were held in the big circus tent during 4-H Roundup," Garrett recounted. "She was always a part of the team, and I do not want her legacy to be forgotten."

To remember her mother’s contribution to Oklahoma 4-H, Garrett has given $10,000 to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation in her honor.

Several other members of the extended Pratt family have given generously in remembrance of this hardworking couple. Since Garrett’s initial endowment gift of $12,500 in 2005, several other family members, including Kathleen Jackson and Bill and Linda Pratt, have contributed to the B.A. Pratt Memorial.

With Garrett’s latest $10,000 gift and increases in market value, the fund currently contains nearly $100,000. According to Jim Rutledge, executive director for the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, this makes the B.A. Pratt Endowed Scholarship Fund the largest memorial scholarship fund in the Foundation.

“This is a fitting tribute to an outstanding leader in the 4-H movement,” Rutledge said. “We are honored by his contributions and the continued support of his family.”

Benjamin Albert Pratt, the state 4-H club agent during the most formative years of Oklahoma 4-H history, married Nellie Sheldon in 1910. This photo was taken the same year. Nellie was B.A.’s rock until his death in 1949, and she raised their six children to be successful adults. Their daughter, Jean Garrett, said it was difficult to find a picture of the couple alone because “they were always surrounded by kids, either their own or 4-H’ers.”
Oklahoma 4-H offers many travel opportunities to its members, with such trips as the National 4-H Congress, Denver Western Roundup and the Kansas City Global Conference. However, none of these 4-H trips is as exclusive or prestigious as National 4-H Conference, the pinnacle experience in 4-H citizenship offered by the Department of Agriculture. Oklahoma 4-H only sends a few exceptional delegates each year, and the commitments of the delegates extend long after the trip ends.

This year, one Oklahoma 4-H member went beyond even this elite group of members; Ricki Schroeder, a 4-H member from Garfield County, was selected to serve on the leadership team for National 4-H Conference, a role he shared with just four other 4-H members in the country.

"After attending National 4-H Conference in Washington D.C. last year, I decided to apply for the youth leadership team," said Schroeder, a 17 year old from Hillsdale, Okla. "This was a lengthy process. The youth leadership team from last year told us that this would be a life-changing opportunity, but I didn’t realize how true this was until we actually began planning."

Typical conference delegates from Oklahoma are expected to spend two hours each week working on their duties for the trip; the workload and expectations increased exponentially for the planning team.

"By definition, National Conference is a future-focused working convention," said Suzanne Simpson, the coordinator for the Oklahoma 4-H awards programs. "It aims to build strong leaders through roundtable discussions, townhall meetings, group assemblies, and visits with national legislators. Delegates must research and present solutions to important issues facing youth today, and they must plan, implement and evaluate an Oklahoma Back Home Action Plan to benefit Oklahoma 4-H. Ricki had even more work as a leadership team member, and he did an excellent job in that position."

Schroeder and the other leadership team members had to choose a theme, plan the workshops, recruit speakers, facilitate roundtables, and conduct the assemblies. They worked closely with adult partners to complete these tasks and held monthly conference calls. Cindy Conner, Schroeder’s 4-H educator in Garfield County, was selected as his adult partner.

“The main difference as a member of the leadership team was you saw everything going on behind the scenes and experienced the amount of hard work involved in putting together National 4-H Conference,” Schroeder said. “As a first time delegate, I was unsure of what to expect because I had never been involved in anything like this. Our goal as a leadership team was to make the 2013 delegates’ experience as rewarding as ours was in 2012, and I believe we met it.”

Schroeder said one of the most fulfilling aspects of the planning process was working with his comrades on the leadership team, both the youth and adult members.

“It was obvious to me early on that the members of the leadership team were committed to making this a great conference for the delegates,” Schroeder said. "This experience has opened my eyes to all the great role models available as resources for 4-H youth. To me, this exemplified the ideal youth-adult partnership in 4-H, and I believe I have grown immensely in my leadership skills.”

Schroeder is no stranger to leadership positions, however. He is currently serving as the Oklahoma 4-H reporter, has been a state 4-H ambassador for three years, spent two years as a Northwest District representative for the State 4-H Council, and was selected as the Oklahoma delegate youth advisor for National Congress in 2012. For all of his 4-H project work, dedication to citizenship, and unparalleled leadership skills, Schroeder has received more than $8,000 in scholarships from Oklahoma 4-H.

“As you can see, 4-H has made a big impact in my life," Schroeder said. "It has provided me with personal growth and leadership skills I will continue to use no matter what career I choose. There are so many memorable moments in my 4-H career, but this has been the most rewarding by far."

In the fall, Schroeder will be attending Oklahoma State University. He plans on applying to be a collegiate facilitator for National 4-H Conference in two years. 🏷️

Leading the Pack

Ricki Schroeder of Garfield County moves onto the national scene as a member of the leadership team for National 4-H Conference.

Ricki Schroeder (front right) and his educator Cindy Conner (back center) of Garfield County 4-H pose with the other leadership team members for National 4-H Conference.
Elisabeth Willis, a 4-H’er from Canadian, Okla., is not simply one in a million; she is one in 6 million. Out of the 6 million 4-H members nationwide, Elisabeth was recognized as the National 4-H Youth in Action Award recipient at a special 4-H Legacy Award Gala in New York City on April 18, 2013. This prestigious award is presented to outstanding 4-H’ers, alumni and corporations for their work on behalf of the 4-H youth development movement.

“This trip was a dream come true,” Elisabeth said. “I was truly speechless when I was notified I’d won.”

Elisabeth and her parents, Rachel and Gary Willis, attended the 4-H Legacy Award Gala where she was presented with a $1,000 scholarship and gave an acceptance speech. Tractor Supply and Dr. Temple Grandin were also honored at the gala for their outstanding commitment to the 4-H program.

“It was an incredible experience,” said the Pittsburg County youth. “I had my first experience with a teleprompter and professional hair and make up, and while I was nervous about it, I enjoyed it very much. I met so many influential people and even had a heart to heart with the leaders at Tractor Supply about my project work. But even with all of the glamour and attention I’ve received from winning the award, the most valuable portion of this process was the community service project that brought me here.”

Elisabeth received the award for her work with the Therapeutic Equestrian Association of McAlester (T.E.A.M.), an organization that provides therapeutic horseback riding for those with special needs. Mandy Carter, executive director and instructor for the T.E.A.M., said the riding center’s mission is to provide a professional environment to serve persons of all ages with special challenges so they will achieve increased self-confidence, improve their life skills, and benefit physically, mentally and spiritually through teamwork with the horses, volunteers and staff.

“Before we were born, the doctors told my parents that my sister and I both would have special needs,” Elisabeth said. “Thankfully, that didn’t happen, but because of that experience I have a very special place in my heart for children with disabilities. This program is specifically geared to help these people. It is completely focused on benefitting others.”

After volunteering with the T.E.A.M., Elisabeth said she knew she wanted to help the program even more so it could serve a greater portion of the community. In 2011, she organized the first 4-H Music Festival, and all of the proceeds were used to support the T.E.A.M. in Pittsburg County. The festival featured current and former 4-H’ers from across the Southeast District.

A second festival took place in 2012,
11

“4-H has impacted my life in so many ways, and working with T.E.A.M. has taken me much farther than I ever dreamed,” she said. “Mama has told me that I do not always have to ‘be the best’ at everything, but to always do my best in everything I attempt. 4-H has reinforced this maxim, and I encourage others follow it as well.”

Elisabeth is a Canadian Senior 4-H Club member, and her main project areas are performing arts and public speaking. She has held local, county and district 4-H offices, and she has served as a state 4-H ambassador since 2009. She will begin her senior year at Canadian High School in the fall, where she plays basketball and is on the superintendent’s honor roll. In the future, Elisabeth said she wants to earn a degree in sports medicine.

Opposite: Pittsburg County 4-H’er Elisabeth Willis (center-right) poses with Donald T. Floyd (left), president and CEO of the National 4-H Council; Greg Sandfort (second to left), president and CEO of Tractor Supply; Lisa Slyvester (center-left), CNN correspondent; Temple Grandin, PhD; and James C. Borel, chair of the National 4-H Council Board of Trustees. Below: Willis keeps a close eye on 10-year-old Wyatt Robbins as he takes a riding lesson at the Therapeutic Equestrian Association of McAlester.

and to date, Elisabeth has raised more than $10,000 for the T.E.A.M. The money is used for feed, tuition for students and vet bills, and some is set aside in the building fund for a new riding facility. Elisabeth also helped begin a local T.E.A.M. 4-H club to raise awareness for the program.

“The T.E.A.M. began about five years ago with six students,” Carter said. “Since that time we’ve grown to seeing 50 students per week. Everyone at the T.E.A.M. feels fortunate that Elisabeth has chosen us as the focus of her 4-H project work. We are all so proud of her and the things she has accomplished.”

Ten-year-old Wyatt Robbins is a student at the T.E.A.M., and his mother, Amanda Schulz, said he has gained so much confidence and experience in the 2 1/2 years he has been riding.

“This is a wonderful program, and it has given him so much freedom he didn’t have before,” Schulz said. “He had surgery on his hips to lengthen his tendons when he was 8 1/2 years old. He didn’t walk until that time. This is definitely a worthwhile program and it has done so much for Wyatt. The therapeutic riding helps strengthen the muscles throughout his body. And he also loves it when he gets to help care for the horses.”

Mike Carter, an Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension 4-H educator in Pittsburg County, said Elisabeth has set the bar high, not only in the county, but for Oklahoma, too.

“Elisabeth sees the big picture in 4-H,” Mike Carter said. “For her it’s not about the jacket or the awards. It’s all about making a difference in her hometown. This award is great for Pittsburg County, but it also brings attention to 4-H and Oklahoma on the national stage.”

He said it was a learning process for everyone involved when it came to organizing the music festival since nothing like that had been done in Pittsburg County.

“It really wasn’t even about the festival, but more about the learning process and how those organizational skills can be used in all areas of her life,” he said. “My job is to support her, but then I have to get out of the way and let her learn. Another benefit is now other 4-H’ers have seen it can be done and winning on a national level is a realistic avenue.”

Rachel Willis said her daughter has always had an assertive personality.

“It’s great to see it channeled in the right direction,” Rachel Willis said. “She knows what she wants and goes after it.”

Elisabeth credits her success to the leadership and personal responsibility she has learned in 4-H.

Elisabeth was encouraged to apply for the award by Charles Cox, the state 4-H program director, and Greg Owen, another OSU Cooperative Extension 4-H educator in Pittsburg County.

“They both thought I would be a good applicant,” Elisabeth said. “We decided I couldn’t win if I didn’t try, so even though the odds weren’t in my favor, I gave it a shot. I encourage other 4-H’ers to take that message to heart. You may not always win, but you certainly won’t if you never try.”

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Opposite: Pittsburg County 4-H’er Elisabeth Willis (center-right) poses with Donald T. Floyd (left), president and CEO of the National 4-H Council; Greg Sandfort (second to left), president and CEO of Tractor Supply; Lisa Slyvester (center-left), CNN correspondent; Temple Grandin, PhD; and James C. Borel, chair of the National 4-H Council Board of Trustees. Below: Willis keeps a close eye on 10-year-old Wyatt Robbins as he takes a riding lesson at the Therapeutic Equestrian Association of McAlester.
Virtually every news story today is accompanied by a photograph. Whether it’s an incredible action photo of a football player making the game-changing touchdown, an emotional shot of a family amidst the wreckage from a natural disaster, or a simple “grip n’ grin” picture, images can make a story come alive for the reader.

This story is the exception to this rule. This story is about the woman behind the camera, the incredible Oklahoma 4-H volunteer who is too busy helping in the background to pause for a photograph and too humble to step into the spotlight.

“Mamie Thompson is much more comfortable being the ‘photographer’ than the ‘photographed,’” said Becky Walker, an Oklahoma State University Extension educator in Pontotoc County. “She is one of the most positive people I know, and I am amazed at what she accomplishes. What a joy it has been to get to know her as a parent, volunteer, club leader and citizen of Pontotoc County!”

Thompson, a former 4-H member and a 4-H volunteer leader in Ada, Okla., personifies the definition of the “perfect 4-H volunteer.” As a nine-year 4-H member in Mansura, La., she gained a fervor for 4-H that she has carried into her adult life. She has served as the co-leader for the Pontotoc County Homeschool 4-H Club; chaired and helped with countless volunteer-led events in her county, especially the Favorite Food Show; facilitated her 4-H members and helped them raise more than $14,000 through fundraisers and events; taught countless workshops and assisted...
in planning volunteer conferences on the local, county, district, state, regional and national level; mentored numerous other 4-H parents; and opened her home and provided countless resources to her club's 4-H members.

"Mamie is extremely creative and uses this to engage youth in activities," Walker said. "She looks for the good in every 4-H member and encourages them to always do their best no matter the situation. As an educator, I know I can count on her to get the job done."

As the mother of six children, Thompson said she is constantly looking for unique ideas for 4-H project work, citizenship and leadership activities. She said she always tries to view the world through her "4-H eyes," collecting supplies and project ideas in her daily routine and in her career as a registered dietician.

"When parents ask me what a 4-H project looks like, I point to their children and say, 'Like whatever makes them want to learn,"' Thompson said. "If what you do is fold paper airplanes, talk about them, show the world how to fold them, fill out a medal form about them, and enter them in the county fair. I truly believe students are learning and growing every second they are doing 4-H work. Not a week goes by that I don't use something I learned or started to learn as a 4-H member. That's what makes this program special to me."

Thompson said her home is always open to her 4-H members. She has played an integral role in preparing her members for speech contests, Share the Fun acts, and other competitive events, and she has helped them plan dozens of meaningful service activities, such as collecting school supplies for underprivileged children or holding a fundraiser for the local fire department. Beyond that, she has worked to instill in her members the life skills that make doing these activities worthwhile.

"I have tried to help members re-define their measure of success," Thompson said. "A first place medal is great, but helping another student earn his first medal in the fair is far greater. A student recently came to me the night before she was to teach a workshop that was the culmination of months of preparation. She was tearful, saying, 'It doesn't look like I thought it would.' I hugged her and said, 'Ah, but you are about to arrive. This is the feeling of despair that comes right on the brink of success.' And it was!"

Thompson has also encouraged other parents to become active leaders in 4-H.

"Mamie sees innovative ways of reaching out to 4-H parents and families," said Deena West, Thompson's Pontotoc County Homeschool 4-H Club co-leader. "Her excitement for the 4-H program is contagious, and our 4-H parents are participating in our club where they have knowledge. Her patience, willingness and ability to organize and mentor others astound me."

Thompson said she has not always found the role of a "mentor" to be effortless, however.

"Giving responsibility to others is essential, but it's not something that comes easily to me," Thompson confessed. "I am a doer. I get things done. I have intentionally worked on that this year, though. I have encouraged other parents to become certified volunteers and have seen them become empowered by leading events. I have also learned to ask questions rather than correct the members. I encourage more experienced members to mentor younger ones. The best part is when the older ones tell the 'I messed up so badly you can't be worse than me' stories. It's way better than if I step in and make the decisions."

Thompson's attitude toward others and her vivacious spirit have infected Pontotoc County 4-H and have made her essential to the individual growth of her 4-H members, West said.

"Mrs. Thompson is kind and is a great leader for 4-H," said Elijah Smith, a young 4-H member of the Pontotoc County Homeschool 4-H Club. "She is always there when you need her. She never ignores you, and she gives each and every 4-H member the attention they need. She is a one-of-a-kind, sweet, loving, caring leader."

Because of her obvious dedication and unfailing loyalty to the 4-H program, Thompson has been nominated and received multiple awards for her efforts, including the Southeast District Volunteer of the Year in 2011 and the Southern Region Volunteer of the Year Award in 2012.

"I can think of no other person who deserves the honor of being named 'Volunteer of the Year' as much as she does," West said. "I am humbled by Mamie Thompson's heart for children, our 4-H club and our community. There truly aren't enough words to express how fortunate we are to have her as part of our club."

Thompson, on the other hand, deflected the praise of her peers and friends.

"I felt very honored to receive these awards," Thompson said. "But I see so many people who work as hard as I do. I wish we could acknowledge them all in this way. I could never do what I do without the help of dozens of other volunteers."

In the future, Thompson said she wants to continue working with 4-H, even after all of her children move beyond the program. She said she hopes she will still be cooking at 4-H camp well into her 90s.

"Mrs. Thompson is living in the future," Elijah said. "She is not a passive person who lies around watching the Brady Bunch all day, not caring about life. I can't picture Mrs. Thompson ever using a cane!"

While it's difficult to divine whether she will ever need a walking stick, it is apparent that Thompson will continue devoting her time to her 4-H'ers and working as a role model to all of those around her for years to come.

"While I could go on and on about Mamie Thompson and her volunteer effort, I know she would not want me to do that," Walker said. "However, she is a keeper, and she has truly made 'the best better' by bringing out the best in our 4-H members as well as this 4-H educator."

"I truly believe students are learning and growing every second they're doing 4-H work. Not a week goes by that I don't use something I learned or started to learn as a 4-H member. That's what makes this program special to me."
It begins as a fun family outing, but it takes only a split second for an accident to happen and change a person’s life forever.

All-terrain vehicle injury is an increasingly important public health problem that disproportionately affects populations in rural environments. Annually, more than 100,000 people nationwide are affected by serious injuries caused by all-terrain vehicles, and, sadly, Oklahoma has one of the highest injury rates among youth 16 and under. In fact, close to 90 percent of ATV crashes in Oklahoma occur with drivers under the age of 16.

To combat this alarming problem, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service educators, 4-H volunteers and 4-H members have teamed with some of the state’s leading hospitals and organizations to create ATV Ride Safe Oklahoma, which teaches youth about protective gear, local regulations and proper riding techniques and offers a way for trainees to practice these skills under the supervision of a licensed instructor.

“An extensive body of literature has demonstrated that targeted safety education can result in behavioral changes that often translate into fewer injuries,” said Mike Klumpp, the coordinator of ATV Ride Safe Oklahoma and a retired Extension specialist. “We are committed to the
development and delivery of a quality statewide 4-H ATV safety education program, and our goal is to provide this hands-on training to both youth and adults free of charge."

Since receiving a grant from the ATV Safety Institute in 2011 and 2012, the program has gained new life. OCES has trained 17 educators as ASI licensed instructors to deliver the hands-on ATV RiderCourse to counties and communities; this four to five hour, in-depth training provides youth an opportunity to increase their safety knowledge and practice basic riding skills in a controlled environment. Currently, more than 300 youth have received this instruction. In addition, more than 4,200 youth have participated in at least two hours of classroom ATV safety instruction, and 626 have completed the ASI online ATV Safety E-Course. Overall, the ATV Ride Safe Oklahoma team has reached more than 220,000 youth and adults at events throughout the state.

“The ATV safety course was a wonderful addition to the curriculum we teach in our program,” said Branden Sapp, an agricultural education instructor at Wellston Public Schools. “A majority of our students use ATVs around the house for work or play, and I believe this course will help those students practice safer techniques and help them make better decisions.”

Kourtney Coats, a former 4-H Youth Development Extension educator in Logan County, also said most of the youth he has seen come through the program have already driven or ridden on an ATV, and most of them know at least one person who has been injured in an accident.

“We teach youth that ATVs can be dangerous and should always be operated in a safe manner,” Coats said. “Once they start learning how to become ‘rider active’ and begin to handle the machine properly, it all starts to come together, and they have a great time while learning.”

Once the youth go through the safety training, they take home the lessons they learned and share them with their family and friends, Coats noted.

“We’ve gotten feedback from parents who say their children are now teaching others how to be safe while riding an ATV,” Coats said. “It’s a great feeling to teach kids about safety and know they are passing along the message. Once completing our training courses, they have a whole new outlook on how they should ride.”

Klumpp said he continues to have numerous requests in each of the 4-H districts from parents, schools and organizations to deliver these essential programs, and his goal is to identify even more markets for the ATV safety programs throughout the state.

“The sustainability of this program is vitally important to the state of Oklahoma,” Klumpp said. “It enables us to continue to develop critical thinking skills and good decision-making skills in Oklahoma youth and families, resulting in changes in ATV-related behaviors and a reduction in ATV-related injuries and fatalities.”

Golden Rules

- Always wear a helmet and other protective gear.
- Never ride on public roads – another vehicle could hit you.
- Never ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider vehicle.
- Ride an ATV that’s right for your age.
- Supervise riders younger than 16; ATVs are not toys.
- Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed.
- Take an ATV RiderCourse, either in person or online as an E-Course!
**Teaching More Than Cooking**

The 4-H Food Showdown has become a popular culinary contest in the state the past few years, and because of an enhancement grant from the Oklahoma Pork Council, Payne County has been at the forefront of this trend, teaching workshops on the topic, holding a county competition, and training the senior team who nabbed the top prize at the state competition. The funds from the grant purchased the equipment for six biweekly training sessions and the “secret ingredients” for the county competition (pork of course!). At each training, the 4-H’ers learned about nutritional information, food preparation and presentation, and public speaking. They also participated in a service-learning activity, like making nutritious snacks for Mobile Meals. At the end of the county competition, the 4-H’ers completed even more community service projects. Overall, a total of 167 members attended the trainings and contest. Dea Rash, a Payne County Extension educator, said the results were phenomenal.

“The grant enabled us to implement a new educational, exciting program for our 4-H members,” Rash said. “It has helped them sharpen their culinary skills and inspired them to set goals. The 4-H Food Showdown is here to stay!”

**Learning Leather Working**

With a grant from the Hille Foundation, Aubie Keesee of the Hughes County Extension Office bought materials to teach a whopping 279 youth about leather working in seven different workshops throughout the year. Keesee instructed youth from all walks of life at the Oklahoma 4-H Operation Military Kids summer camp, the Holdenville Public Library, the Southeast District 4-H Volunteer Leadership Conference, and the Oklahoma 4-H Tribal Youth Mentoring Program in Calvin, Okla. Though he enjoyed teaching these youth to make simple leather projects like bookmarks, Keesee said the best workshop he taught was the smallest in attendance. In a full-day work session, Keesee showed six senior 4-H members how to create tooled leather belts to enter in the county fair. These belts took six to eight hours to complete, and the young craftsmen were proud of their beautiful results.

“I enjoy leather work and seeing the pride in a 4-H member’s face when they complete a project they’re proud of,” Keesee said. “On behalf of Hughes County 4-H, I would like to say ‘thank you’ to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation.”

**Coaching for Calamity**

Tornadoes, drought, ice storms, wildfires, flood – Oklahomans are certainly not strangers to disasters and emergency situations. Though no one enjoys contemplating the possibility of a calamitous event, it is essential to be prepared for such an eventuality. During the three-day Logan County 4-H Summer Camp, Cathy James, one of the county’s Extension educators, taught a series of workshops to show youth how to respond to disaster.

In the workshop, the 93 participants received training in first aid, evaluating real-life disasters, recovering from disasters, and coping with loss. With funds from an enhancement grant from the Hille Foundation, each camper made a mini-first aid kit, and the grant funds also helped provide a 25-person first aid kit, life jacket, flotation cushion, smoke alarm, carbon monoxide alarm, fire alarm, emergency radio, fire extinguisher, safety goggles and various first aid guides.

“This is an exciting program because I feel I am making a truly significant difference,” James said. “Disasters will always be a threat for Oklahomans, and I know Logan County ranks high in number of disasters, in particular wildfires and tornados. This training could save lives, and that makes a positive outcome for all of us.”
Healthy Living for Life

According to the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 34 percent of Oklahoma youth are overweight or obese, 30 percent of youth are considered physically inactive, and unfortunately, the latter rate is almost 10 percent higher among Hispanic youth.

Though this data is less than encouraging, Diana Romano, an OSU Extension educator and dietitian in Oklahoma County, has teamed up with the Latino Community Development Agency in Oklahoma City to try to address this unpleasant trend. With funds provided by the Southwest Dairy Center, Romano held the four-day Latino 4-H Youth Healthy Lifestyle Camp last summer, which instructed 50 young people about the importance of exercise, taught portion control using the USDA’s “My Plate” program, showed the participants nutrition labels and how to make wise snack choices, and provided a hands-on cooking lesson to teach safe preparation techniques.

“At the end of the program, students reported knowing more about healthier food choices and preparing healthy snacks,” Romano said. “I really appreciated having this grant and plan to use left over funds to provide a similar program next year.”

Sewing to Serve

Sewing has long been a 4-H tradition, and Ginny McCarthick, a Johnston County Extension educator, is continuing to teach this useful practice in conjunction with other vital life skills. With the help of an enhancement grant from the Hille Foundation, McCarthick held a sewing service learning project for 4-H’ers of all skill levels. Those who had little experience with sewing made scarves and hats, one for themselves and several to donate to the oncology ward at the Oklahoma City Children’s Hospital. The intermediate class was given the more difficult task of creating backpacks; the participants made one for themselves and several more to fill with needed items to donate to the Ardmore Women’s Shelter. The most experienced sewers created complicated pillowcases. After completing the first pillowcases, these 4-H’ers made several more without supervision and helped the beginners complete their projects. The extra pillowcases were also donated to Children’s Hospital oncology ward, where children being treated for cancer are hospitalized.

“From the group who attended, we are organizing two project clubs for beginning sewers and more experienced sewers,” McCarthick said. “This was a truly meaningful service project for our teens.”

Eight Essential Elements

4-H designs its incredibly successful, educational youth development programs and services around specific ingredients: the eight essential elements. Emily Gregory, a former Grady County Extension educator, held a training at 4-H camp in July 2012 to impress these elements upon teen leaders, with the help of a leadership enhancement grant from Derald Suffridge. The funds were used to purchase supplies for two “8 Essential Elements” teaching kits for the training and for further use by 4-H educators and other organizations. At the training, 24 teen leaders from Grady, Caddo and Comanche Counties learned how to become certified 4-H volunteers, how to be good counselors, how to develop positive partnerships with caring adults, and the importance of an inclusive, engaging environment. Gregory said the teens seemed more inclusive and attentive after the training, and she said she is excited about the future prospects for the “8 Essential Elements” kits with 4-H volunteers.

“These funds will definitely help struggling counties maintain their volunteer leaders by training them with new, fun, up-to-date curriculum,” Gregory said.

Wasted Trip

“We’ve all heard the alarming statistics about drunk driving, but the lesson can never be reinforced too much. With this in mind and with the help of an enhancement grant from the Hille Foundation, Cindy Conner, a Garfield County Extension educator, has created an interactive program to teach youth about this critical topic. Conner’s program includes “Wasted Trip,” a driving simulation that replicates how it feels to drive both sober and intoxicated. She also used her grant to purchase the Drugged and Distorted game, where participants put on “oversized hands” and try to handle money or button a coat to show how intoxication impairs basic functions. To date, she has reached dozens with her program, including high school classes, 4-H teen leaders, various school organizations and after-prom programs.

“The tools have been a useful addition to our school enrichment program on how alcohol affects the lives of young people,” Conner said. “In January, an article came out in the Enid newspaper stating there were no DUI arrests on New Year’s Eve. They attributed it to the education in our community. One would never know, but I hope some of the programs I have presented the past nine years may have been part of that critical education.”
Emily Morrow

When Emily Morrow joined the Cleveland Clovers 4-H Club six years ago, she jumped into the organization with a passion rarely seen in youth today. She became active in public speaking, leadership, citizenship, science and technology, and fabrics and fashions, and she began championing projects in all of these areas. She worked on the local, county, district and state level, and she served in such important leadership roles as county president and as a state 4-H ambassador. Overall, Emily has organized more than 1,000 activities, spent nearly 4,500 hours planning and evaluating programs, and reached approximately 234,750 people through her 4-H work. Because of her dedication and never-ending enthusiasm, Emily received the highest 4-H honor possible on the state level: Oklahoma 4-H Hall of Fame.

“Like many, I set winning Hall of Fame as a goal when I was a young 4-H’er,” Emily said. “However, it isn’t just winning Hall of Fame that means everything to me. It’s the life lessons learned, the accomplishments made and the journey along the way that has such meaning to me.”

Having reached this achievement, Emily said she is now even more encouraged to set her goals high and achieve them with dedication, perseverance and hard work. She advises young 4-H’ers to jump in, get active and try new things and to find a project area that fits their interests.

“It’s the experiences of success and failure along the way that have made me who I am today,” Emily said. “Through 4-H, I’ve learned to use my head, heart, hands and health to ‘make the best better.’ I am confident the skills I have learned in this amazing organization will help me for the rest of my life.”

Emily is the daughter of Wayne and Sharon Morrow. She is currently attending Rose State College and working toward her associate’s degree in liberal arts. She later plans to attend Oklahoma State University and major in family and consumer sciences. Eventually, she would like to become a career guidance counselor in a university setting.

Mandy Schroeder

Mandy Schroeder is the perfect example of how much 4-H can help a person grow. Today, Mandy readily admits she was an extremely shy, quiet young girl when she joined 4-H eight years ago. Now, however, it is impossible to tell she was once terrified of public speaking. She has changed and accomplished so much over the years that she has been inducted to the most elite group Oklahoma 4-H has to offer: Hall of Fame.

“Looking back on the past eight years, I am amazed at the achievements I have accomplished not only in 4-H but in school and in my community,” Mandy said. “Some have been big and some small, but all were important in making me who I am today.”

Throughout her 4-H career, Mandy has been active in the photography, food science, nutrition, citizenship, leadership and achievement projects. She has acted in countless local and county offices and committees, and she has served on the state leadership council, as a state 4-H ambassador, and as the Northwest District president. In 2011, she represented Oklahoma 4-H at National 4-H Conference, and she helped facilitate the Kansas City Global Conference in 2012.

Overall, Mandy has given nearly 650 presentations, spent more than 6,650 hours planning leadership and citizenship activities, and reached 106,343 people through her 4-H work. Though Mandy’s extensive 4-H career and achievements have provided her with trips, scholarships, plaques, ribbons and many friends, she said the most important things she has gained in 4-H are the confidence and life skills needed to be successful in her adult life.

“I am very thankful for all of the opportunities I have had as a 4-H’er,” Mandy said. “I believe I can make a difference in this world by upholding and applying the 4-H motto of “To Make the Best Better” in every situation.”

Mandy is the daughter of Randy and Marlys Schroeder. She is attending Oklahoma State University and majoring in agricultural education. She hopes to be an Extension educator and serve as a role model for young 4-H members.
The Outstanding 4-H Alumni Award is given to former 4-H members who have made significant contributions to their communities. In 2012, two such alumni were honored with this award: Kent Gardner and Shannon Ferrell.

KENT GARDNER was a nine-year 4-H member in Woodward County. During his 4-H career, Gardner served as Northwest District vice president, won the state 4-H Achievement Project, and was inducted into Oklahoma 4-H Hall of Fame.

As an adult Gardner used his 4-H leadership skills to become a successful lawyer; he is currently the personal legal counsel for Bob Funk. Gardner has also been distinguished as a Rising Star by Oklahoma Super Lawyers and was named a top “40 Under 40” by OKC Biz Magazine.

Gardner is devoted to his community, serving as vice president of Autism Oklahoma; as vice chair of the Positive Tomorrows Board; and as a board member of the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, the Oklahoma State University Alumni Association, and the OSU Foundation Board of Governors.

SHANNON FERRELL had an illustrious 4-H career in Roger Mills County. He served as a state 4-H ambassador, state 4-H reporter and state 4-H president; attended National 4-H Congress and National 4-H Conference; won the state 4-H Leadership Project; and was inducted into Oklahoma 4-H Hall of Fame. Later, he served as president of the Oklahoma 4-H Volunteer Board and the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, and he currently helps lead the Oklahoma 4-H Ambassador Program.

Ferrell has also distinguished himself in his law career. In 2007, he began teaching agricultural law at OSU and has since presented 200 workshops and authored over 50 publications. He was named the Southern Agricultural Economics Outstanding Teacher, and he was awarded the Early Career Achievement Award in 2011.

The Oklahoma Partner in 4-H Award is given to individuals and organizations who have given considerable time and/or financial support to Oklahoma 4-H. This year’s deserving recipients included: Charles and Betty Smith and OGE Energy.

CHARLES AND BETTY SMITH have a passion for young people. Charles served as state 4-H president in 1950, and he has continued to be engaged in 4-H for the past 62 years.

After attending college and serving in the U.S. military, Charles Smith returned to Crowder, Okla., to help run the family company. Since then, the Canadian Valley Telephone Company has thrived and has expanded to include cell phone coverage and cable television services.

Charles and Betty Smith have used their financial success to give back to the community, supporting the Pittsburg County 4-H Program and contributing to many local programs for the arts. They have also funded at least two 4-H scholarships at the state level for many years, established a scholarship endowment, and most recently given $7,000 to support the 4-H ambassadors.

OGE ENERGY is one of the oldest Oklahoma 4-H donors; in fact, they were recognized as a long-time donor in 1978. From the inception of the program, OGE has provided funds for the top Oklahoma 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program team to participate in the national contest, and more recently they helped cultivate the Prairie Project to enhance educational programs related to Oklahoma’s natural environment. In 2012, they gave an incredible $25,000 to develop an Oklahoma 4-H wind energy education program and traveling trailer. Since they were last recognized 35 years ago, OGE has given more than $100,000 to the Oklahoma 4-H program.

This year, the Honorary 4-H Member Award was given to three Oklahoma State University staff members for their outstanding help with State 4-H Roundup: Jandra Pricer, Debbie McCarthy and Jeff Sweeden.

JANDRA PRICER has been an integral part of Roundup for the past 30 years. As coordinator for Agriculture Conference Services, she has facilitated the registration process, workshop assignments and name tags for the 1,000 attendees each year.

DEBBIE MCCARTHY helps with the athletic facility arrangements needed for a successful Roundup. When most people think of OSU athletics, they think of players and coaches and never give much consideration to the people behind the scenes. McCarthy is one of those essential people, and since 2005 she has been equally important to 4-H Roundup.

JEFF SWEEDEN has been helping with State 4-H Roundup since he was in high school. Now, as foreman for truck services at the OSU Physical Plant, Sweeden is responsible for the staging, chairs, tables and floor coverings in Gallagher-Iba Arena, and he makes sure all the physical components of Roundup work without a hitch.
4-H Entrepreneurship Scholarship
Charles and Betty Smith
Gabe Lomon

4-H Hall of Fame
Farm Credit Services of Oklahoma
Emily Morrow & Mandy Schroeder

Achievement
Harold & Edith Shaw Memorial
Kaila Williams

Advanced Achievement
Vernon & Ronda McKown Endowment
Jeremy Knapp

Advanced Citizenship
Mike Synar Memorial
Ricki Schroeder

Advanced Family & Consumer Sciences
Oklahoma Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences & Oklahoma Association of Extension 4-H Agents
Katelyn Wade

From top to bottom: 1) Joshua Maples (left) of Okfuskee County accepts a plaque for winning the Oklahoma 4-H Sheep Project from Dan Bomhoff, vice president of the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation Board of Directors. 2) Katelyn Wade (left) of Pontotoc County receives recognition for winning the Oklahoma 4-H Advanced Family and Consumer Sciences Project from Susan Routh of the Oklahoma Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. Not pictured: Cindy Conner, representative of the Oklahoma Association of Extension 4-H Agents. 3) Garrett Dollins (left) of Payne County accepts his award for winning the Oklahoma 4-H Safety Project. Mike Spradling, president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, presented the plaque. 4) Shayanne McGlothin from Caddo County 4-H receives congratulations for winning first place in the Oklahoma 4-H Shooting Sports Project; Carey and Brian Pribil of the Oklahoma City Gun Club presented the award.

Agriculture
Kunc Family Farms
Jacob Sestak

Allan & Dorris Goodbary Scholarship
Goodbary Family
Aubrey Mackey

All Other Project Agriculture & Natural Resources
Tyler Gaines

All Other Projects Family & Consumer Sciences
Oklahoma 4-H Check it Out Donors
Jessica Morrow

All Other Projects Science & Technology
Charles and Betty Smith
Patrick Schrank

All Other Projects Small Animal
Jay and Janie Hesser Memorial & Jay and Beverly Hesser Memorial
Annie Davis

B. A. Pratt Memorial Scholarship
B.A. Pratt Memorial Endowment
Kendra Rash & Natalie Richardson

Beef
Kunc Family Farms
Casey Citty

Breads
Shawnee Milling Co.
Lucy Dieman

Child Care
Kathy Rutledge Memorial
Adrianna Curnutt

Citizenship
Gene and Judy McKown Endowment
Kayla Thomas
SHIP RECIPIENTS

Conservation of Natural Resources
Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts & Oklahoma Vegetation Management Association
Ashley Powers

Dairy
Southwest Dairy Center
Sarah McGarr

Dana Smith Memorial Scholarship
Friends of Oklahoma 4-H
Conner Carroll

Elvin Lindley Advanced Agriculture
OK LP Gas RMQS Commission
Tanner Allread

Fabrics & Fashions
Wilma Wendt Pattillo & Bunny Franzmann Memorials
Maria Burris

Floyd & Viola Hartman Scholarship
Floyd and Viola Hartman Memorial
Brandi Blasdel

Food Science
Edwin and Winona Presley Memorial
Steven Baringer

Goats
Canadian County Goat Producers Association
Hunter Walls

Harold & Jeanne Gibson Memorial Scholarship
Harold P. Gibson Memorial
Emily Morrow

Health & Fitness
Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives
Katie Lackey

Horse
Shawnee Milling Co. & Okla. 4-H Foundation
Hannah Taylor

Horticulture & Plant Science
Oklahoma Horticulture Society & Oklahoma Vegetation Management Association
Meagan Bourne

Hugo Graumann Memorial Scholarship
Modelle Pattillo & Hugo Graumann Memorial
Mark Miller

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Key Club Scholarship
Oklahoma 4-H Key Club Endowment
Mandy Schroeder

Larry D. Anderson Memorial Scholarship
Larry D. Anderson Memorial
Chris Maxcey

Leadership
Jerry and Julie Kiefer Endowment
Chris Maxcey

Modelle Pattillo Memorial Scholarship
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News & Eagle Award
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Timothy Matthews & Ricki Schroeder

Oklahoma Youth Expo Scholarship
Oklahoma Youth Expo
Annie Jo Gilbert & Jenna Murray

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Oklahoma 4-H Foundation
Cody Milner

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Tracey Family Endowment
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Lisbeth Haddox

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Friends of Southeast District 4-H
Alicia Daniel

Swine
Oklahoma Pork Council
Tucker Burns

Tracey Cox Memorial Scholarship
Tracey Cox Memorial
Meagan Rhodes

Veterinary Science
Edwin and Winona Presley Memorial
Sammy Jo Perry

Wildlife & Fisheries
Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma & Oklahoma 4-H Foundation
Russell Godfrey
Oklahoma 4-H Foundation

**Revenues**

- Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments ........ $560,101
- Gifts & Grants ........................................ $479,941
- Interest & Dividend Income ......................... $147,104
- Program Registration & Fees ......................... $50,694
- Other ................................................. $43,309
- Royalty Income ........................................ $33,023
- In-kind Donations ..................................... $24,856
- Sales & Special Events ............................... $22,781

**Total Revenues ........................................ $1,361,809**

**Expenses**

- Program ................................................. $240,764
- Grants .................................................... $131,819
- Administrative Support & Operations .............. $92,545
- Brokerage, Bank & Professional Support .......... $61,614
- Scholarships ........................................... $56,250
- Usage of In-kind Donations ......................... $24,856
- Sales & Fundraising Events ......................... $22,040
- Other ..................................................... $12,161

**Total Expenses ........................................ $642,049**
**Oklahoma 4-H Fast Facts**

**How many Oklahoma youth take part in 4-H?**
- Organized 4-H clubs: 26,045
- Special interest programs: 40,699
- 4-H overnight/day camps: 6,159
- School enrichment programs: 40,669
- Total (without duplicates): 98,923

**Where do Oklahoma 4-H’ers live?**
- Farm: 30.5%
- Rural communities: 32.9%
- Towns: 17.6%
- Suburban communities: 5.04%
- Cities: 13.9%

**How diverse is Oklahoma 4-H?**
- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 15.6%
- Asian: 1.0%
- Black or African American: 8.6%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.8%
- White: 70.1%
- More than one race: 9%
- Other: 3.0%

**How do Oklahomans participate in 4-H?**
- Science & tech programs: 95,423
- Citizenship activities: 32,460
- Healthy living programs: 33,369
- Total special interest programs (duplicates): 161,252

**Who helps with 4-H activities?**
- Adult volunteers: 4,762
- Youth volunteers: 3,716
- Total: 8,478

**Who participates in Oklahoma 4-H?**
- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12
- Post high school
- Not in school/other

**Net Assets**

- Unrestricted: $168,5821
- Temporarily Restricted*: $3,803,976
- Permanently Restricted: $3,089,333
- Total Net Assets: $7,061,891

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our individual, corporate and foundation donors who supported the Oklahoma 4-H program in 2012.

**Emerald Clover**
($20,000 - $999,999)
National Rifle Association
OGE Energy
William and Linda Pratt
Wal-Mart Foundation

**Ruby Clover**
($10,000 - $19,999)
Brett Gardner
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Dan Reynolds

**Diamond Clover**
($5,000 - $9,999)
Hille Family Foundation
Cherokee Nation Businesses*
Gene and Judy McKown
National 4-H Council
Oklahoma Beef Council
Oklahoma LP Gas RM&S Commission
Oklahoma Pork Council
Oklahoma Wheat Research Foundation
Jim Rutledge
Charles and Betty Smith

**Platinum Clover**
($2,500 - $4,999)
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Dixie Thomas
Tidelands Geophysical
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Oklahoma Wheat Commission
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*All or part of gift was in-kind.

**A full list of donors, including all those under $100, may be found on the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation website at: oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/Foundation.
Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The most enduring of all memorials are those carved in the hearts and minds of mankind. Such sentiments are evidenced yearly as friends and family give to 4-H in memory and in honor of a beloved friend or family member. Thank you to all those who give on the behalf of others. Your care and generosity are appreciated by every party involved.

In Honor Of . . .

Andrea Aggarwal
by Emmett Carter

Tanner Allread
by Mary Sue Sanders

Brian Barton
by Mary Sue Sanders

Lynne Beam
by Jim Rutledge

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Debbie Sharp
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Mary Jane Wall
by Barbara Kirby

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In Memory Of . . .

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Robert Heidlage
by the Oklahoma Horse Industry Council

Don Hellwege
by Virginia Hellwege

Ernest Hellwege
by Robert Brandt, Valeri Evans, Virginia Hellwege, Leroy Jech, the Kingfisher County Farm Bureau, Michael Louthan, Robert Lynch, Bert Madden, Russell Mawby, Joe Mayer, Annette Parham, Schulte, Schneider and Gibson, PLLC, Gene Sharp, Ina Smith, Alfred Teders, Gaylene Teders, & the W.K. Kellogg Foundation
The Circle of Champions is a donor organization representing an impressive cross section of Oklahoma residents who are highly committed to 4-H, youth and the future of our nation. It is reserved for men and women nominated by the Circle Leadership Committee and 4-H Foundation Board of Directors who have committed to an annual donation of at least $1,000, which provides financial support to help shape Oklahoma 4-H.
Merl Miller has been an integral part of the 4-H program for nearly 50 years, and his contributions to 4-H on a state and national level are difficult to sum up in a few simple words.

Miller was a 4-H member as a child. After obtaining a bachelor’s degree in animal science from Oklahoma State University in 1958 and working in the livestock industry for several years, Miller realized he was more interested in “working with kids than hogs.”

He took a position as an Extension educator in Caddo County in 1966, and he moved to the state 4-H office in 1970, where he emphasized leadership and citizenship in the state’s programs.

He earned his master’s and doctoral degree from OSU in 1971 and 1981, respectively, then he took the state 4-H program leader position in Maryland in 1983, where he spent 13 years holding various administrative and leadership positions. Miller was incredibly active in state and national Extension associations, and he gave more than 40 national presentations and served on 35 national design/planning teams.

Miller retired in 1996 and returned to Stillwater, Okla., where he lives now.

“The hallmark of Merl Miller’s 4-H career was building the capacity of the 4-H program through the development of high quality curriculum and training programs,” said Jim Rutledge, executive director for the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation. “Even before I moved to Oklahoma in the mid 80s, I was familiar with his work in leadership development. We are very pleased that the National 4-H Hall of Fame has recognized Dr. Miller for his many contributions.”

Miller said the greatest accomplishment of his career was being part of several efforts that got Extension programming moving in a positive direction.

“I was fortunate as a 4-H member and professional to have guidance from very capable people,” Miller said. “During my career, I tried to carry out my responsibilities and to help others do the same. Now in retirement I find there are opportunities as a volunteer and through financial support. We should pass it on.”

Merl Miller Inducted into National 4-H Hall of Fame

PHOTO COURTESY OF MERL MILLER

Clover Classic Golf

16th Clover Classic Golf Tournament
Stillwater Country Club, Stillwater, Okla.
Oct. 14, 2013

Oklahoma 4-H Foundation
205 4-H Youth Development Bldg.
Stillwater, OK 74078
405-744-5390
oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/Foundation
Oklahoma 4-H Operation: Military Kids works to create networks of youth workers, educators, counselors and community service agencies in communities across the state to support military children and youth. Through collaborative efforts, OMK is able to provide fun, meaningful programming to military families throughout Oklahoma before, during and after the deployment of a loved one.

http://www.operationmilitarykids.org
http://oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/omk

OPERATION: MILITARY KIDS
SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES IN OUR OWN BACKYARD!

... IT’S FOR OUR KIDS!
Young people today need 4-H as much as they ever have; if you have ever benefited from 4-H or the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, now is the time to step up. In August 2012, the 4-H Foundation voted to put up funds for several matching programs, where we will match new contributions dollar for dollar up to $25,000 over the next three years in each of the programs below:

**State 4-H Council Endowment**
This will be a permanent endowment to provide support for green jackets, training conferences, travel and other expenses for this important group.

**4-H Enhancement Grants**
This program will provide immediate assistance to county and club 4-H programs; 4-H clubs and county Extension Offices use this program to apply for grants up to $500 annually to enhance their current 4-H curriculum.

**Citizenship Washington Focus Endowment**
This will be a permanent endowment to provide a fund to support travel for the Citizenship Washington Focus trip to Washington D.C.

**4-H Shooting Sports Invitational Travel Fund**
Each year we invite outstanding 4-H members to represent Oklahoma at the National Invitational 4-H Shooting Sports Event, but they must currently cover all expenses for the trip. This fund help will defer some of these costs.

*An endowment for scholarships to National 4-H Conference has already been fully funded.

Please contact the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation for more information on how you can help!