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2013 Farm Credit Mid-America 4-H Community Service Project Report

Overview of Farm Credit Mid-America Community Service Projects

- Up to **$750.00** provided by Farm Credit Mid-America per project, to be matched by local contributions
- Planned and implemented by 4-H members with adult assistance
- Proposals approved for 2013: **13**
- Total contribution allocated by Farm Credit Mid-America: **$9,350.95**

Summary of 2013 Projects

- **$7,647.52** spent from Farm Credit Mid-America funds
- **$16,502.69** generated in matching funds, products, and services
- Total value of projects: **$24,150.21**
- **426** 4-H members
- **28** Farm Credit Mid-America employees
- **57** 4-H Volunteers
- Over **1,051** other community members (adult and youth) involved

Boone County 4-H Junior Leaders

Fight Emerald Ash Borer

NEED

- Replace ash trees before destroyed by emerald ash borer
- Create more shade for fairgrounds

ACTION

- 14 Junior Leaders, 3 4-H volunteers, 3 Farm Credit Mid-America employees, and 2 community youth purchased and planted 22 new, young trees on Boone County Fairgrounds

RESULT

- 11 new species of trees were introduced to the fairgrounds to replace ash trees at risk of being infected by emerald ash borer and increase aesthetic appeal of Boone County Fairgrounds
- Junior Leaders learned about properly digging a hole, mulching, and teamwork when planting the trees
- Junior Leaders on grant committee learned to write a grant and create a budget

"It might have been a little chilly, but it was worth it to now see these trees growing wonderfully on the grounds to help not just the grounds look good, but to fight the emerald ash borer."

- 4-H Jr. Leader

"I am so excited for the future years when I see those trees and remember who planted them and the fun we had working together." – 4-H Jr. Leader

Clay County 4-H Rabbit Club

Handicap Accessible Fairgrounds

NEED

- More handicap accessibility at the Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds

ACTION

- 16 4-H members, 5 4-H volunteers, 1 Farm Credit Mid-America employee, and 2 other community members planned for the installation of sidewalks to connect the show arena to handicap accessible bathrooms

RESULT

- 4-H members gained an appreciation for diversity and provided welcoming environments for all individuals
- More individuals were able to enjoy livestock shows and other events in the show arena

"It will make it so much easier for grandparents and parents to attend shows to support our 4-H members." – Adult Participant

"It will allow more people to come to the fairgrounds, since it is becoming more handicap accessible." – Community Member

Daviess County 4-H Junior Leaders

Raised Garden Bed for Head Start

NEED

- Opportunity for Head Start Program families to learn about the growth of plants and encourage healthy eating

ACTION

- 12 Junior Leaders, 3 4-H volunteers, and 2 Farm Credit Mid-America employees planned and built a raised garden bed for the families of the Daviess County Head Start Program

RESULT

- Junior Leaders learned to plan, execute, and achieve goals they had previously set
- Free, fresh produce was provided for Head Start families

"The families appreciated the garden because it provided them with fresh vegetables throughout the summer."

– Adult Participant

"[I] enjoyed being able to provide a garden to families who could benefit from what it produced." – Youth Participant

Dearborn County 4-H Junior Leaders

Container Gardens

NEED

- Ability for shut-ins, clients of food pantries, and Clearing House clients of Dearborn County to raise healthy food on their own

ACTION

- 13 Junior Leaders, 1 4-H volunteer, 4 Farm Credit Mid-America employees, and 2 other community adults collected orders, started, and delivered around 500 container gardens

RESULT

- Shut-ins, food pantry clients, and Clearing House clients of Dearborn County were able to grow their own nutritious food
- Junior Leaders learned about problem solving, service learning, keeping records, making healthy lifestyle choices, managing financial records, thinking critically, and valuing diversity

"The project was a great way to really get to help the people in our own community. It really was an eye opener to all the people that need help."
– Youth Participant

"I really enjoyed helping support the community with this project – how gratifying to see people excited about growing their own food!"
– Farm Credit Employee

Floyd County 4-H Junior Leaders

Pizza Garden School Program

NEED

- Understanding of where food comes from and how plants are grown

ACTION

- 13 Junior Leaders, 3 4-H volunteers, 2 Farm Credit Mid-America employees, and 1 other community adult led 29 urban youth in a 9 week program introducing students to "The Pizza Plant," how all of our food is connected to plants
- Planted and cared for 6 container "pizza gardens" (tomatoes, herbs, onions, peppers)

RESULT

- Junior Leaders learned to develop and teach lesson plans and about service learning
- Junior Leaders gained many leadership and communication skills
- The program increased the youth's ability to identify good nutrition by 52% and increased their gardening knowledge by 48%

"I learned how to plant vegetables!" – Youth Participant

"It is amazing the patience [the 4-Her's] had with the kids and awesome that [they] were all willing to work with them." – Farm Credit Employee

Center Super Stars 4-H Club

Handicap Accessible Fairgrounds

NEED

- Handicap accessible entrance to the Howard County L.E.A.D. Center

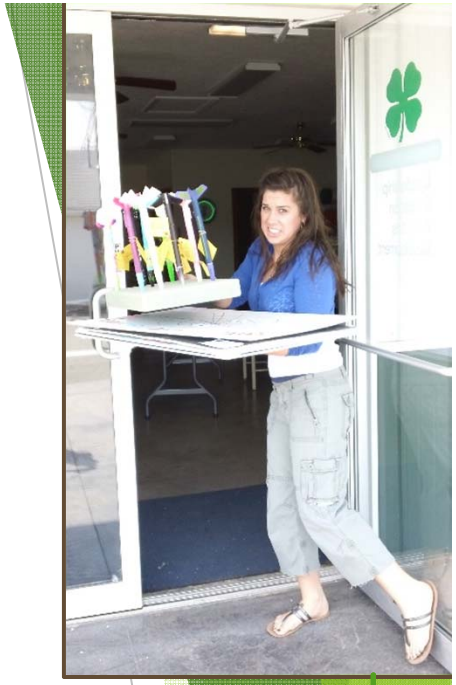
ACTION

- 30 4-H members, 5 4-H volunteers, 8 Farm Credit Mid-America employees, and 4 other community adults obtained a handicap accessible door for the L.E.A.D. Center on the Howard County Fairgrounds.

RESULT

- Junior Leaders learned the importance of thinking of others and their needs above their own
- Junior Leaders gained both written and verbal communication skills
- Less time and more convenient facility move in
- Increase in the number of handicap and elderly individuals who accessed the building during the 2013 Howard County 4-H Fair

"This project has provided a young 4-H member with more confidence in both written and oral communication, the ability to learn by serving and that understanding that no matter your age, you can still be a leader. Moreover, other 4-H members in the county have realized that they can make a difference for others through 4-H and other organizations no matter their age. Liesl has provided leadership through doing." - Extension Educator



Jennings County 4-H Junior Leaders

Roof Installation

NEED

- New roof for the 4-H Junior Leader Food Stand at the Jennings County 4-H Fairgrounds

ACTION

- 22 Junior Leaders, 5 4-H volunteers, 1 Farm Credit Mid-America employee, and 3 other community volunteers replaced the roof on the 4-H Junior Leader Food Stand at the Jennings County Fairgrounds

RESULT

- Junior Leaders learned about scheduling, safety, teamwork, and patience
- The food stand is now more sustainable and does not leak

"This is a neat idea for the youth to work on a project like this." – Farm Credit Mid-America Employee

"I've overcome my fear of heights!" – Youth Participant

"As a fair board member it's a great improvement to the fairgrounds." –Jennings County 4-H Fair Board Member

Marshall County 4-H Junior Leaders

Family Friendlier Fairgrounds

NEED

- Seating for visitors to eat
- Wheelchair and stroller accessibility

ACTION

- 42 Junior Leaders and 3 4-H volunteers bought and assembled 2 picnic tables and built an access ramp for the Open Class building on the Marshall County 4-H Fairgrounds

RESULT

- Increased wheelchair, stroller, and elderly accessibility
- Increased fairgrounds safety
- Increased eating space for visitors
- Junior Leaders learned time management and developed leadership and perseverance skills

"I believe our project is something that can be used for years to come. Especially the ramps will become very handy for fairgoers!! I learned a lot from this project and had a lot of fun!"
– Youth Participant

Morgan County 4-H Junior Leaders

Sock Hop Sock Drive

NEED

- Clothing supplies for school children

ACTION

- 49 Junior Leaders, 7 4-H volunteers, 3 Farm Credit Mid-America employees, and 7 other community members held a sock hop sock drive to collect donations of socks and underwear and distributed the items to local schools

RESULT

- $326.00 cash donations were collected
- 750 pairs of socks and 174 pairs of underwear were collected and distributed to 15 elementary schools
- Junior Leaders learned time management, organization skills, and compassion for the less fortunate

"Their involvement in the community shows the people that 4-H wants to help."
– Community Member

"When we all help together it makes me want to help the community more."
– Youth Participant

Blue Ribbon 4-H Club

Feed our Lambs Backpack Program

NEED

- Food and school supplies to fill backpacks to feed and entertain kids over the weekend breaks from school

ACTION

- 31 4-H members, 4 4-H volunteers, 1 Farm Credit Mid-America employee, and 27 other community members purchased, collected, and donated food items and school supplies for the Feed our Lambs Backpack Program and then filled backpacks with the items to be distributed to kids in the school system on Fridays

RESULT

- Filled over 300 backpacks to be distributed to kids
- Donated over $1,500.00 of food and school supplies

"I think this is a great program! I had no idea there was such a need in our community."
– Adult Participant

"It was fun helping other people."
– Youth Participant

Shelby County 4-H Advisory Council

Shelby County Fairground Park Benches

NEED

- Replace park benches that were destroyed by an act of arson

ACTION

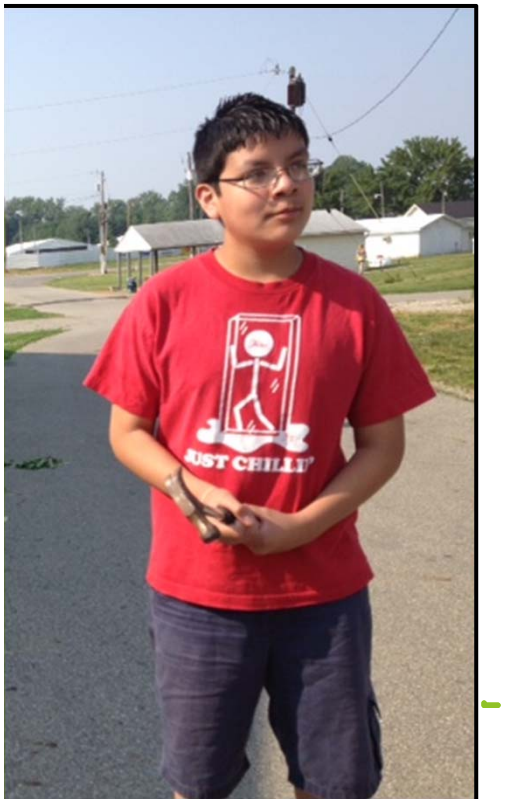
- 120 4-H members, 15 4-H volunteers, and over 1,000 other community members raised funds to purchase and assembled 20 park benches for the Shelby County Fairgrounds

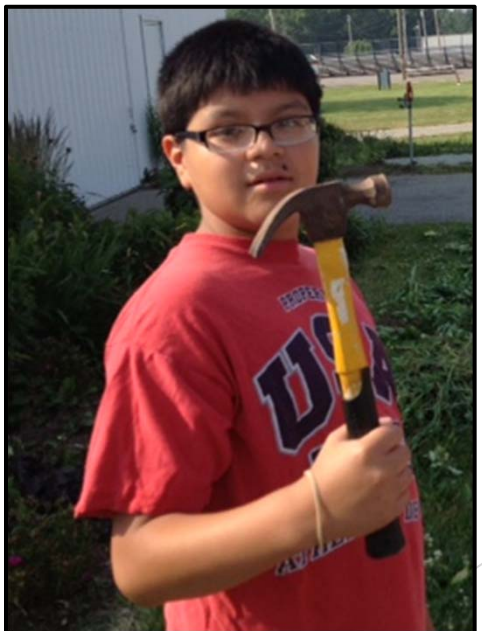
RESULT

- 20 park benches were built, 13 more than the goal
- Creating common ground and teamwork amongst a community
- 4-H members learned about budgeting, empathy, and community service

"It was fun putting the benches together."
– Youth Participant

"Wow, these are for us to use?"
– Community Member





Washington County 4-H Junior Leaders

Backpacks for Head Start Preschool

NEED

- School supplies for preschoolers in the Head Start Program in Washington County

ACTION

- 25 Junior Leaders, and 1 Farm Credit Mid-America employee purchased and collected donations of backpacks, books, and school supplies, filled the backpacks, and delivered and distributed them

RESULT

- Filled 72 backpacks, one for every child in the program plus a few extra
- Junior Leaders learned to be more understanding of people's backgrounds and financial status in order to help prevent bullying and judgment

"You have no idea how much this is going to help the children and their families." – Community Member

"I'm glad we are able to do this for the kids that really need it." – Youth Participant

Etna Troy Willing Hearts

Women's Shelter Garden

NEED

- Access to fresh produce for The Lighthouse Women's Shelter

ACTION

- 10 4-H members, 3 4-H volunteers, 2 Farm Credit Mid-America employees, and 3 other community members planted a community garden at The Lighthouse Women's Shelter

RESULT

- Free, fresh produce was provided to The Lighthouse Women's Shelter
- Provided a means to encourage responsibility, teamwork, and hard work for the women at The Lighthouse
- 4-H members developed communication, planning, and teamwork skills

"What a great opportunity for our young leaders of tomorrow to learn about all aspects of community living."

– Adult Participant

Thank you Farm Credit Mid-America for making these community service projects a reality!

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