



# The New York State 4-H Foundation Newsletter

Winter 2012

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

## Foundation Grants Make New Programs Possible

Contributions from donors across New York make it possible for the NYS 4-H Foundation to support new county and state 4-H programs through grants. Last year the Foundation awarded three grants that all happen to be related to the 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) program.

These programs covered a range of science from the magic of bubbles, to experiencing renewable energy is produce, and exploring remote sensing. Regardless of the exact nature of the science, all the programs work to get youth engaged in and excited about learning science.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Genesee County** received a \$12,255 grant for its “4-H Sustainable Energy, Get Up and GO” program. Funds were used to purchase renewable energy “Labs,” which gave youth and leaders the chance to learn about the sources of renewable energy, and see how it is generated and converted into usable power by creating energy from solar, wind and bio fuel sources on a small scale. The grant also provided for the creation of curriculum and training on sustainable energy. The labs travelled throughout the state last year to the NY State Fair, county fairs, special events, youth programs and more, exposing thousands of people to the exciting experience of creating renewable energy.

**The Institute for Resource Information Sciences (IRIS) and the NYS 4-H Geospatial Sciences Program** received a \$8,700 grant for its “Learning from a Distance – Seeing New York from a New Perspective” program. This project has harnessed the expertise of both NASA and Pictometry, Inc., an industry leader in the collection of geo-referenced oblique aerial images, to give 4-H youth and leaders the opportunity to learn about and experience remote sensing technology and how it can be used to study our world.

Remote sensing technology can help youth understand the

history of a location and also identify, assess and even solve environmental, economic development, and transportation issues. The grant is being used to help develop new curriculum and train 4-H educators across New York in this exciting use of science.



A young program participant explores the science around the “Magic of Bubbles” as part of Columbia Green’s grant program.

**CCE of Columbia and Greene Counties** received a \$5,873 grant for their “New Model for 4-H SET Program Delivery.” These counties experience a very high demand for 4-H SET programs from a variety of youth providers, inside and outside of the 4-H program. In addition, there has been a significant pool of skilled educators who are under-employed or unemployed in this region. This program used this supply of educators to help meet the demand for 4-H science-based instruction.

The program recruited 11 educators and trained them in the specific SET curriculum. This pool of “4-H Educational Consultants” then brought the

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## Foundation Grants Make New Programs Possible (continued)

expertise of 4-H Science programs to settings outside of 4-H such as afterschool programs, libraries, youth centers and summer recreation programs. As a result, the number of youth who experienced science programs last year increased more than five-fold. A dramatic growth that allowed youth in underserved areas to gain valuable exposure to science, engineering and technology experiences.

Thank you to our donors who make possible these types of innovative programs and the introduction of new and exciting areas of study for 4-H youth.

### New Grants Awarded for 2012

Three more Foundation grants have been awarded for

2012. Again, the Foundation is able to offer these grants because of the generous support of our donors.

Grant recipients are:

**Putnam County CCE** receiving \$9,184 for its “4-H Lego Robotics Afterschool Engineers” program

**Oneida County CCE** receiving \$3,500 for its “Awesome Equine 101” program

**Wyoming County CCE** receiving \$6,060 for its “4-H Camp Wyomoco Dairy STEM Camp” program

The Foundation is looking forward to learning how these programs impact 4-H’ers across the state in 2012 and sharing that information with our donors.

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## 4-H Flood Relief Fundraising Campaign

Individuals, families and businesses across New York are still recovering from the damaging floods that occurred as a result of Tropical Storms Irene and Lee.

4-H’ers and 4-H programs are also facing a long recovery. Some county programs need to make capital repairs to buildings. Some 4-H’ers need help replacing lost animals, equipment and supplies.

It’s not too late to support the flood relief campaign. Details and giving information are available on the Foundation website at [www.nys4hfoundation.org](http://www.nys4hfoundation.org), or by calling the foundation at 315-702-8242.

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### Paper Clover Contributions Raised More than \$43K In New York

It is such an easy thing to do...simply pay a dollar for a “Paper Clover” when checking out of your local Tractor Supply Store. That simple step, however, makes a huge difference to 4-H programs across New York.

Twice each year – once in the spring and again in the fall - the Tractor Supply Company runs its “Paper Clover Campaign” to raise money in support of 4-H across the nation. Proceeds raised in each store go to support 4-H programs right in the county where the store is located.

New Yorkers were very generous during the 2011 Paper Clover Campaigns, contributing a total of \$43,347. That’s money that supports *local* 4-H Clubs in the counties where each store is located.

If you purchased a Paper Clover during one of the campaigns this year...*thank you*. Watch for opportunities to support local 4-H through Paper Clover campaigns in 2012.

The Paper Clover Campaign is a partnership between Tractor Supply Company and National 4-H Council.

#### “Get Connected to NYS 4-H” Restaurant Gift Certificate Winners

Congratulations to Elizabeth Buck and Susan Campbell, who won the Gift Certificates to Red Lobster and The Olive Garden!

Thank you to everyone who signed up to be on our mailing list at the State Fair this year.

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## Contact the New York State 4-H Foundation

For any Foundation – related business, please call: 315-702-8242 or 315-350-1531, Email: [esearle@nys4hfoundation.org](mailto:esearle@nys4hfoundation.org)  
Website: [www.nys4hfoundation.org](http://www.nys4hfoundation.org) Office: 248 Grant Avenue, Suite II-A, Auburn, NY 13021

## Attorney & NY 4-H Alumna Shares Impact of 4-H on Her Life

4-H alumni can be found in nearly every walk of life. There are astronauts, politicians, athletes, musicians, university presidents, actors, reporters, company CEOs, and successful entrepreneurs, all of whom are proud former 4-H'ers.

Here in New York State, one 4-H alumna who has been in touch with the Foundation recently can be found in the King's County District Attorney's office. Celeste Lopes grew up in Nassau County where she was a member of the "4-H Housekeepers" Club from the mid- 1960's through the mid- 1970's. A prosecuting attorney for nearly 30 years now, she feels that her career choice can be traced back – at least in part – to her roots in 4-H.

"Like everything else," she explains, "what you do as a child forms your sense of what's moral, right and wrong, helping or not helping others. Part of that is my draw to the public sector. I like to think of myself as helping people. If you go back to our pledge...I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country and my world...I think being in the public sector, I get to walk that talk."

Though she has been legally blind her entire life, that has never hindered Ms. Lopes. "A lot of blind people sew and knit and so forth, they just learn to do it in a different way. All it made me do is figure out the alternative ways of doing things at a younger age than someone else." It certainly did not keep her from experiencing all that 4-H has to offer.

Ms. Lopes credits 4-H with helping her to gain confidence in her public speaking skills. "I remember being so nervous before public demonstrations that my stomach would be in absolute knots," she says. "However, as an adult and even in high school and college, I found that I was much better at speaking in public than a majority of my colleagues and I attribute that to the public demonstration program."

The traditional 4-H club experience is also something that she valued. "The club gave us opportunities to do things we probably would not have ordinarily done, like copper tooling, glass etching and leather tooling," she explains. The club also gave its members the chance to gain more conventional skills. Ms. Lopes really enjoyed the arts and crafts work, but was less interested in sewing and cooking. She has fond memories of spending weekends at Riverhead 4-H camp and recalls the excitement of preparing her 4-H projects for judging.

When asked to identify a single 4-H activity that had a significant impact on her life, her response is quick. "The National Congress experience was wonderful," she says. "Growing up on Long Island and being a sophomore in high school, it gave me a chance to meet someone who actually lived on a farm. I thought that was very cool. Then, the combination of meeting people from all over the country and being at my first huge conference that I was attending without my parents, well, it was really pretty exciting!"

A graduate of Hobart & William Smith Colleges and Boston College Law School, Ms. Lopes now represents the people of the State of New York in prosecuting criminal cases for the King's County District Attorney's office. "There's a good amount of satisfaction when you can help someone who has been the victim of a crime to feel whole again. You feel that the system has worked the way it's supposed to work," she says.

In addition to her work as an attorney, Ms. Lopes has invested her time in a variety of organizations including the Guide Dog Fund,

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, and Ski for Light, Inc. In her free time, she goes horseback riding whenever she has the chance, enjoys bicycling when she is able to find a tandem captain to join her, and, in the winter she likes to cross-country ski.

Ms. Lopes is also the recipient of several prestigious awards, including: the Alumni Achievement Award at Hobart & William Smith Colleges; the Long Island Achiever's Against the Odds Awards in 1999; and she also was in a public service announcement for the Department of Justice with Janet Reno in recognition of the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Ms. Lopes is not shy about tying the development of her life priorities and motivations back to 4-H, pointing out that her 4-H experience showed her that community service and citizens are valued. "In addition to my parents, I think 4-H grounds you in how you move through the world as an adult, what you think is important and where you invest your time."

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## The Perfect Gift

Help to Make the Best Better this year – make a donation to the New York State 4-H Foundation in honor of a loved one. Your gift will support the positive youth development that is 4-H and it will help to shape the next generation of leaders. The perfect gift to give that “difficult to buy for” person.

Tax-deductible donations may be made:

On-line via credit card at the Foundation’s website:

[www.nys4hfoundation.org](http://www.nys4hfoundation.org)

By mail via check (made out to the NYS 4-H Foundation) mailed to the Foundation at 248 Grant Ave., Suite II-A, Auburn, NY 13202

By phone via credit card by calling 315-702-8242.

## Good Search & Good Shop

If you use the internet for shopping or just for looking up information and websites, you can support 4-H and it will cost you nothing!

GoodSearch.com pays a portion of its advertising revenue to the non-profits that register with them. It is a search engine powered by Yahoo.com. Next time you search the web start at GoodSearch.com instead of another search engine and they will pay about a penny per search.

If you make purchases on the web, use GoodShop.com and the retailers you buy from will pay a portion of your purchase price to your charity. There is even a toolbar you can download and it will tell you whenever you’re shopping on line if the retailer you are buying from makes contributions via GoodSearch.

It’s easy. It makes a difference. Did we mention that it’s easy?

Just go to GoodSearch.com and in the box where it asks for “enter your favorite charity” type in “NYS 4H”

Thank you for supporting NYS 4-H. Happy searching and shopping!