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Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

Over the last few years, you may have heard or read about how youth need “social-emotional” or “soft” skills to succeed in learning, school, work and life. More and more, the value of these skills - including confidence, self-control, caring, and problem solving – is being examined to understand how they are acquired, and where and how they are being taught.

Youth learn these skills in a variety of environments – at school, in youth programs and at home.

The Search Institute recently released a study called, “Don’t Forget the Families,” which highlights the power of family relationships as a critical, but often neglected, factor in developing these skills. A key finding is that parent-child relationships are 10 times more powerful than race, ethnicity, family composition, and family income in predicting whether children are developing these skills.

The Search Institute has created a useful booklet called “Bringing Developmental Relationships Home: Tips and Relationship Builders for Families,” with activities and tips that families can use to help youth develop these important skills and strengths: http://www.search-institute.org/downloadable/SearchInstitute-DontForgetFamilies-Activities-10-13-2015.pdf
I would encourage families to explore how you can help youth develop social emotional skills that will prepare them to succeed.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate dean and state 4-H director

Scholarships for College-Bound 4-H Youth

Are you entering college this fall? Did you know that each year the Minnesota 4-H Foundation awards over $20,000 in scholarships to college-bound 4-H'ers? Applications are due April 15. Visit the Minnesota 4-H Foundation website at http://z.umn.edu/sga to learn more. Direct questions to Erin Kelly-Collins at erinkc@umn.edu or 612-624-7667.

Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Awards: Due April 1

The Red Wagon Awards honor young people in grades 6 – 12 in Minnesota that have shown resilience and overcome obstacles to achieve academic gains, give back to their community and grow to become leaders among their peers.

In 2016, the Alliance will be honoring three Minnesota youth and one youth-led community service club, each nominated by caring adults, peers or partners in their local community. Each individual winner will receive a $500 education scholarship, and the winning youth service group will receive $500 to support the work of their group. Any young person or youth-led service group in grades 6 – 12 in Minnesota is eligible for nomination.

The nomination form is available online and the last day to make a nomination is April 1.

The award winners will be honored at the 2016 Alliance Fundraiser and Red Wagon Awards celebration event on June 23 at Macalester College. For nomination criteria and additional information about the Red Wagon Awards, visit https://mnyouth.net/work/red-wagon-awards/.
Youth Day at the Capitol with Minnesota 4-H!

Enrolled Minnesota 4-H members are invited to attend a Youth Day at the Capitol (YDAC) event with the Minnesota Alliance with Youth from 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 29**! The YDAC will provide both training and engagement opportunities for youth in grades 6 – 12 to participate in the legislative process. Screened volunteer chaperones will also be needed. The application is due **March 11**. Additional details are available at [http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/youth-day-at-the-capitol/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/youth-day-at-the-capitol/).

Presidential Inauguration Focus

Minnesota 4-H will be selecting a group of 50 youth from across the state to attend the 2017 presidential inauguration in January. The application material will be in mid-April, with selection occurring in May. This will be a competitive application process, and open to Minnesota 4-H members in grades 9 through one year past high school, as of January, 2017. More information is available at [http://z.umn.edu/cwfinauguration](http://z.umn.edu/cwfinauguration).

Food Revue

Congratulations to all of the Food Revue participants from Urban 4-H! It was great to see all of your meal preparation and menus.

**Hennepin County 4-H Food Revue results:**
Jr. Grand Champion: Emmeline Wang
Reserve Jr. Grand Champ: Samuel Sneesby
Honorable Mention: Zach Vandermeuse-Siteki

**Ramsey County 4-H Food Revue results:**
Sr. Grand Champion: Natalie Rath
Reserve Sr. Grand Champion: Kiera Burke
Jr. Grand Champion: Emilia Stave

Hennepin County Youth Leadership Foundation

The Hennepin County Youth Leadership Foundation is unique to Hennepin County. As a nonprofit organization we co-sponsor the Annual Awards Event, award scholarships to qualifying graduating seniors, give awards for 4-H records and monetarily support the Hennepin County Arts Alive program.

The Foundation cordially invites all Hennepin County 4-H leaders and members to attend the HCYL Foundation Annual Meeting, Thursday, April 14, at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 12235 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth, MN, 55441.

There will be a potluck supper at 6:15 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

We would also like to invite 4-H members to come and share their 4-H experiences with us either musically or a show-and-tell about your 4-H project experience. Any participants in the annual Showcase are welcome to come and perform as well.

In addition to a delicious supper, we invite you to become a member of our foundation. Yearly dues are $5 for adults; $1 for youth under age 18; and $50 for a life time membership. Your dues help sponsor our activities. Please contact Diane Radintz at dradintz@hotmail.com if you are able to come.

The Urban 4-H Youth Development 2014-2015 Annual Impact Report is out!

The Urban Youth Development Office, in partnership with 44 other youth-serving organizations, reached 1,134 youth living in Ramsey and Hennepin counties with quality out-of-school-time 4-H programs. We also
reached 393 adult volunteers, interns, partner staff, and others working in the fields of youth development and education through collaborative programming, training, and program support.

In the report, read about our efforts to help young people connect their learning to future possibilities, see highlights of Urban 4-H in the media, and learn about how Urban 4-H staff, and even some Urban 4-H youth, have contributed to the field of youth development. Also see why our young people are saying that 4-H is helping them strengthen their sense of generosity and responsibility, take ownership of their futures, gain confidence and self-awareness, and provide themselves and others with opportunities to belong.

On behalf of the rest of the Urban 4-H team, thank you for your role in this successful year of helping young people see their indelible potential as lifelong learners. You can access the report on our website:
http://z.umn.edu/13th

Ramsey County - Older Youth Scholarship Award

This scholarship was created to provide financial assistance to Ramsey County 4-H members interested in participating in a 4-H event or activity.

The recipients of the 2015 – 2016 Older Youth Scholarship Award may use the award towards registration fees for 4-H events and activities (i.e., 4-H Camp, youth leader retreats, State Fair, Arts-In). The amount of the award and the number of awards given will be determined each year based on the interest earned on the fund administered through the Minnesota 4-H Foundation.

Applications are due March 7. For more details check out the Urban 4-H website:
http://www3.extension.umn.edu/sites/default/files/download/Older%20Youth%20Scholarship_Award.pdf

Ramsey County - Paula Thomas Scholarship Award

Paula Thomas was an active Ramsey County 4-H member. She was active in many programs, particularly Arts-In. Following her untimely death, a donation was made to Ramsey County 4-H.

The Executive Council moved the funds into an interest bearing account so that the interest could be used as a scholarship award to be presented annually to an eligible 4-H member.

The Paula Thomas Scholarship Award will be presented each year to an active, well-rounded 4-H member between the ages of 11 and 13 to encourage participation in 4-H that will give him/her opportunities for positive growth and development as they did for Paula Thomas.

The recipients of the Paula Thomas Scholarship Award may use the award to pay registration fees to 4-H events and activities (i.e., 4-H Camp, youth leader retreats, State Fair, Arts-In). The amount of the award and the number of awards given will be determined each year based on the interest earned on the fund administered through the Minnesota 4-H Foundation.

Applications are due March 7. For more details check out the Urban 4-H website:
http://www3.extension.umn.edu/sites/default/files/download/Paula%20Thomas%20Scholarship_Award.pdf
Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU)

Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) is an exciting and fun leadership adventure. More than 400 youth from across Minnesota come together to learn and practice valuable leadership skills that they will use in their communities throughout their lives. This year, February 6 – 7, eighteen 4-H youth from Hennepin and Ramsey County attended the Central Region BLU. Youth learned about their leadership intelligence style and made friendships with youth from other counties. It was a great event!

Urban 4-H Youth Leadership Winter Retreat

Twenty-eight 4-H youth from Hennepin and Ramsey 4-H Clubs attended this year’s Urban 4-H Youth Leadership Winter Retreat. They learned about leadership through the lens of the decades and culture. It was an AMAZING time of skits, outdoors and connecting. Youth created friendships and learned leadership skills! Thank you county Ambassadors and the Ambassador Planning Committee for hosting such a great event.

Club Corner

Northern Lights 4-H Club Service Project

Mano a Mano is a non-profit based in St. Paul. They reduce waste here in Minnesota and ship much needed supplies to Bolivia. Much of this is accomplished through their “Soup & Sort” sessions. A meal is provided and then there is about 2 hours of sorting work. Thank you Northern Lights 4-H Club youth and families, who volunteered at Mano a Mano Monday, February 8. Because you volunteered, you have made this world a little better. A big shout out to the Cloverbuds for their work on the baby shampoo project. You did over 1,500 units! Also, a big “thank you” to Phina Smith for arranging this social service project. A lot was accomplished and there was an excellent turn out. Here are just a few of pictures from the event.
Youth as Assessors

Seven youth from Hennepin and Ramsey 4-H Clubs who trained on the Youth Program Quality Assessment tool have observed 4-H clubs all around the Twin Cities.

Upcoming Events

**Ramsey County 4-H Arts-In**

Are you interested in performing arts? Then you'll want to participate in our Arts-In musical production!

*About Arts-In*

Participants create a 30-minute musical production that includes singing, dancing, and acting. This performance is performed at the Ramsey County Fair and the Minnesota State Fair. Participants learn about all aspects of theater production as they collaboratively build the set, make costumes, and props.

*Participants*

Youth must have completed 7th grade by June 15. Participants do not need to be enrolled in a 4-H club to participate, but must enroll in 4-H at the time of registration.

*Registration*

The fee is $130 for active 4-H members (currently enrolled in a Ramsey County club) and $140 for non-4-H club members. Registration fee includes encampment expenses, insurance, supplies, some costumes, and staff support. **Registration deadline is May 2.**

To register and for more information and dates, visit [http://z.umn.edu/12uy](http://z.umn.edu/12uy).

**Urban 4-H Showcase**

It's time to start thinking about the Urban 4-H Showcase! Join other Urban 4-H clubs for this year's event: a day dedicated to sharing unique talents, presenting what you've accomplished in your 4-H club and celebrating 4-H achievements!

*When:* Saturday, April 16, 12:30 - 5:30 pm

*Where:* Jefferson Elementary School, 1200 West 26th Street, Minneapolis, MN

*What:*

**Performance**

Showcase your Share the Fun specialty act or musical performance! Clubs or groups can put together a six minute skit for Share the Fun. Share the Fun skits are the creative work of club members utilizing zany ideas, and can include song, dance and dramatic or comedic acting. Musical and specialty performances are to be three - five minutes long.

**Project Fair**

Project Fair, which includes Demonstrations, Illustrated Presentations and Videos, WILL NOT be hosted at this event. Hennepin and Ramsey County 4-H will provide an opportunity for youth at their county fairs or another summer 4-H event.

**State Fair Trips**

Hennepin and Ramsey Counties will be awarding State Fair trips at the Urban 4-H Showcase event.

*Registration*

[Registration form](http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/hennepin/4-h/article/urban-4-h-showcase-registration) is due March 16. Club leaders and interns are collecting registration information. Permission slips are required for youth not accompanied by a parent/guardian.

*Program Transportation*

Bus pick-up and drop-off locations are yet to be determined. Permission slips are also required for youth riding the bus.

For more information, visit [http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/hennepin/4-h/article/urban-4-h-showcase-registration](http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/hennepin/4-h/article/urban-4-h-showcase-registration).
Registrations can be emailed to Meg Clark, Hennepin County Extension, at hintz101@umn.edu or faxed to 612-466-9947.

Bay Lake 4-H Camp

Start making summer plans with us at Bay Lake 4-H Camp, August 1 – 5. Youth in grades 4 – 8 are invited to join us for a unique island adventure on Bay Lake at 4-H overnight camp.

This camp experience is sponsored by the Urban 4-H Youth Development Office and the University of Minnesota Extension. Campers from across the metro area enjoy a week filled with fun challenges, leadership and team building experiences, exciting hands-on activities, nightly campfires, and more!

Youth stay in cabins with trained high school counselors who lead activities throughout the week. Transportation to and from the Twin Cities is provided. Sign-up today! Registration and 4-H enrollment is due May 1.

For more information, visit http://z.umn.edu/12uv.

Performing Arts Workshop

Saturday, March 5, location TBD

Calling all theater enthusiasts! Come join us for a morning of fun activities that will give you a taste of Arts Alive. Registration information will be available soon. Don’t miss it!

Metro Art Force

Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Blaisdell YMCA, 3335 Blaisdell Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55408

What is Metro Art Force?

Metro Art Force is a special art program for youth artists and their families. At this hands-on art workshop, you’ll learn from expert local artists as you create new art, learn new techniques, and build your artistic skills. The classes are open to 4-H families and their friends, of any age, including adults. However, a parent/guardian must attend with Cloverbuds and younger members. Registration link: http://goo.gl/forms/a6lrcgUpKr

Cost of Metro Art Force is $15. For more information, please contact Nora Hagans at Elnora.hagans.032862@gmail.com.

Growing 4-H Opportunities Together: Volunteers in Vision and Action (GOT VIVA) Action Planning Meeting

We invite all youth, parents, and volunteers currently involved with 4-H to participate in the GOT VIVA Action Planning Meeting on Thursday, March 31 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Extension Office (The Barn), 2020 White Bear Avenue, Maplewood, MN, 55109.

We have done focus groups with community organizations, volunteers, youth, parents, and Urban 4-H interns to strengthen the volunteer system and structure to advance 4-H priorities and define the direction of our county 4-H program to fully contribute to the positive development of young people. The themes that were identified during these focus groups will be prioritized in early March by our Steering Committee. At the March 31 meeting, you will have an opportunity to hear these themes and help us address each priority area.

Even if you haven't participated in any of the focus groups, we encourage you to attend this meeting to learn about the information that was discussed. Please RSVP your plans to attend by contacting Alneida Madrigal at 612-624-7603 or malneida@umn.edu.
Calendar

MARCH

5    Performing Arts Workshop, Location TBD
5    Regional Project Bowl, Foley
7    Application Deadline for Ramsey County Older Youth Scholarship
7    Application Deadline for Ramsey County Paula Thomas Scholarship
9    Info Sessions/Group Interviews for Camp Counselor Positions, UROC, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
10   Info Sessions/Group Interviews for Camp Counselor Positions, Ramsey County Extension Office, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
11   Deadline for Youth Day at the Capitol Applications
12   Regional Project Bowl, Hastings
16   Registration Deadline for Urban 4-H Showcase
17-19 M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference, Fergus Falls
19   Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
19   Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls
19   Metro Art Force, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Blaisdell YMCA, Minneapolis
29   Youth Day at the Capitol
31   GOT VIVA Action Planning Meeting, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Ramsey County Extension Office

APRIL

1    Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Award Nomination Deadline
2    Regional Project Bowl, Snow Date
7    County Livestock PDC Training Webinar

8    Deadline to Register for Shooting Sports and Wildlife Leader Certification Training
9-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
14   HCYL Foundation Annual Meeting, 6:15 p.m. Potluck, 7 p.m. Meeting, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Plymouth
15   Minnesota 4-H Foundation College Scholarship Applications Due
16   State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids
16   Urban 4-H Showcase, 12:30 – 5:30 p.m., Jefferson Elementary School, Minneapolis
23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification Training, Mora and Worthington

MAY

1    Registration and Enrollment Deadline for Bay Lake 4-H Camps
2    Registration Deadline for Ramsey County Arts-In
15   Dairy Animal ID Deadline
15   2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge Registration Due

JUNE

16-19 Hennepin County Fair
23   2016 Alliance Fundraiser and Red Wagon Awards, Macalester College

JULY

2-9   Citizenship Washington Focus
13-17 Ramsey County Fair

AUGUST

1-5   Bay Lake 4-H Overnight Camp