

# FourWord



Progress and Highlights of the Iowa 4-H Foundation ❖ Summer Edition 2006

## Camp Improvements Continue New Additions Await 4-H Center Visitors

New bathroom and shower facilities are a welcome addition for campers staying in Hickory Village at the Iowa 4-H Center. The main lodge is undergoing major renovations to improve its living quality. The \$127,000 bathroom makeover was completed just in time for the 2006 camping season. Future renovations will tackle the kitchen and mechanical areas of the lodge.

Hickory cabins are sporting a new look – new roofs thanks to some great sweat equity provided by the Iowa State Greek Community and camp staff. Things also are looking up in the Teams Course area where two new



*Above: Hickory before and after views. Right: New showers a welcome site for Hickory visitors.*

challenges have been added to the 50-foot climbing tower. Adventure-minded youth (and adults) now can test their climbing skills on the Chimney or the Dangle-Duo climbing beams. For the down-to-earth types, a new soccer field has been added to the recreation area.

Improvements to Hickory Lodge and the climbing tower were made possible in part from the Schlapkohl Endowment fund (see *Inspired by Marie?* on p.4) and donor contributions. If you'd like to be a financial partner in the ongoing development of our 4-H camp facility, designate your next gift to Iowa 4-H Center Renovations.



*Above left: Two campers work together to scale the Dangle-Duo climbing beams. Above right: Dwight Lykins, counselor-in-training, rises slowly up the Chimney.*

## A Lifetime and Legacy to Make the Best Better

by Melva Berkland

Sylvia A. Brandt learned to *make the best better* in 4-H. She lived the 4-H motto daily in her very successful 45-year-career in the Quad City insurance industry.



*Sylvia Brandt*

Sylvia was known as a woman of grace and integrity. She knew how to be a friend. In return she had many sincere friends who regarded her as generously helpful, kind, bright, opinionated, funny, serious, loyal, independent, positive, thrifty, thoughtful, appreciative, a letter-writer, a great hostess, a good cook—a true friend. She liked to travel in this country and beyond for business and to rendezvous with friends.

Symphony performances thrilled her. She played the piano well and performed in her church handbell choir. In choosing a new home, she

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The Iowa 4-H Foundation provides financial resources for youth development through 4-H.

The 4-H emblem is protected under 18 U.S.C. 707



# Thank You for a Great First Year!

## Executive Director Shares First Year Reflections and Visions for the Future

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It has been one year since I began working with you as the new executive director of the Iowa 4-H Foundation, and what an incredible year it has been. Thank you!

I've been blessed to travel across our beautiful state, seeing the snow and the change into spring and summer. I've visited with some wonderful and dedicated 4-H alumni, people who have never stopped being 4-H'ers since their first club meeting and who have now made the commitment to remember 4-H with a legacy gift. Sylvia Brandt's story, featured in this issue, is a great example of how one caring person in one generous act can make a remarkable impact on 4-H.

During the past year, I've worked with ISU Extension staff and 4-H volunteers to envision plans for the future – a future where donor gifts to 4-H allows us to reach more young people, fund

more scholarships, fully support opportunities like Citizenship Washington Focus, build new 4-H facilities at local fairgrounds, and even pay for the staff that help keep 4-H going year after year across this state.

Lead by Barb Lykins, our foundation president, we have adopted a new strategic plan to help us dream big for the future of 4-H. The strategic plan will help us become more effective at raising support for 4-H. It will allow us to reach out to a new group of 4-H alumni and involve them as active advocates for our programs. It will guide us to invest your gifts to benefit as many young people as possible in a powerful and productive way, making a lasting difference for 4-H and indeed all of Iowa.

I finished my first year with the State 4-H Youth Conference in Ames, a gathering of 925 Iowa teens having lots of fun and learning new skills

that they can take home to help improve their local 4-H programs.

During the conference banquet, we recognized some special donors like Lt. Matt Gleason, who was home in Iowa on a short leave from his U.S. naval duties, and this year's State 4-H Council, who collected \$30,000 from Iowa 4-H'ers to support their own organization. It was inspiring to see so many young people making a positive difference for 4-H.

Thanks to you. You make the difference for our 4-H members all year. You help them live their dreams through your continuous financial support. Thank YOU for this incredible year! I look forward to seeing what we can do together to shape the future of Iowa 4-H.



Joe Leisz

## Iowa 4-H'ers in the News

Delegates to the 2006 State 4-H Youth Conference participated in an Olympic-sized volunteer effort, donating their time to help the City of Ames prepare for the first-ever National Special Olympics. In addition to preparing 420 trays of lasagna for the athletes (as featured in the Des Moines Register on June 29), Iowa 4-H'ers also assembled fans for their dorm rooms, made greeting cards, filled registration packets, put up signs in the residence halls, and helped clean up venue sites.



## Tributes

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#### ANGELA, KARLA AND LISA BECKER

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Willis and Jane Davison

#### JANE EGLAND

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Early Woman's Club

#### GERALDINE SCHOMBERG, LETTS

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#### VIRGINIA STUTSMAN, RIVERSIDE

John and Karen Hughes

#### OUR GRANDCHILDREN WHO ARE MEMBERS OF 4-H

Marlys and Bob Lien, Decorah

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Norma Kerr

### IOWA 4-H HALL OF FAME

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Boone County Extension

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Shirley Burma  
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Mary and Mathias Jensen  
Knapp Farm- Fauser  
Beverly and Thomas Manuel  
and Family  
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#### HAROLD HEYKES, EMMETSBURG

Jane Heykes  
Barbara and Tracy Remy



# A Life of Giving Leads to a Legacy Gift

Sylvia Brandt Follows Generous Example Set by Her 4-H Leader

## Feature story continued from p. 1

selected a site where her roses would thrive.

This elegant professional collected original paintings created by local artists, especially floral and rural nature scenes that were



Sylvia playing the piano at 4-H club family night.

reminiscent of surroundings on the farm of her childhood. She also painted a floral that hung over her living room fireplace and

meticulously painted very intricate and exquisite scenes on Easter eggs.

Such precision and attention to detail characterized her career as well. People trusted her. She made astute investments for her clients. In recognition of her business savvy, she was named as an adviser to the national board of the Society of Financial Service Professionals. She is believed to have been the first female Chartered Financial Consultant in the Quad City area. Her intelligence also was recognized when she tied for number one in the 1960 class of 705 Davenport High School graduates.

She dedicated her people, organizational and administrative skills in many volunteer roles at her church as well, including as a Sunday school teacher. Her ability to think things through to benefit the most people and make the best better

made her a sought after member for church decision-making groups. She always was thinking beyond herself, in life and with the legacy of bequests to three organizations (her church, a local cemetery association and 4-H), organizations that she said made a significant impact in her life.

For her campaign speech for Scott County 4-H office, she wrote,

*“Because I have been a 4-H member, I have had many wonderful experiences which I wouldn’t have had otherwise. I have gained many friends. By serving on committees, I have gained leadership qualities and learned to work with others. By giving talks and demonstrations, I have acquired more confidence in performing before others. Above all, I have learned a great deal about clothing, home furnishings, and food and nutrition practices that have been and will be very beneficial to me in the future.”*

Sylvia really believed in 4-H and wrote for her obituary, “She was active in the Scott County 4-H girls program in earlier years and a former 4-H leader of the Blue Grass Sunshine Workers Jr. girls club.”

Sylvia died April 9, 2005 at age 63. It was then that the Iowa 4-H Foundation learned of Sylvia’s legacy gift to 4-H – a bequest of

nearly \$150,000. (Sylvia’s 4-H leader of the Blue Grass Sunshine Workers, the late Marie Schlapkohl, also remembered 4-H by giving her Scott County farm to the Iowa 4-H Foundation in the 1980’s.)

This bequest to 4-H from the Sylvia Brandt Trust was the largest individual gift to the Iowa 4-H Foundation in 2005. In her generosity, Sylvia showed that she is relying on 4-H to use her gift to continue to make the best better.



## Inspired by Marie?

Sylvia Brandt is pictured at left giving a talk on “First Aid in Civil Defense” at a 4-H club meeting in the early 1960s. Sylvia’s 4-H club leader was Marie Schlapkohl (shown seated).

Marie and her two brothers, Henry and Eldred, lived and farmed together in rural Scott County. 4-H was so important to the Schlapkohl family, that their estate was bestowed to the Iowa 4-H Foundation upon Marie’s death. The Schlapkohl Endowment was established to provide for facility improvements at the 4-H Center, and annual income generated from the rent of the Schlapkohl’s farmland continues to benefit Iowa 4-H’ers today. The Schlapkohl’s legacy gift to 4-H is likely to have been the inspiration for Sylvia’s own gift.



## It Helps to Smile When You Dial

Iowa 4-H CallATHon Campaign Raises Record \$91,000

Sometimes it pays to try something new. This year the Iowa 4-H Foundation partnered with the Iowa State University Foundation Call Room to conduct its annual CallATHon campaign to raise money for special 4-H projects like camp renovations (see cover article) and for many ongoing 4-H youth activities that would not be possible without private donor support. ISU student callers were excited about the opportunity to help 4-H. And even though some callers had no 4-H background, they learned a lot about us through the process. Their technology and training helped us reach twice the number of donors and raise twice the number of dollars that we could have on our own. Big thanks go to all of our donors for answering the call to help Iowa 4-H'ers!

## Foundation Grants Help Launch New Programs

Dubuque County's E-Cubed Program Teaches Youth How to Take Care of Their World.

Ecology, Energy Management, Environmental Issues, and Education – Solid Waste Management comprised the four focus areas presented to Dubuque County sixth graders through a one-day experience called, *E-Cubed*. Led by ISU Extension in Dubuque County and five partnering agencies, more than 850 students participated in a variety of interactive sessions and an environmentally friendly lunch at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium and the Grand River Convention Center.

At the end of the day, students were asked what behaviors they were going to change as a result of what they learned. A majority indicated that they would remember

to turn off lights and other electrical devices when not in use. They also pledged to do a better job of reducing waste, reusing items, and recycling. Almost one-third of the participants were interested in joining a youth environmental club or group, and more than 200 folders and posters were created by the participants for display at the Dubuque County Fair.

Funding for the E-Cubed program was made possible in part by a grant from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship through the Iowa 4-H Foundation. Last year more than \$15,000 in grants were awarded to Iowa counties for programs that educate young people about agriculture and



*Dubuque County students used interactive displays in the state DNR Educational Trailer to learn about ways to handle solid waste.*

land stewardship. For more information on funding opportunities available through 4-H, visit our Web site at: [www.iowa4hfoundation.org](http://www.iowa4hfoundation.org).

## Iowa 4-H Golf Tournament Celebrates Tenth Year

Gary Thompson Makes Appearance as Celebrity Golfer, Supporters Honored

The Roland Rocket returned in a guest celebrity role when the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual *Going for the Green* 4-H Golf Benefit and Auction teed off July 17 at the Wakonda Club in Des Moines. The Rocket, Gary Thompson, is a well-know basketball legend in Iowa. Thompson led Roland High School to the state basketball championship in 1951 and continued his athletic success in college where he became Iowa State's first 1,000-point scorer. Golfers had the opportunity to meet Thompson and try to beat his tee shot on a par three hole to win a prize.

Twenty-nine teams participated in this year's outing to raise \$30,000 for Iowa 4-H youth programs. Participants competed for hole prizes and team awards. The day ended with an evening social and benefit auction. Thirteen companies and individuals received a 10-year recognition award for their decade of support. The 2006 event was sponsored by Iowa Farm Bureau, John Deere, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Successful Farming and Traditional Home.

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- DOROTHY HICKENBOTTOM**  
DVH Farm
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Joyce and Andreas Falkenberg  
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Marjorie and Leonard Jansas  
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## Great 4-H Gifts for the Whole Family!

See more products online at [www.iowa4hfoundation.org](http://www.iowa4hfoundation.org)

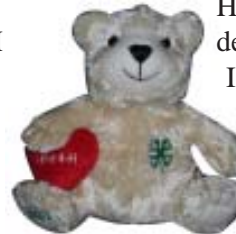


**Songs of the 4-H Clover**  
*Featuring the Chamber Singers of Iowa State conducted by the late Max Exner.* Here are eight songs to bring back some favorite 4-H memories. Originally recorded on LP Record in 1963 to “encourage singing in club meetings and other 4-H events,” *Songs of the 4-H Clover* captures the heart and history of 4-H with songs like *Dreaming, A Plowing Song,* and *4-H Chorale.* The CD includes song lyrics and historical notes.

\$12

## New! Pledge Bear Series

Keep the 4-H pledge close to mind with a brand new series of four Iowa 4-H plush bears. Clever and Cardio (representing Head and Heart) make their debut at the 2006 Iowa State Fair. Can-Do and Carbo (Hands and Health) will complete the set next year. Each bear’s hangtag is printed with its part of the 4-H pledge.



\$24



## 4-H Store Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Item		Amount
_____	<i>Songs of the 4-H Clover CD</i>	\$12	\$ _____
_____	<i>Clever and Cardio Bear Set</i> - Available by mail after Aug 20.	\$24	\$ _____
	<b>TOTAL</b>		\$ _____

Prices include shipping. Please allow 7-10 days for delivery. Make payment to: Iowa 4-H Foundation, Extension 4-H Youth Building, ISU, Ames IA 50011-3630

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## New! Iowa 4-H MemoryBook

Iowa 4-H now offers individually customized 4-H memory books for members, leaders and parents in cooperation with SharedBook Inc., a company that designs and prints books uniquely tailored to groups.

“We are delighted to offer SharedBook’s groundbreaking technology as a new and fun way for our members and their families to connect with each other and share their common interests,” said Albert Grunewald, associate director of the Iowa 4-H Foundation.

Created by SharedBook exclusively for 4-H, the Iowa 4-H MemoryBook template celebrates the organization’s activities. It includes 4-H history, fun facts, trivia and photos, with prompts for personal comments and stories.

Several members can choose to create a book together as well as add comments to each others books; family and friends can swap photographs; and volunteer leaders can permanently record activities,

highlights and competitions for themselves and their members.

Participants can build a 36-page book on SharedBook’s Web site, uploading photos with a simple point and click procedure. To learn more, visit the site online at [www.Iowa4H.SharedBook.com](http://www.Iowa4H.SharedBook.com) to take a tour and create your own softcover book for \$26.95. Up to 200 pages of personal photos and text can be added for an additional charge.

You can see a live 4-H MemoryBook demonstration at the Iowa State Fair (Aug. 10-20). Representatives from SharedBook Inc. will be on hand in the 4-H Exhibits Building to answer your questions and share samples of books created by Iowa 4-H’ers.



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## FourWord

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