

# MINNESOTA 4-H FOUNDATION

## Donor Update & Annual Report



MINNESOTA 4-H  
FOUNDATION

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
EXTENSION

FALL 2015



## 4-H is making an impact because of YOU!

Dear Friend of 4-H,

I am pleased to present to you our 2015 annual report. Because of your generosity, 4-H is making a strong and lasting impact on youth across our state. Thank you!

The 4-H Science of Agriculture program launched this last year, connecting youth with mentors and coaches to solve real-life agriculture issues in their communities.

Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors, in collaboration with supportive adults, provided leadership development experiences to 857 youth at five regional & state conferences.

70 State Arts-In participants built confidence and self-esteem while performing 40+ times over 12 days for thousands of State Fair attendees.

Scholarships were granted to 42 college-bound 4-H'ers and 30 grants were awarded to 4-H clubs, empowering their youth to do meaningful local community service projects.

Generous donors like you have supported amazing endowments this year to benefit critical 4-H programs. The John "Jack" Morris Livestock Judging Endowment will improve the quality and availability of Minnesota 4-H judging programs as well as fund innovative ways to recruit volunteers and increase youth participation. The Harlan Rosendahl Poultry Endowment will support youth participating in state and national poultry contests and provide training for 4-H poultry programs and projects.

Whether you give to our general fund or more specific programs and initiatives, your gift enables us to provide youth with opportunities to learn, lead and succeed.

You have made all this happen. Thank you. I look forward to seeing what impact your support of the Minnesota 4-H Foundation will have in the year to come!

Jane Johnson  
Interim Executive Director

## UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 20, 2016 - 4-H CELEBRATION  
OF AGRICULTURE

JUNE 20, 2016 - 18TH ANNUAL  
GOLF CLASSIC

TO RSVP CALL 612-625-7971



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## Your generosity created a place for my son to learn and grow

My son Aaron just finished being a Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador. He made new friends, led small groups, spoke in front of hundreds of people and traveled around the state without me as his chaperon. These activities may not sound that unusual for a teenage 4-H'er, but I never thought they would be a part of Aaron's story.



You see, Aaron has autism and it's impacted every area of his life from the time he was little. Although 4-H has always been a welcoming place for our family, I never would have thought that the highly social environment of the Ambassador program would be a good fit for him. Aaron thought differently.

"Mom, I want to apply to be a 4-H State Ambassador." I was surprised to hear these words from my youngest son. A few years ago when he attended BLU (an overnight leadership retreat hosted by the Ambassadors), he really struggled. He was overwhelmed by the number of people and activities. He never went back. Why now would he want to be an Ambassador? I figured the chance of him being selected was small, but saw the value in going through the application process. So, we helped him apply. And he was chosen.

I had my apprehensions about Aaron being an Ambassador. There were so many things to worry about. But looking back, I can say without hesitation that his experience was more and better than I ever could have hoped. Both staff and Aaron's fellow Ambassadors supported and encouraged him every step of the way. They acknowledged his weaknesses and challenged him to grow just like everybody else. While they accommodated his needs, he wasn't treated like anything other than a full and essential member of the team.

My son Aaron used to be an "in the background kind of guy." But thanks to his experience as a Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador, his confidence has soared. He's taken leadership in our local club and uses his newly-learned skills and tools to mentor our county 4-H robotics team members. I'm so proud of Aaron and am grateful for the role 4-H has played in his development.

-Norma Hill  
Itasca County 4-H



Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors learn group decision-making, communications, project management and leadership while developing life-long friendships. We support this program because it helps set their pathway for future studies, careers and service that yields results locally and globally.

-David and Valerie Pace

## Your gifts empowered Tyler to impact youth across Minnesota

Although Tyler Amick grew up on a poultry farm in Mower County, it wasn't easy for him to earn the title of Minnesota 4-H Poultry Prince, a contest that recognizes youth for their poultry knowledge, experience, leadership and confidence. In 2013, he placed first in the BBQ contest, and accumulated enough overall points to make it to the finals, but fell short of earning the top prize.



Tyler's initial failure didn't deter him; during the subsequent year he studied hard and participated in other competitions to prepare himself for a higher placing in 2014. And his hard work paid off. After competing in three qualifying rounds against a dozen other male contestants, he made it to the finals and eventually earned the title of 2014 Minnesota 4-H Poultry Prince.

Tyler's main responsibility during his year as Poultry Prince, along with Poultry Princess Hayley Carlson, was to serve as an ambassador for the Minnesota 4-H poultry program throughout the state. He did media appearances and interviews for radio, television and newspapers and attended events where Minnesota 4-H needed a knowledgeable youth presence to speak about the poultry industry. When avian influenza swept across our state last winter, causing the Animal Board of Health to ban all poultry from county and state fairs, Tyler was able to contribute meaningfully to Minnesota 4-H's response.

"Our task force's decisions impacted every single 4-H poultry project youth in Minnesota. If I hadn't earned the Poultry Prince title, I wouldn't have had that opportunity to contribute in such a wide-reaching way. The cape and crown were really fun, but this level of impact was really an honor and the best part of my job."

Gold 'n Plump, who sponsors this annual competition, provides a \$1,000 scholarship to each crowned Prince and Princess. Tyler was able to use that award to help cover tuition at Wartburg College where he is studying History and Education.



We give to the Poultry Prince and Princess Program to honor the achievements of young Minnesotans who are actively involved in our state's poultry industry and to foster and encourage agricultural education.

-GNP Company

## Thank you for helping me build self-confidence and leadership skills



My name is Emma Symanski, and this was my second year in State Arts-In, a 22 day intensive performing arts program that takes place during the Minnesota State Fair. My first year I was in the band and loved it, and this year I was a performer and loved it even more. State Arts-In is one of the main highlights of my summer. It is the one place where I can truly be who I am and enjoy the presence of every single person around me. If I had never participated in State Arts-In, I wouldn't have some of the skills I have now, such as leadership, teamwork, and a higher level of confidence.

The environment you're a part of in State Arts-In is truly something special that you can't find anywhere else. I've met so many new people and I have become closer with old friends. It is incredible how close you can get to someone in just 22 days. No matter what happens though after the state fair, these relationships are something I will cherish forever.

With the theme being 'Who I Am' this year, I've been forced to think about exactly where I fit into the world and what I truly think about myself. Finding my own identity has always been difficult for me, and by no means do I have it figured out now, but by being in this year's show I have come a little closer. If anything, State Arts-In is a part of who I am.

Because I was a part of State Arts-In, I will go through life with the goal of meeting and connecting with as many people as possible and I will try my best to leave a positive impact behind me wherever I go.

Minnesota 4-H has been very helpful to my family, especially State Arts-In. This program has affected and changed so many lives, including my nephew, who learned more about who he is and became comfortable in his own skin. That is why I give to Minnesota 4-H State Arts-In.

-Joleen Durken



## Minnesota 4-H Foundation Financial Summary Fiscal Year 2015

| <b>ASSETS</b>        | <b>2015</b>      | <b>2014</b>      | <b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>       | <b>2015</b>      | <b>2014</b>      |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Total Current Assets | 479,430          | 500,924          | Total Current Liabilities                 | 127,998          | 157,296          |
| Equipment            | 1,982            | 3,171            | Custodial Accounts                        | 2,616,178        | 2,464,153        |
| Promises to give     | 13,849           | 11,848           | Total Liabilities                         | 2,744,176        | 2,659,896        |
| Investments          | 9,428,317        | 8,666,379        | Total Net Assets                          | 7,192,544        | 6,548,282        |
| Annuity Trusts       | 13,142           | 25,856           | <b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b> | <b>9,936,720</b> | <b>9,208,178</b> |
| <b>Total Assets</b>  | <b>9,936,720</b> | <b>9,208,178</b> |   |                  |                  |

## Minnesota 4-H Foundation Statement of Activity Fiscal Year 2015

| <b>Support &amp; Revenue</b>                    | <b>2015</b>      | <b>2014</b>      | <b>Expenses</b>                        | <b>2015</b>      | <b>2014</b>      |
|---|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Total Contributions & In-Kind                   | 1,149,807        | 654,142          | Program Services - 4-H Activities      | 486,743          | 714,842          |
| Total Special Events (Net)                      | 59,210           | 66,160           | Management & General                   | 155,966          | 152,393          |
| Investment Income (Net)                         | 315,525          | 663,080          | Fundraising                            | 277,670          | 361,145          |
| Net unrealized gains (losses) on annuity trusts | (1,777)          | 1,596            | <b>Total Expenses</b>                  | <b>920,379</b>   | <b>1,228,380</b> |
| Fund Management Fees                            | 22,257           | 21,575           | <b>Change In Net Assets</b>            | <b>644,262</b>   | <b>190,783</b>   |
| Miscellaneous income                            | 19,619           | 14,610           | <b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b> | <b>6,548,282</b> | <b>6,357,499</b> |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue</b>                | <b>1,564,641</b> | <b>1,419,163</b> | <b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>       | <b>7,192,544</b> | <b>6,548,282</b> |



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
EXTENSION

Minnesota 4-H Foundation  
9 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Ave.  
Saint Paul, MN 55108

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Thanks to the 10 county fairs that hosted our alumni booth this summer! See more on Facebook or Twitter @MN4HGIVE!

