



4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.



**Liz Searle**

***“I’m really thrilled to be getting back to my roots by getting involved with 4-H through the Foundation,” Liz said. “I’m excited to be raising money that will help young people today have a great 4-H experience like I had. “***

### Foundation Welcomes New Director of Development

The NYS 4-H Foundation is pleased to welcome Liz Searle as its new Director of Development. This is a new position for the Foundation and Liz is charged with creating a comprehensive fund development program focused on increasing the funding available to support 4-H initiatives across New York.

Liz is a 4-H alumna who loves 4-H. She grew up on a dairy farm in Livingston County and participated in 4-H at the local, county and state levels. She has more than 20 years of experience in fund development and public relations in the non-profit sector.

Liz will be spreading the word about the Foundation so that more 4-H enthusiasts are aware of how they can support this worthy cause. She will be building relationships with corporations and foundations whose missions align with the Foundation’s to explore how they can enhance 4-H in New York. She will be introducing more ways for individuals to show their commitment to 4-H youth development.

Since its beginning, the Foundation has been able to do a great deal to further 4-H in New York State. Currently the Foundation is funding programs that give young people important lessons and hands-on experience in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET), healthy living, and citizenship. The Foundation also awards several scholarships each year to outstanding 4-H’ers going on to college. Finally, the Foundation also partners with the NYS 4-H Youth Development Office to help fund state-wide efforts.

“Members of the Foundation Board are proud of what we have been able to do to support 4-H across the state, but we are eager to do even more,” said Tom Facer, chairman of the Foundation Board of Trustees. “We’re confident that Liz’s leadership, combined with her enthusiasm for 4-H and the support of the 4-H community, will make it possible for us to do just that.”

Liz can be reached at [esearle@nys4hfoundation.org](mailto:esearle@nys4hfoundation.org) or 315-350-1531.

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## 2010 National 4-H Hall of Fame Inductee:

### Ellen Elliot

Ellen P. Elliott, member of the NYS 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees and Immediate Past President of the Board, was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame on October 8, 2010 for her lifetime achievements and contributions to 4-H. Honored by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA), Ellen was one of 16 people inducted during the ceremony held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center.

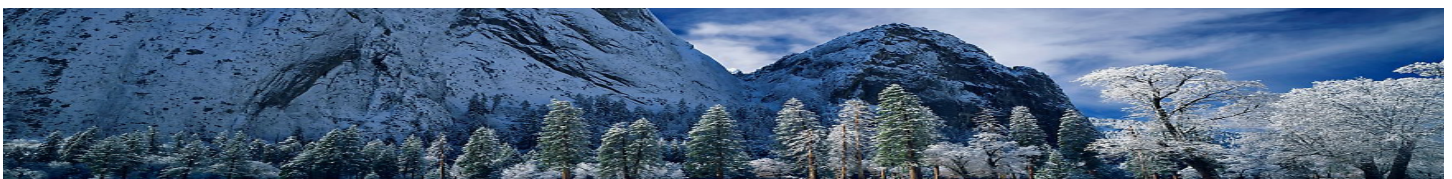
The nomination for this honor in part states:

*“After ten years as a 4-H member in Champaign County, Illinois and graduation from Cornell University, Ellen began her 38 year career with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Albany County as a 4-H professional. From there she moved to Schenectady County as Executive Director. Over the years she developed collaborations resulting in numerous youth programs including horticulture job training, AmeriCorps literacy education for elementary students, family rooms in schools and an independent living skills program for youth in foster care. These relationships, collaborations, and programs brought distinction to the 4-H youth development program. During this entire time Ellen demonstrated exceptional leadership at the local, state, national, and international level. In every position and program she was always the teacher and mentor.”*

*“Ellen served as National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) President in 1980 and was on the board from 1974-1981, a period of significant growth for the Association. In 1980, membership exceeded 3,000 for the first time and many new state associations were organized. She led the board in the creation of the first ever ‘Definition of the 4-H Professional’ and worked with a contractor to conduct the ‘Image of the 4-H Professional’ study which led to the first version of ‘4hprk.’ During this time the association was also evaluated by The American Society of Association Executives which provided 11 recommendations that helped guide the development of NAE4-HA. Ellen also chaired the 1994 NAE4-HA Conference in Niagara Falls.”*

As a member of the New York State 4-H Foundation, Ellen has provided strong leadership that resulted in the development of a Strategic Plan for the Foundation and new organizational governance policies that have greatly strengthened the organization during a period of transition. We congratulate her for this very prestigious recognition and thank her for her lifetime contributions to 4-H.

The National 4-H Hall of Fame was established in 2002 as part of the Centennial Project of the NAE4-HA, and partners with National 4-H Council and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA. It is located on the internet at [www.nae4ha.com/hof/](http://www.nae4ha.com/hof/)



## My 4-H Story: Carol Stuyvesant

By: Emmaline Long

I have heard it said that 4-H is something you never outgrow. This is especially true for Carol Stuyvesant who was a charter member of the first 4-H club in her hometown of Rockville Centre in Nassau County in 1954. The name of that first club was “The Little Owls” under the leadership of Mildred Scott and Christie Heiberg.

Carol’s 4-H experience was not focused on animal science or agriculture, but included projects in sewing, community service, cooking, and crafts. Carol participated in local, county and district demonstrations and dress revues. She won trips to Cornell University for a New York 4-H Congress and a Citizenship trip to Washington, D.C.

It was her involvement in 4-H that led to her career choice in home economics education. She acquired a Bachelor of Science degree from Plattsburgh State University and a Master of Arts degree in home economics education from NYU in New York City. Carol worked her way through college, and after a dietetic internship in Boston, she worked in Boston and Philadelphia

Since Carol learned to sew in 4-H she has never stopped. A move to Florida in 2002 gave Carol an opportunity to participate in the Palm Beach County 4-H program. As learned in her own 4-H career, she continues to demonstrate, sew, teach and judge 4-H work.

When Florida celebrated its centennial last year, Carol was asked to attend the 4-H Florida Congress in Gainesville for several reasons: to bring her original pin-stripe uniform to be modeled by a younger 4-H member; to make a video demonstrating how to make the 4-H hat for which she redesigned the pattern and instructions; and to help judge illustrated talks.

Carol is highly recognized for her sewing skills. While living in California, she and her husband, John D.L. Johnson, designed and created a full set of banners for a Lutheran Church. In Florida, she learned to make quilts for charity using instructions provided by Lutheran World Relief and, more recently, has made quilts for Lutheran Services of Florida. Recently, Carol enabled a resident of the youth shelter to get the funds to hold a place for him at Flagler College in Florida, and she is providing him with a quilt with his favorite colors and linens for his college dorm room. Currently, Carol is working on quilts to provide one for each of the twenty beds in the youth shelter.

After joining 4-H 56 years ago, 4-H still plays an integral role in Carol’s life. Asked what she learned from her 4-H experience, she simply states that 4-H is her life. She has a passion for the mission of 4-H, and she holds deep in her heart the meaning of the 4-H pledge, which hangs in the sewing room of her home: “for my club, my community, my country and the world.”

Right: Carol’s Quilts on Display;  
Far Right: Carol and her Palm Beach County 4-H Sewing Student, Hanna Quinn



## New York State Youth Spotlight: Taylor Brown, Cayuga County

If you ask Taylor Brown, a senior in high school and an 8-year 4-H member of Cayuga County Cornell Cooperative Extension “Why 4-H?” she will tell you, “the opportunities are endless and the people you meet are amazing”. Taylor became involved in 4-H when her stepmom, a Wyoming County 4-H Alumni, became a club leader. As part of her 4-H club, Taylor has had the opportunity to participate in numerous project areas from food to fiber. The diversity of projects has included rabbits, arts and crafts, photography, woodworking, sewing, cooking, baking, and shooting sports. Each of these areas offers the chance for hands-on learning and skill development, but 4-H is not just about the skills you learn, it is also the people you meet.

Through her many years of 4-H Taylor has had the opportunities to participate in the State 4-H Public Speaking Contest at Cornell University and The STARR Program along with being a teen assistant in the Youth Building at the NYS Fair and a teen leader for her club and county. And through all her involvement she has received award scholarships to travel to Albany and Washington D.C. to learn more about our government and community action.

From the young 4-H member to the leader she has become today, Taylor attributes the leadership and communication skills she has learned to 4-H. “I have learned great people and public speaking skills and because of these skills that I’ve learned in 4-H, I am able to use them in school and everyday life” says Taylor. In school she puts her leadership, people, and communication skills to work as a member of National Honor Society, student government, and being president of her school’s debate club. In her community she makes it a priority to meet and be active with people and organizations within her town.

According to Taylor, “4-H and the people I have met because of this opportunity have shaped me to who I am. I think 4-H helps bring a community and people together...you can meet so many people in your county, across the region and across the State that make up the 4-H family....and 4-H people care about each other.”



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## Your 2011 New Year Gift Guide

If you need a gift idea for the people who have everything, consider making a gift to the New York State 4-H Foundation in their honor. This is a thoughtful and meaningful gift, particularly for those who are interested in providing young people with the tools they need to be healthy, confident, contributing adults. While the amount of your gift will remain confidential, the Foundation will notify the honoree of your gift and you receive the tax benefit. For more information, contact the Foundation Office at 315-350-1531 or [esearle@nys4hfoundation.org](mailto:esearle@nys4hfoundation.org). You can also make a gift via the Foundation website at [www.nys4hfoundation.org](http://www.nys4hfoundation.org).



# news

## New York State Fair Drawing Winners

This year at the New York State Fair, more than 100 people filled out cards that entered them in drawings for dinner certificates and also got them connected to 4-H. Congratulations to our drawing winners, Barb Gokey and Donald Shilling. Thank you to our generous sponsors, Applebee's and Texas Road House for donating gift certificates.

## 2011 Scholarship Deadline

For those 4-H members interested in applying for a scholarship through the NYS 4-H Foundation, please note that the deadline for applications is **February 15, 2011**. The application form and other information can be found on our website at [www.nys4hfoundation.org](http://www.nys4hfoundation.org).



## 2011 Golf Tournament Date Announced

Save the date for the annual NYS 4-H Foundation Golf Tournament to be held on **Friday, June 3, 2011** in Ithaca, New York. If you want to receive registration materials contact the Foundation office, or keep an eye on our website.



## NYS 4-H Foundation Grant-Funded Program Uses Marshmallows, Ladybugs and More to Get Youth Excited about Science, Engineering and Technology

A county program that the NYS 4-H Foundation funded in 2009 was completed in mid-2010 with some great results.

Schenectady County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) received a \$5,000 grant to fund their “Ready, SET, Go! Kits.” The program was directly aligned with the 4-H SET (Science, Engineering and Technology) focus that is aimed at improving science literacy and aptitude among America’s youth.

Schenectady County Educators developed ten SET kits that included a total of 31 lessons for youngsters from pre-k through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The kit topics included aluminum boats, biofuels, birds, butterflies, honeybees, ladybugs, marshmallow bridge building, backyard wildlife, trees, and recycling.

Kits included lesson plans, enough project materials for one class to complete the activity, a list of the New York State Learning Standards met by the lesson, and a list of CCE activities. They provided adults with the background information necessary to engage students in research-based SET projects that use scientific methods and support 4-H SET goals. The kits were then made available for use in classrooms, after school programs, 4-H club meetings and events.

In the first year of the program, 367 youth were educated using lessons from the kits. In addition, 42 teachers and 15 graduate students used the kits. The kits that were piloted during the grant period rated high in age-appropriateness and content. Several teachers noted that, prior to the using the kit lessons, they had limited knowledge of the subject matter. As a result of using the kits, their knowledge and comfort level of the subject matter increased.

Teachers that participated in the local 4-H Environmental Education Field Days highly rated the Backyard Wildlife Kit. One teacher stated, “Children had the opportunity to view and touch real animal furs and skulls and understand the importance of these animals in our environment and food chain.”

In the course of the project, staff made a connection with a local school district where the Science Department is incorporating the lessons into the district’s curricula.

This grant-funded program demonstrates how 4-H can maximize its strengths of a non-formal education process with a hands-on approach supported by strong youth/adult partnerships in order to reach our national 4-H goal of preparing one million new young people to excel in science, engineering and technology.

*Ready, Set, Go Kit  
Materials (L) and  
Students Engaged in the  
Project (R).*

