

impact

Invest in Wisconsin's 4-H Youth... Leaders of Tomorrow

impact



LeRoy Haeuser (L), President of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Board of Directors, is presented a check by Tom Thieding (R), of Rural Mutual Insurance Company.



Rural Mutual Insurance Company Becomes First "Silver Clover" State 4-H Sponsor

Rural Mutual Insurance Company recently donated \$5,000 to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, becoming the Foundation's first "Silver Clover" State 4-H Sponsor. The donation will support state 4-H programs in all project areas.

Rural Mutual Insurance Company was one of the earliest donors to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, with their first recorded gift made in 1957. In the past, they have provided both unrestricted support and sponsorship for the Wisconsin 4-H Mechanical Sciences program.

LeRoy Haeuser, Rural Mutual agent from Cedarburg, is President of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, and Tom Thieding, Director of Marketing Services for Rural Mutual Insurance Company, serves on the Board of Directors for the 4-H Foundation.

Rural Mutual, and its holding company, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, have continued to have an impact on 4-H programs and the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. Rural Mutual has sponsored the printing of Foundation materials, and the Farm Bureau is a major sponsor of the Foundation's golf outing, and a buyer at the Foundation's annual Governor's Sweepstakes Meat Products Auction fundraiser. They are also long-time sponsors of Wisconsin 4-H's most prestigious youth recognition, the 4-H Key Awards for outstanding leadership growth.

"The roots of our company are in rural communities," said Thieding, "so we recognize the value of the leadership that comes from youth being involved in 4-H programs, and we've seen how our communities and agriculture have benefited from 4-H."

The decision by Rural Mutual to be a Silver Clover State 4-H Sponsor was based on the company's commitment to youth programs that support and develop future community leaders and strong citizens.



Wisconsin 4-H
Foundation, Inc

The Foundation's PURPOSE is:
To enhance Wisconsin 4-H by investing in Wisconsin's 4-H Youth... Leaders of Tomorrow.

The Foundation's MISSION is:
Generate resources to invest in successful 4-H Youth Development programs.

The Foundation's VISION is:
The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, Inc. will be a dynamic leader in expanding statewide support for 4-H Youth Development.



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- Corallina Breuer named Leadership Scholarship Recipient
- CRI Helps "Make the Best Better"
- We Energies Supports 4-H Club Community Service
- New Members Join Foundation Board of Directors

Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Board of Directors 2008

LeRoy Haeuser, President

LeRoy C. Haeuser & Co. S.C.
Rural Insurance

Terri Dallas, Vice President

Cooperative Resources International

Ashley Viste, Secretary

Student, UW-Madison

Dean Peterson, DVM, Treasurer

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Susan Crane

We Energies

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State 4-H Youth Leader Council Rep.

Jim Harsdorf

Dairy producer & former WI Secretary
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Greg Schopen

Badgerland Financial

Tom Thieding

Rural Mutual Insurance Company

Glen Viste

Dominion

Jamie Wall

Askeaton Advisors

New Members Join the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Board of Directors



Seven new board members were added to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation's Board of Directors in January. The board of directors is responsible for raising and distributing funds to enhance and support Wisconsin 4-H programs throughout the state.

Glen Viste, a business systems specialist from Sturgeon Bay, was appointed to the board by the State 4-H Adult Leader Council. One of his main goals is to support the relationship between the Adult Leaders Council and the 4-H Foundation. "I would like to give to 4-H some of what it has given to my kids and other youth of the state."

Dennis Behr, from Madison, recently retired as Administrator of Engineering for Wisconsin Public Broadcasting. He has an interest in increasing youth's awareness and use of technology. His military and public broadcasting experience give him a strong interest in the field of technology.

Kari Klasen, of Milwaukee, first served on the 4-H Foundation Board as an active 4-H youth. She is currently in her first year as an attorney at Hall, Render, Killian, Heath and Lyman Inc. Klasen is connected with many young 4-H alumni and her main goals on the board are to implement new fundraising initiatives and to recruit new donors.

Jamie Wall, a business management consultant in Green Bay, was very active as a youth 4-Her. Wall has extensive experience in community relations as he co-founded a regional economic development association for northwest Wisconsin. He would like to specialize in making a proactive plan to improve the Foundation's financial footing.

Willie Larkin, of Madison, was recently appointed as Chief of Staff for the University of Wisconsin Colleges/University of Wisconsin-Extension. Larkin has a doctorate in agricultural education-extension, with a specialization in 4-H and youth development. He brings a strong 4-H background to his Wisconsin 4-H Foundation work.

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation also welcomed two State 4-H Youth Leader Council members to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Board of Directors. **Lauren Hanson** and **Nolan Lendved** will both serve one year appointments. The newly elected and appointed board members will help with fundraising events, recruit new donors, and provide strategic planning direction. The Foundation board meet four times a year and elected terms last three years.

Corallina Breuer Receives 4-H Leadership Scholarship

"It seems as if all my memorable life-shaping experiences have been somehow related to 4-H," described Corallina Breuer, eleven-year member of the Triangle Troopers 4-H club of Dane County and recipient of a 4-H Leadership Scholarship. "While trying (and failing) to walk my goat around the show ring at the Stoughton Fair while in fifth grade, I learned that although procrastination may give you more free time, it leads to less than stellar results." Corallina's experiences and accomplishments in 4-H go a lot further than the fair, though, taking her from a shy kid to a confident leader. (*Corallina continued on page 3*)

(Corallina continued from page 2)

Corallina has served her county as a 4-H Ambassador and a teacher for Cloverbud Day and Arts Discovery Day. At the state level, she has been a 4-H Press Team member, has organized statewide poultry activities, and has gone beyond Wisconsin to found the National Poultry Photography Contest. Perhaps one of the most notable contributions is the time she spends with other members to help them with their projects. As Corallina sees it, she uses her experiences “to guide and teach the younger members of the club so they will be able to teach the next round of youth 4-H members.”



Corallina attends Denison University in Granville, OH, where she is majoring in English in preparation for a career as a high school English teacher. With all the time she has given to teach other 4-H members, Corallina, not surprisingly, attributes her passion for teaching to her experience helping other members in the poultry project.

“Through 4-H, I have developed a love for my community and a passion for helping kids experience new opportunities, such as raising their own chickens or learning how to use a camera. I have grown up knowing it takes hard work and dedication to be successful and that it is a wonderful thing to have someone believe in you.”



4-H Photography Fund Update

Good News! Thanks to many generous donors, the new 4-H Photography Fund has met its matching gift deadline and now has a grand total of \$25,000 of pledged and received gifts. Work continues to reach the final goal of \$100,000. Special thanks to **Mike and Wendy Lougee** for their matching gift challenge. If you wish to contribute to the fund, please make your check out to the 4-H Photography Fund, and mail it to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, 428 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St, Madison, WI 53703.

Cooperative Resources International Helps “Make the Best Better”

Cooperative Resources International (CRI), headquartered in Shawano, WI, is a member-owned holding cooperative formed in 1993. It was the nation’s first direct link between a dairy herd improvement (DHI) organization and a provider of artificial insemination (A.I.). Today, CRI is comprised of AgSource Cooperative Services, Genex Cooperative, Inc., and Central Livestock Association, each of which leads a different sector of production agriculture.

As a generous annual supporter of Wisconsin 4-H programs, CRI has made a strong impact on the Animal Sciences activities for many years. Their support has helped to fund the Area Animal Science Days, launch the \$100,000 4-H Dairy Fund, and provide updated resource materials. Now CRI has committed to providing the 4-H Foundation all of our print materials needed for the year. This will help us to better spread the word about the great results of Wisconsin 4-H and to better develop new donor partnerships.

4-H has always been an important part of CRI. Many of the 1,500 employees of CRI were 4-H members and leaders. Most presented their first speech at a 4-H meeting and showed their first calf at the county fair. Many went on to be 4-H leaders, passing their love of 4-H on to the next generation. Wisconsin 4-H and CRI have had a long and valued partnership.



It’s not a coincidence that many of the CRI employees have 4-H backgrounds. 4-H has instilled many of the character traits that CRI looks for in employees such as leadership, integrity, and a strong work ethic.

CRI is pleased to have the chance to give back to 4-H by supporting local, state, and national 4-H programs. Four CRI employees - Tom Lyon, Doug Wilson, Steve Schnell, and Terri Dallas - have had the pleasure of serving on the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Board of Directors. CRI is proud of its ties to 4-H and pleased to do its share in “making the best better.”

Wisconsin 4-H Arts & Communication Program Evaluation Results

In 2006, the 4-H Arts and Communication Program had grown to enroll 19,000 individual Wisconsin youth in one or more arts and communication projects. 4-H offers over 80 projects distributed over three broad categories: visual arts, performing arts, and communications. State teams provide additional learning and leadership opportunities to youth from across the state. An evaluation survey was conducted to determine the program's effectiveness. Results of the survey showed that:

- Over 80% of survey respondents agree that 4-H participation increases skills in the practice of performing, visual, or communication arts.
- 77% feel comfortable helping less experienced people with projects and nearly as many are comfortable talking about their work with judges or critics.
- 74% say the program helps their self-esteem.



4-H Arts programs are popular with youth of all ages.

Uniqueness Of The 4-H Arts & Communication Program

The evaluation did find numerous and significant ways in which the 4-H Arts & Communication Program is different from arts and communications offered through schools, private lessons, church, and community organizations. Most notably, the 4-H Arts & Communication Program involves:

(Continued on sidebar at right)

Youth Develop Leadership and Skills Through Wisconsin 4-H Art Programs

With the establishment of the State 4-H Arts Camp in 1996 and 4-H Artbeat! in 2006, 4-H youth can become involved in sequentially planned leadership development in the arts all through their 4-H years. Arts project areas include curriculum appropriate for every age in a child's artistic development. Projects and club activities are supported by county wide workshops, festivals, camp programs, and the county fair.



4-H Artbeat!

In the spring of 2006, Wisconsin 4-H offered a new state-wide arts experience for younger 4-H members. Created for 4-H members in grades 3-5 and their parents and leaders, the 4-H Artbeat! weekend features a look at a variety of arts projects including music, drama, visual arts, arts and crafts, juggling and more! Session leaders are 4-H older youth, adult leaders and 4-H staff members with a wealth of experience to share.

Arts Camp

At middle school age, when youth are ready for new horizons, the State 4-H Arts Camp introduces them to a more in depth arts experience at the state level. They are immersed in the arts for two days with other 4-H youth interested in the arts. They are taught by older 4-H youth intensely interested in the arts and in 4-H. They begin the challenge of leadership by taking arts activities back to their clubs.

Arts Leadership Lab

Arts Leadership Lab is the next link in the year-round state programs offered to support the arts project areas. This leader training weekend provides new and emerging leaders (high school age and older) with an intensive experience in the art form of their choosing. Youth and adults work together to provide group and individual arts activities that the participants can do on their own and as leaders in club and county events. Two youth leaders help direct the overall program.

State Art Teams

The state teams offer significant youth-led events at the Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference. The teams provide members with unique creative experiences in group interactions, in individual skill development, and in leader training. Members work with trained professionals in near-professional circumstances to produce exceptional performance models for their 4-H peers. State Art Team members then lead activities at club, county, and state events.

- **Art Team** (10-15 youth) creates a large public art piece and plans the annual Youth Art Exhibit at the Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference. They provide exhibit tours, teach seminars, and train to be a peer leader for county and regional events. Art Team members also help design and implement the 4-H Exhibit at the Wisconsin State Fair.
- **Drama Company** provides an opportunity for youth to serve as theater ambassadors at the annual Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference and share their skills through performance and teaching seminars. There were 32 participants in 2007. Drama Company also performed over 24 performances at this year's Wisconsin State Fair.
- **Showcase Singers** is a renowned youth vocal group of about 30 youth that performs show choir music at the Wisconsin State Fair and Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference.

A Letter From the Family of Peter Talen

Peter Joseph Talen was a 13 year member of the Sheboygan County 4-H Program and the son of our Wisconsin 4-H Arts & Communication Specialist, Tim Talen. He died in a tragic house fire in Madison last November while visiting his brother Andy, a UW-Madison student. He was 23 years old.



Peter Talen as Harold Hill in the production of "The Music Man."

As a former UW-LaCrosse theatre student, Peter was remembered as a vibrant and talented young person who valued friends and family above all. He also was remembered as a gifted performer and musician who eagerly shared his love of the arts with the community.

As a memorial to Peter, the Peter Talen 4-H Arts Endowment Fund was established by the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation to support 4-H Arts Programs across the state. The programs would include all the state-wide efforts in the arts: 4-H ArtBeat!, 4-H Arts Camp, 4-H Arts Leadership Lab and the State Art Groups of 4-H Drama Company, 4-H Showcase Singers and the Art Team. The fund will also help to support the development of new 4-H arts opportunities and experiences.

4-H was a powerful influence on Peter. He was an active Cloverbud and member who participated in a wide range

of 4-H experiences for all of his 13 years including the Music and Drama Festival, Speaking and Demonstration Festivals, 4-H Camp, and Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference. He was a club officer for many years and received a merit award for his woodworking project at the Sheboygan County Fair. He also loved animals and showed his dog at the fair. He was founding member of the 4-H Juggling project in Sheboygan County and performed with his brother Andy for 4-H events, clubs, and schools.

More recently while a student at UW-LaCrosse, Peter worked with the local 4-H program as a judge and workshop leader. In 2006, Peter worked as a member of the Youth Expo Team, helping to stage the 4-H Music and Drama performances at the Wisconsin State Fair.

As a tribute to Peter it is our hope that the funds will help to provide 4-H arts and communication experiences and opportunities for a much wider audience. **To make a gift to the Peter Talen 4-H Arts Endowment Fund, send your check to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, 428 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St, Madison, WI 53703.**

We are grateful for your consideration.
Tim, Patty, Andy, Luke and Jenny Talen

Wisconsin 4-H Arts & Communication Program Evaluation Results (cont.)

- 1) new and different people than youth customarily interact with or know,
- 2) more choices and freedom in creativity and expression as compared to the requirements and structure of school programs,
- 3) a comfortable environment in which to explore, take risks, and develop one's creativity, self-confidence, and leadership, and
- 4) a focus on mastery, which encourages youth to pursue interests sparked in schools and families, while receiving feedback and sharing their skills with others.

The 4-H approach to positive youth development provides an important complement to family, school, and community-based institutions in helping achieve optimal outcomes for youth.

The value of the state 4-H experience was captured in one parent interview:

Drama team is the single most important thing that has impacted my son. It turned him into a leader in one year. This opportunity changed him from a shy, reserved kid to one who was outgoing and willing to speak up within a group setting. He developed the abilities to plan, implement, and teach a whole track at arts camp.



Andy and Peter Talen (left to right) show their juggling abilities.

To give to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation you can...

*Make a donation

\$_____ General 4-H

\$_____ Photo Fund

\$_____ Arts Fund

\$_____ Dairy Fund

\$_____ Program Materials

\$_____ Upham Woods

\$_____ RAE Fund

In honor/memory of

*Be a State 4-H Sponsor

\$1,000 Green Clover _____

\$2,500 Bronze Clover _____

\$5,000 Silver Clover _____

\$7,500 Gold Clover _____

*Make a Bequest _____

Name:

Address:

Thank you

Mail your donation to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, 428 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St, Madison, WI 53703.

4-H Clubs in 12 Different Counties Receive We Energies Community Service Grants

The We Energies Community Service Grants provide seed money and planning opportunities for 4-H youth to implement community service activities at the local level. The goals of the community service grants are to provide hands-on learning for youth, bring about community improvement, and promote partnerships with other local organizations. In addition to their 4-H community service sponsorships, We Energies also supports 4-H multicultural education for a total of \$10,000.

The design and implementation of each community activity is the responsibility of the young people, with the support of adult volunteers. Activities are selected for funding that have a lasting affect on the community, emphasize youth leadership, are practicable, and involve other organizations. Data shows that the communities view their youth more positively and that the youth are more apt to be positively involved in the future after the completion of a community service activity. The community service projects help to promote local teamwork with other organizations, helping to build a stronger, more collaborative community.



2008 We Energies Community Service Grant Recipients

- *Buffalo County Community Meal for Low-Income Families & Elderly*, Buffalo County 4-H Youth Leaders' Council (Buffalo County)
- *4-H Children's Garden Project*, Eastman Cloverleaf 4-H Club (Crawford County)
- *Steuben Park Project*, Steuben River Runners 4-H Club (Crawford County)
- *Community Service Lock-In*, Juneau Victorians 4-H Club (Dodge County)
- *Holiday Senior Dinner*, Lakeviewers 4-H Club (Door County)
- *Better Readers for a Better Future*, Cobb Busy Badgers 4-H Club (Iowa County)
- *"A Walk on the Wild Side" Blankets and Animals to Watertown Memorial Hospital*, Hubbleton Hustlers 4-H Club, (Jefferson County)
- *Bruemmer Park and Zoo "Needs"*, Bells of Luxemburg 4-H Club (Kewaunee County)
- *Fleece Blankets, Scarves, and Hats for AVAIL (shelter for abused women)*, Triple Progress 4-H Club (Langlade County)
- *Fairgrounds Face-Lift*, Hi-Los 4-H Club (Lincoln County)
- *4-H Engages Youth: Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute*, Lincoln County 4-H Ambassadors (Lincoln County)
- *Clear Lake Area Community Garden*, Little Falls Livewires 4-H Club (Polk County)
- *Make Everyday Earth Day!*, Northern Lights 4-H Club (Polk County)
- *Operation Get Messy*, Shooting Stars 4-H Club (Polk County)
- *For the Birds: Feeders and Houses for Welty Environmental Center*, Newark-Beloit 4-H Club (Rock County)
- *Village of Chaseburg Basketball Court "Fix-Up"*, Enterprise Eagles 4-H Club (Vernon County)
- *Re-Beautification of Esofea Park*, Vernon County 4-H Youth Ambassadors (Vernon County)

4-H Foundation Special Events Have a Special Purpose

Greg Schopen believes in working hard for 4-H. That's why he chairs the Special Events Committee which oversees and implements the main fundraising events of the 4-H Foundation.



*Greg Schopen
Foundation Special Events
Committee Chair*

Growing up in Jefferson County, Greg was an active 4-H member. His two sons continued the family tradition of 4-H involvement. In the late 1990's, he led the effort to do a one-time county-wide fundraising event. It raised \$40,000 which started the Jefferson County 4-H Endowment Fund. That experience, plus deep-seated roots with 4-H, led him to a board position with the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation.

The Foundation's mission is very clear to Greg – generate resources to invest in 4-H Youth Development programs. His philosophy is that these programs provide many "mainstream youth" with opportunities to participate, compete and receive recognition. Greg believes that in society today, rewards often go to the kids who

excel. Through a wide-range of programming, 4-H offers all youth chances to succeed that they otherwise might not experience.

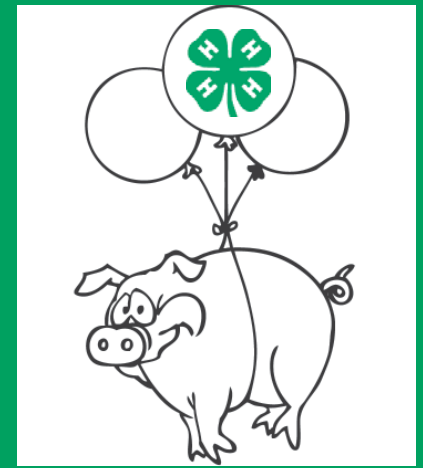
Greg believes that the 4-H Foundation's high visibility events, such as the annual Governor's Sweepstakes Meat Products Auction and the Golf Classics, are truly events with a purpose. They allow the Foundation to publicize its purpose and vision, as well as raise funds benefiting all the 4-H youth in Wisconsin. Repeated special events are hard work but well worth it. They showcase people support across the state – the people working on the events, the generosity of the many involved sponsors, and the youth as recipients.

The impact of these fundraising events goes far beyond the single day of their occurrence. 4-H youth benefit year-long from the funds raised by the Special Events Committee. Meantime, Greg expresses a strong appreciation to business and industry, particularly in rural communities, for their support of 4-H. His request is that they keep 4-H on the front burner as they do their action planning. The 4-H Foundation appreciates their support and would welcome even more. "All the support goes to a great cause."

Greg Schopen is completing his third year on the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Board. He has enjoyed a 29 year career with Farm Credit Services. Currently he is Vice President of Agribusiness & Rural Markets for Badgerland Farm Credit Services, now known as Badgerland Financial.



Invest in Wisconsin's 4-H Youth...Leaders of Tomorrow!



Take Home Wisconsin's Best at Meat Products Auction

Put Wisconsin's BEST on your table... you are invited to attend the 17th Annual Governor's Sweepstakes Meat Products Auction on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 and take home some of Wisconsin's finest meat products. It's an opportunity to "Invest in Wisconsin's 4-H Youth...Leaders of Tomorrow," as all proceeds from the auction support 4-H programs which serve more than 100,000 youth throughout our great state.

If you have attended previous auctions, you know the excitement and satisfaction that comes from supporting our 4-H youth. Join the fun and take home a champion product from the Wisconsin State Fair Meat Products Show, including ham, bacon, summer sausage, and other specialty meat items. We hope to see YOU at the 2008 Governor's Sweepstakes Meat Products Auction!

Sponsors of this year's auction include the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors, and the Wisconsin State Fair. Reception sponsors are Rupena's Fine Foods and National Farm Medicine Center, Marshfield Clinic. The Wisconsin State Fair Meat Products Show is supported by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Animal Sciences.

For more information on how to participate in the 17th Annual Governor's Sweepstakes Meat Products Auction, please contact Donna Faulkner at the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation at 608-262-1597 or donna.faulkner@uwex.edu.



University of Wisconsin-Extension
Wisconsin 4-H Foundation
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May 2008. Thank you to our article contributors including Emmalee Anderson, Terri Dallas, Debbi Schroeder, Ashley Viste, Tom Thieding, Tim Talen

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www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/foundation

Step Up and be impactful for 4-H...



For the first time ever, the 4-H Foundation will be offering two golf tournament fundraisers – come join the golf tour for 4-H! The 6th Annual Southern Golf Classic and Silent Auction as a fundraiser for Wisconsin 4-H will be held at the **Kettle Moraine Golf Club in Dousman on Monday, June 9**. And this year we are having a second Golf Classic and Silent Auction in the North on **Monday, June 23 at Kilkarney Hills Golf Club, River Falls**. The Southern 4-H Golf Classic and Silent Auction netted over \$13,000 for the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation in 2007.

The southern golf event in Dousman will include morning pastries and coffee as well as a grilled lunch. The northern event in River Falls will include a lunch and dinner with registration. Participate in both events, as a golfer for a reduced rate, or as a sponsor.

For more information on how you can be a sponsor or to register to golf, check our website at www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/foundation or contact Donna Faulkner at 608-262-1597 or donna.faulkner@uwex.edu.