

November 21, 2018

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.
— *Winston Churchill*

There aren't enough words to describe the significance of giving back. Even the simplest acts of benevolence are actually incredibly important. Service, in all shapes and forms, strengthens our communities, brings people together and provides us with valuable experience and insight.

The idea of service has been a cornerstone of 4-H for more than a century.

It's the Hands of 4-H. Giving. Working. Doing. It's an essential way for our 4-H members to explore their interests, show what they believe in, and define a possible career path.

It's the Heart of 4-H. Compassion. Generosity. Service. It's a way to discover where passions lie while undertaking projects that truly make a difference. These experiences instill a lifelong interest in giving back.

Now, more than ever, we need our young people to be ready to serve and to lead. To look around them and see where there is a need ... and then answer that need. 4-H is doing just that. 4-H is growing true leaders.

Mitchell is a 16-year-old high school student that looked around his community in southern Wisconsin and saw people were hungry. It made him sad. It made him angry. And it made him take action.

Mitchell learned in 4-H that he has a responsibility to other people. He learned how he can make connections that will answer a need. And he learned how to take action.

Born and raised on a small farm in Green County, Mitchell is part of an animal-loving family. So, it's no surprise that his 4-H projects include animal science and animal production. He has won awards and sold some good animals to other 4-H members. The money from those sales is used to grow his herd and to fund his college education.



But early in 2018 Mitchell realized that his pretty awesome life was not the same life that some other kids at school were leading. He noticed that not every student was able to participate in activities that came with a price tag. And, even more troubling, he noticed that some of his classmates were hungry.

More on next page ...

You may return this form with your check. Thank You!



Yes! I want to make a difference.

Please share your Wisconsin 4-H Affiliation (Alum, Volunteer, etc.):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

That's when Mitchell took action. Through his 4-H club and FFA chapter, he started learning more about food insecurity, poverty and homelessness. And he realized that these were not big-city problems; they were issues that every community faced. As he learned more, he knew he had to do something, so he devised a plan.

Fast forward a few months to a steamy day in July when Mitchell made a personal sacrifice to help others. He donated one of his pigs to the local food bank and convinced the local butcher to donate the meat processing. Like dominos falling, Mitchell set up a chain of events that led to more than 500 servings of meat going to people in need.

Mitchell isn't the only young person to take action.

Waylon, from Rock County, first planted pumpkins to raise funds to help find a cure for an all-too-common childhood cancer. He decided that he could do more, so he donated the sale of his county fair pig.

Waylon started the ball rolling, and the community took over. The pig was sold, then donated back for re-sale and sold again ... a total of four times. In the end, Waylon's act of compassion raised more than \$10,000 to help children battling a life-threatening illness.



Through 4-H kids like Mitchell and Waylon are learning about compassion and giving and helping others ... And they're not alone.



A 4-H club in Kenosha County purchased books and created an educational program for two elementary schools. A group of 4-H members from Columbia County raised and sold chickens to raise funds for local food pantries. A Dane County 4-H club maintains a community property.

At the Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference, nearly 400 youth learned about service projects and then put what they learned into practice. They made pillows used in emergency rooms to help children feel safe and strong. They filled backpacks with comfort items for foster children in need. They learned about their responsibility to their community. In just one day, they dedicated more than 750 hours to community service projects and took home ideas to do even more in their own hometowns.



4-H is teaching our children to not just aspire to make a living, but to aspire to make a difference. And they are. And they will.

We want to help 4-H members become active members of their community and have a lasting, positive impact on society at large. We want to help youth acquire life skills and knowledge, as well as provide a helping hand to those who need it most.

That's why I'm reaching out to you. We need you to help us do more to reach those young people who haven't had the opportunity to be a 4-H member. In every corner of the state there are kids who need 4-H. Young people hungry to learn, to serve, to grow. **If 4-H was important to you, now is the time for you to give back, just as Mitchell and Waylon have.**

With your help, we can reach more young people. We can help them to understand their roles and responsibilities. We can show them the power they have to change their club, their community, their country and their world.

Please be a positive force for our 4-H youth. Make your contribution today.

Living the Pledge,

Brenda Scheider
Executive Director

PS: You can make a difference in the life of a child! Your gift will provide hands-on, learn-by-doing opportunities that prepare our youth to be the leaders of tomorrow.

GROWING TRUE LEADERS

*This year the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation provided more than a quarter of a million dollars to support Wisconsin 4-H, mostly due to people like you, who made a commitment to sustain 4-H. Your gifts allowed youth from across the state to participate in development activities that strengthened their skills in areas like communication, teamwork, conflict resolution, decision-making and more ... skills that are increasingly important. **But there is so much more we can do.***

*I ask you to **join me now in supporting our youth by making a contribution** to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. Your tax-deductible gift will allow Wisconsin 4-H develop our youth and **Grow True Leaders.***



**LIVE THE PLEDGE
LEND A HAND**



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

