



# Around the State in 4-H

College of Agricultural Sciences

October 2004

4-H and Youth Development



## PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER (*Christy Bartley*)

Many of you are completing your narrative reports as part of the POW process. Some of you have completed award applications and been recognized by your peers in the professional organizations. Now there's one last piece that needs to be done. Complete the Programs of Distinction application and email it to Christy Bartley. As I travel in and out of the state and have the opportunity to talk with other state and national 4-H leaders, I am continually telling Pennsylvania's story about 4-H youth development. The

results from the Skills for Everyday Living survey have shown some significant results that we all can begin to share. More participation will make those results even stronger. The Programs of Distinction applications are peer reviewed and will provide strong program evidence for those working on dossiers. Being recognized nationally will emphasize the strength of your program in future grant applications or as you talk to county commissioners about future funding. You are the individuals with the information to write the program description, describe its need in your county, and share the impact. No one else can write the report for you so take an hour, complete your application, and send it off today. I'm looking forward to telling my peers even more exciting information about the PA 4-H youth development program!

## VOLUNTEERING INCREASING IN THE USA (*Robert Lewis*)

The United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that the number of volunteers and the volunteer rate rose over the past year. There are 63.8 million volunteers, up from 59.8 million from a year ago. The volunteer rate grew to 28.8%, up from 27.4%. There were slight increases in volunteering in all groups of the population. About 32.2% of women and 25.1% of men did volunteer work. For teenagers, the volunteer rate is

29.5%. For those over 65 years the rate is 23.7%. The volunteer rate for Hispanics, 15.7%; Asians, 18.7%; African Americans, 20.0%; and Whites, 30.6%.

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## PLANNING AND EVALUATION WEB Site (*Christy Bartley*)

There's a new web site that will help you identify the tools and resources that you will need to plan and evaluate next year's program. Be sure to visit the Planning and Evaluation Resource Center (PERC) web site at <http://ase.tufts.edu/adsi/perc>. Fill in the evaluation gaps that you have identified in this year's narrative reports. Build stronger programs that build community while engaging program participants in designing and implementing evaluation. Measure changes that can be shared with multiple funders. Evaluate civic engagement. Visit the web site to learn more.

## CHARITABLE GIVING TO 4-H (*Michael Martin*)

One of the most popular vehicles for charitable giving is a Charitable Bequest. In general, a charitable bequest is a written statement in a will that directs that a gift be made to charity upon the death of the person who established the will (the testator). Here is a variety of university-approved sample bequest language you may share with prospective donors who may desire to include a gift to 4-H in their wills.

Caution: Donors should always be directed to: (1) seek professional legal advice in the preparation of a will and (2) secure counsel on all estate planning issues.

Specific Bequests. A specific bequest bequeaths a certain dollar amount or certain other property (such as a home, art collection, etc.). This is the most popular form of bequest. Indeed, gifts of specific properties may be uniquely appropriate bequests both for tax and other reasons.

Specific Bequest Language. *I bequeath the sum of \_\_\_\_Dollars to \_\_\_\_\_, a charitable organization located in \_\_\_\_\_. Or:*

*I give, devise and bequeath the following described property to \_\_\_\_\_ a charitable institution located in \_\_\_\_\_: property known as \_\_\_\_\_ etc.*

Percentage Bequest. A percentage bequest devises a set percentage, i.e., 5% of the value of the estate. A percentage bequest may be the best format for charity to recommend since it lets the charity participate in any estate growth during the donor's lifetime. This technique also protects the donor's heirs should the estate decrease in value.

Percentage Bequest Language. *I bequeath to \_\_\_\_\_, a charitable organization located in \_\_\_\_\_, an amount equal to \_\_\_percent of the net value of my estate as finally determined for federal estate tax purposes.*

If you have specific questions regarding bequests, or other planned giving opportunities, please contact me at 814-863-2754 or mmartin @psu.edu.

## PRAISE: TOO MUCH.... TOO OFTEN? (*Anne Heinsohn*)

Praise is good; indeed, praise has been touted as critical to developing positive self-esteem in children. Recently, behaviorists have indicated that educators and others who work with children and youth may have gone over the top lavishing too much praise too often and doing damage in the process.

Teachers, parents and others have been encouraged to be generous in giving praise to the children in their charge. However, the problem seems to be not in praise, but rather the type of praise. Praise can be generalized or specific.

Generalized praise is seen as all encompassing, but rather vague. It is often used for itself. It makes people feel good in general and about themselves in particular, at least in the short term. Specific praise is directed to the individual for a particular behavior or accomplishment, large or small. Such praise is most effective when it is used to recognize persistence and progress rather than those things one does well naturally. Artistically talented children can be praised for selecting especially attractive colors for their paintings rather than for being good artists.

Withholding praise or limiting praise until it's truly warranted helps children make progress. Parents and teachers can use encouraging words and approval long before the time for praise arrives. Praise is good when used sparingly with care. Encouragement, approval and praise all contribute to the development of confident and motivated youth.

FARM SHOW PRESENTATIONS (*Christy Bartley*)

Four-H members have been invited to give presentations at the 2005 Farm Show. The presentation times are January 8, 2:00-3:00 and January 10, 3:30-4:30. We request that each presenter take no more than 10 minutes so we can provide an opportunity for about five 4-Hers in each time slot. Presenters are also invited to join us at the 4-H booth to help market the 4-H program. Christy Bartley will need the name, presentation title, and preferred presentation day by Friday, December 17, 2004. Also let her know if the presenter will be helping in the booth the day of his/her presentation. This is a great opportunity for teens that are looking for new challenges in the 4-H program.

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The 2004 4-H calendar can be found at <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu>

*Robert B. Lewis*

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In Consultation with  
4-H & Youth Development Faculty & Staff

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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