

"SERVICE TO YOUTH" - - -

THE OHIO 4-H FOUNDATION STORY

How It All Started

In 1945, a group of the Ohio Cooperative Extension Service professional staff met to consider ways in which greater "Service to Youth" could be provided through the 4-H program. They realized that the strength of the program came from the local people. They believed in the 4-H Motto "To Make the Best Better" and the philosophy of "Learning by Doing." They knew that additional leadership learning opportunities would greatly benefit local 4-H members, leaders, and advisors, but that such opportunities would take money. And so, the idea of establishing the Ohio 4-H Club Foundation was born.

A Dream Becomes Reality

Since Extension is a part of The Ohio State University, the 4-H Foundation became an endowment in the Ohio State University Development Fund. A goal of \$200,000 was set so that sufficient interest (the only amount to be used) would be available to fulfill the Foundation's purpose: "To provide scholarships, fellowships, or other aids for: undergraduate and graduate study, short courses, conferences, or other educational events under the auspices of The Ohio State University, for 4-H members and their advisors and leaders." Over the state, 4-H people helped raise county Foundation quotas. In 1962, the \$200,000 goal was reached.

Ohio Extends to the National 4-H Club Foundation

In 1959, the National 4-H Center in Washington D. C. became the official home of 4-H and the National 4-H Club Foundation. Ohio 4-H'ers dedicated the \$5,000 Ohio Room (Center dining room) to A. B. Graham and W. H. Palmer, Ohio 4-H pioneers.

In 1961, Ohio 4-H Foundation scholarships to a National 4-H Center Conference were provided to members of the Ohio 4-H Advisory Committee. Today, Ohio is one of the leading states in participation of 4-H members and advisors in Citizenship Short

Courses, Leadership Forums, and other 4-H programs held at the National 4-H Center.

Expansion of 1969 Center

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The National 4-H Center facilities would no longer accommodate participation requests from the states. Ohio 4-H membership ^{also} had increased from 64,000 to over 100,000. Simultaneously, the National 4-H Club Foundation and the Ohio 4-H Club Foundation realized that resources could not fulfill 4-H needs. So the Ohio-National 4-H Foundation Fund Drive was initiated with a goal of \$250,000; \$100,000 for National and \$150,000 for Ohio. Counties determined goals that they would assume, ^{and} plans were made to contact business and industry and the Ohio-National 4-H Fund Drive was off and away.

Where We Are Now

The Ohio 4-H Foundation has a current capital balance of over \$360,000. A total of over \$180,000 has been collected during the current Ohio-National 4-H Foundation Fund Drive. Payments totaling more than \$75,000 have been paid to the National 4-H Foundation. Current Ohio 4-H Foundation funded programs include 4-H advisor and youth leader education, 4-H youth development, 4-H experimental and promotional programs, and 4-H program development and expansion. "Service to Youth" has been extended to more than 135,000 4-H'ers, 18,000 4-H advisors, and 10,000 junior leaders. The "small beginning" of the 1946 Ohio 4-H Foundation has become "big business" in the lives of Ohio 4-H'ers.

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I Pledge

(6 or 7 remaining pictures)

My **HEAD** to Clearer Thinking,
 My **HEART** to Greater Loyalty,
 My **HANDS** to Larger Service, and
 My **HEALTH** to Better Living

For My Club,
 My Community and
 My Country.

4-H Reaches Out

In 1973, the Ohio 4-H Foundation Board was expanded to include ten business representatives, one from each of the ten Extension areas.

The challenge for the total board is to make the best possible use of the 4-H Foundation investment by extending it farther to include more boys and girls and higher and deeper to provide more vital experiences for them.

Revisions of the by-laws of the Ohio 4-H Foundation Board of Directors now state "the purpose of the Ohio 4-H Foundation is to promote, expand and give recognition to the 4-H program through scholarships, fellowships, and other aids for undergraduate and graduate study, short courses, conferences, leadership training, recognition and other programs, under the auspices of The Ohio State University, for 4-H clientele including 4-H members, advisors, and leaders regardless of race, color, or national origin."

In the beginning, 4-H was a program for rural boys and girls. Today, 4-H is a program for youth wherever they may be, in whatever circumstance they find themselves. Adultlike project and learning experiences, making the best better, learning by doing, developing head, heart, hands, and health continue to be fundamental guides, but those guides are tailor-made to start with individuals where they are.

Suburban, urban, and inner-city 4-H is off and away. Innovative and creative projects are being designed and piloted, relevant programs are being developed. Continued emphasis will be given to "Reaching Out!"

4-H'ers Do Their Part First - - -

Then Ask Others!

When the Ohio-National 4-H Foundation Fund Drive was started in 1969, 4-H members, advisors, and friends of 4-H in each county determined the amount they would pledge to the drive. 4-H'ers carried on all kinds of projects, programs, events, and activities to raise their money.

The map tells the story. Pledges have been completely paid by 59 counties, others plan to complete their pledges soon.