

Character • Compassion • Curiosity  
Confidence • Teamwork • Courage

# Virginia 4-H Foundation

Newsletter



[www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/give](http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/give)

Fall 2016

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## 4-H in Senegal – Working together to achieve a dream

“For my club, my community, my country, and my world.” Virginia 4-H’ers put the 4-H pledge in action by raising funds to support a community center for 4-H in Senegal, Africa. In March, 4-H clubs began making donations, raising funds, collecting items for a silent auction, and planning events during State 4-H Congress for their Cents for Senegal project. Determined to make a difference in the lives of Senegalese youth, and to share the 4-H experience, they more than doubled their initial goal, raising over \$7,000 to date.

After talking to Bineta Guissese, Senegal 4-H coordinator and outreach officer, at State 4-H Congress, Madison County 4-H’er Elizabeth Koranek was inspired to donate all proceeds from the sale of her 4-H lamb project, which totaled \$2,331, to the project.

4-H’ers are four times more likely than their peers to give back to their community. Koranek’s contribution is an example of the commitment that Virginia 4-H teens make to the program and to

*continued to back*



Kaitlyn Smith with Senegalese youth working on their gardening project.



Silent auction held during the 2016 4-H State Congress.

## Chair’s Update

“In a gentle way, you can shake the world.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

Supporting 4-H is a powerful way we can have a lasting impact. This newsletter shares some of the outstanding stories that showcase the success of the program, but the good works and impact go far beyond the space allotted here. We must never forget that some of our greatest successes will never make a newsletter column; they are the very personal successes that 4-Hers experience as they participate in their chosen programs. These lasting personal successes build character and leadership that can be drawn on for life. This is the power of 4-H.



If you are a parent, a leader, an agent, a volunteer, or a friend of 4-H, you have seen these successes firsthand. If you are one of the 25 million alumni living in the United States today, you know the personal impact 4-H has had on your life. But, regardless of your relationship with 4-H, I feel certain you will want to help ensure that these opportunities continue in such a manner that we can reach even more young people.

I ask you to join with your 4-H Foundation Board to ensure that our future is strong, by choosing to make a financial gift to the 4-H Foundation. Join with me in our movement to shake the world for Virginia’s youth. There are so many ways you can participate, and I assure you that your investment will make a difference.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you,

All the best,

Mary Guy Miller  
Chair, Virginia’s 4-H Foundation  
[mmiller@iddnet.com](mailto:mmiller@iddnet.com)

## The 4-H Military Partnership Grows in Virginia

Virginia 4-H is investing in military families throughout the commonwealth by partnering to strengthen connections and provide experiential learning opportunities both on and off the state’s military installations.

Military children face multiple stressors due to their parents’ deployments and

other events. Through 4-H, military youth develop life skills that help them to be more resilient and better able to face the frequent changes that they experience.

Virginia 4-H military programs are available to youth at 11 military installations. Military youth also have access to 4-H programs through units across the state. Currently, there are 1,909 4-H military members.

According to Michael Martin, 4-H military liaison, “Virginia’s 4-H Military Partnership Grant provides support to state and local 4-H Extension programs and professionals working with military staff in the Army, Air Force, Navy, National Guard, and Reserve. They establish 4-H clubs on military



Youth participants of the 4-H Military Program.

installations and provide support to other geographically dispersed military youth by connecting them in communities where they live.”

In addition to their 4-H club activities, geographically dispersed, military-connected youth participate in military family days and are eligible for partial 4-H event scholarships

to 4-H camp or State 4-H Congress. After participating in State 4-H Congress, a military youth shared, “I enjoyed meeting and working with other teens. As a result, I plan to continue helping others and making a difference in my community.” This year, 59 youth have received scholarships.

This partnership is made possible by the generous support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the National Institute of Food and Agriculture; National 4-H; U.S. Army Child, Youth and School Services; U.S. Air Force Child and Youth Programs; and U.S. Navy Child and Youth Programs.

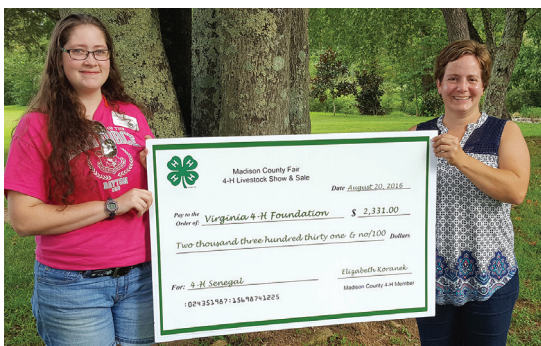
For more information, visit: [www.virginia4-hmilitaryclubs.org](http://www.virginia4-hmilitaryclubs.org).

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4-H'er Elizabeth Koranek with 4-H Extension Agent Kelly Mallory.

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supporting their peers around the globe.

This joint endeavor has connected Virginia 4-H and Senegal youth and has shown Virginia youth how their heartfelt efforts make a difference in their world.

Senegalese youth are also raising funds through gardening and other entrepreneurial projects. Virginia and Senegal youth have realized the

power of working together to achieve a dream. Youth will now have a safe place to gather, as will adults. The generous support of our teens and 4-H clubs will have a lasting, positive impact.

In March, "Virginia 4-H officially launched a positive youth development program in Senegal, designed to motivate young people to understand agriculture, to become agriculturalists, and to be involved in family farms and their communities," said Ozzie Abaye, a professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech. The program continues to grow with the help of many within Virginia Cooperative Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

## Making their voices heard – Virginia Youth Voices

For the first time in Virginia 4-H history, Virginia Youth Voices took home two first-place awards at the National 4-H Film Festival in Kansas City, Missouri, in August. Starr Woods, of Chesterfield 4-H, won the Promotional Video of the Year award. Zamora Draft, of Prince George 4-H, took first in the one-minute video category.

Virginia Youth Voices, a premiere 4-H Digital Media program, ignites young people's creative confidence by helping them develop problem solving skills, equipping them with 21st century tools, and empowering them to find their voices and make them heard. The program also provides youth with the inspiration, training, and technology to create original media works on issues they find important. Participants hone skills of self-expression, ideation, collaboration, flexibility, and persistence--skills regarded as central to creative confidence.

The program provides the opportunity for 4-H'ers to interact with professional mentors, which exposes participants to digital storytelling and music scores for film.

Virginia Youth Voices 4-H member Sydnee Aviles said: "This project has not only taught me the differences between the people I interact with, but it has also taught me how similar we are. It's brought us, as club members, so much closer together, like a family. It's been nice to have a platform to showcase the things about you that others might otherwise

overlook, and it's been a learning experience for me, personally, just collaborating with so many different types of individuals. If I take anything away from this experience, it would be to never let anyone confine you, because I think, too many times, especially with our parents and people we feel we have to impress, we conform to what they expect of us. People should pursue their happiness and never be afraid to showcase what makes them unique."

The Adobe Youth Voices program was originally funded through National 4-H. Now known as Virginia Youth Voices, it continues to thrive, with continued support from Adobe and an Innovative Programming Award from the Virginia 4-H Foundation. The Virginia program, led by Herman Maclin, a 4-H Agent in Prince George County and a professional musician, has contributed to the 4-H Voices of History archive and is being used as a model for filmmakers nationwide.

To view some of the work from the 4-H'ers involved with Virginia Youth Voices, visit its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/4Hmediamakers>.



Virginia Youth Voices youth during a Red Carpet Ceremony.

## Foundation by the Numbers for fiscal year 2016

Gift income

**\$584,778**

Endowment income

**\$173,677**

Total program support

**\$758,455**

Number of endowments

**56**

Endowment value

**\$4,150,062**

Scholarships distributed

**\$64,188**

To invest in Virginia 4-H, visit  
[www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/give](http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/give)  
or send your gift to:

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