



Pathways

T O T H E F U T U R E

Birmingham Community Foundation Donates to Alabama 4-H

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham has donated \$25,000 to the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation to support the construction of the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center, the first sustainable building in the Southeast specifically designed to teach environmental issues.

“We are grateful to The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham for their generosity and commitment to youth and environmental issues,” said Jack Odle, chair of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Board of Directors.

“The Community Foundation’s Board recognizes the importance of what the 4-H Foundation is committed to – teaching Alabama children important environmental practices in a building designed, constructed and operated to protect and enhance its surroundings.”

“It is exciting to support the construction of another LEED building,” said Patti Whitt, senior program officer for The Community Foundation. “Stewardship of natural resources is one of our priorities for grant making from the Community Funds that serve the five-county area around Birmingham, and the 4-H Center fits perfectly into that priority.”

The Community Foundation uses its Community Funds to make grants twice a year to support the greatest needs

and opportunities to make life better in greater Birmingham, Whitt said. Grants over the past two years have supported several Leadership in Energy and

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Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, thanks Patti Whitt, senior program officer for The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, for the organization’s generosity to Alabama 4-H.



Construction Underway

Construction on the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center has been underway for several months. The photograph (left), shows construction as of December 2006. In the photograph (right), work on the main floor is progressing. The 17,500-square-foot building is the first sustainable building in the Southeast specifically built to teach environmental issues in a building designed using sustainable practices. The facility is being constructed at the Alabama 4-H Center on Lay Lake near Columbiana by the hundreds of organizations, individuals, foundations and corporations who have supported the Campaign for Alabama 4-H.

Thank You, Donors to Alabama 4-H

The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. would like to thank all donors for their commitment to helping Alabama's youth, our greatest asset.

The Foundation lists its donors alphabetically, rather than by gift level. We believe that each donation, regardless of amount, will help us achieve our goal of working "For Today and Tomorrow ... Making the Best Better" for the young people of Alabama.

The following list of donors are those who have made contributions to Alabama 4-H during 2006. In the event of any errors or omissions, please contact the Foundation office at (334) 844-5536.

On behalf of the nearly 100,000 Alabama 4-H'ers, we say "thank you" to our donors -- individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations and those who have asked to remain anonymous.

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Auburn Basketball 4-H Day

More than 550 Alabama 4-H'ers, parents and volunteer leaders attended the Auburn vs. Mississippi State basketball game at Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum. 4-H and Auburn Athletics joined together to offer free entrance to the game for those wearing 4-H green with a canned good to benefit the East Alabama Food Bank. In total, 4-H'ers collected 528 pounds of canned goods for the needy. Pictured are two groups, from Lowndes County (left), and Calhoun County (right), who donated food and had fun at the game.



4-H Golf Classic to be held June 14

The third annual Alabama 4-H Golf Classic will be held Thursday, June 14, once again at FarmLinks Golf Club near Sylacauga.

The 2006 Classic raised nearly \$21,000 to support Alabama 4-H programs statewide.

The classic is coordinated by a committee of 4-H regional Extension agents and the Extension Development office. Committee members are Chairman Nancy Alexander, James Shropshire, Marian Beck, Lindsay Kimbro, JoAnn Wissinger, Kim Good, Denise Legvold and Beth Lawrence of Extension development.

For more information on how to sign up, go online to www.aces.edu/fourh/2007-4-h-Classic.pdf or contact Beth Lawrence in Extension Development at (334) 844-2247 or batkins@aces.edu.



4-H/FFA Collector Knife

Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc. has joined with W.R. Case & Sons to make a collectible Alabama 4-H/FFA project knife, with a percentage of the proceeds going to 4-H and FFA. The knives will go on sale around April 1 and be sold at co-op stores in Alabama. Only 1,000 of the specially designed knives will be made.

Check the Box!
 Making the Best Better



Alabama 4-H

is transforming the lives of nearly 100,000 young people. You can help—**check line 31K** on your Alabama income tax form.

For information on how to support Alabama 4-H, call (334) 844-2247.

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Healthy Living Exercise

Volunteers and 4-H state staff have fun trying to take clothes pins from each other in an outdoor activity that helps children have fun while exercising. The activity was just one of many ideas taught to volunteers and parents.

“We could not do the good job we do of teaching youth life skills without the support, dedication and work of our volunteers,” said Lamar Nichols, assistant director of 4-H and Youth Programs for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

“4-H adult volunteers know what it means to make a difference in a young person’s life,” he said. “They are valuable to 4-H because they provide a place for 4-H members to belong and have a caring relationship with a volunteer club leader who leads programs that help youth gain independence, learn and master project work, and work to benefit others.”

Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, said he too is grateful for the commitment of 4-H volunteer leaders. “We recognize the importance of their service and know that children would not have the same opportunity to learn life skills if it were not for our volunteers.”

The work of volunteers is as varied as they are. Adult volunteers help run community clubs, organize activities and events, share their unique talents with youth and start and run special interest groups.

It was a love for horses and animals that led Lisa Cotton to become a volunteer leader. Cotton, a Covington County volunteer since 1999, started a horse club with friend, Tina Flowers.

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Archery Instruction

Volunteers learn about archery instruction during the 2007 Volunteer and Parent Forum retreat at the 4-H Center.

Alabama 4-H Volunteers Sustain, Enhance Programs and Youth

4-H is all about youth, yet some of the most important people involved in Alabama 4-H are those who give their time and talent to support 4-H. If youth are the life of 4-H, then volunteer leaders are the heartbeat.

Thousands of Alabamians statewide volunteer for the nearly 100,000 Alabama 4-H'ers to teach, organize, and chaperon trips and are involved in the many behind-the-scenes activities to ensure that 4-H remains a vital organization.



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Shooting Sports

Parents and volunteer leaders learn how to shoot skeet, one of the many programs taught by Alabama 4-H in the shooting sports program.

Alabama 4-H Volunteers (continued from page 3)

“It takes a big commitment but if you have parents who are supportive, they will back you up and help the club be successful,” said Cotton, who lives in the small community of Wing, Ala. “Parents are an active part of our club.

“Volunteering for 4-H is important to me,” she said. “I love to see the results of children learning, to get knowledge from sources they otherwise wouldn’t have.”

Cotton says she’s watched shy, reserved children come out of their shells because being a member of their horse club is much more than spending time riding or caring for the animal. “We have quiz bowls, judging teams and public speaking and demonstrations,” she said. “They learn about a subject they love and they learn skills.”

Volunteers Matt and Violet Stewart of Irvington, Ala., give of their time in a Mobile County 4-H club because they believe in the values 4-H programs teach youth.

“The focus of our club is on community service and character development,” Violet Stewart said. “We have fall and spring clean-up days in Grand Bay. We also have an event with senior adults, and we participate in our local Heritage Day as well as compete in the fair,” she said.

“4-H teaches morals and values in programs and we think that’s important and missing in other programs for youth,” Matt Stewart said.

Volunteers go through a rigorous screening before working in 4-H to ensure that they understand their responsibilities.

“Our 4-H agents work with volunteers to make sure they are well equipped to be volunteers with youth, and work together with the volunteers to ensure the many programs, club meetings, activities and events are held,” Nichols said. “They believe in and support 4-H with their time and talent.”

One way volunteers stay updated and involved in 4-H is through the Alabama Volunteer Leaders Association, a dynamic statewide group that provides opportunities for leaders to receive educational training, exchange ideas and to assist with the recruitment and utilization of volunteer leaders in the 4-H program.

Each year, volunteers and 4-H agents attend a retreat at the Alabama 4-H Center where they learn new skills to teach youth and communicate ideas.

To learn more about the Alabama Volunteer Leaders Association, contact your county Extension office or go online to www.aces.edu/fourh/VolunteerAssociation.

Birmingham Community Foundation (from page 1)
 Environmental Design (LEED) buildings, as well as environmental education programs.

Being constructed at the 4-H Center on Lay Lake in Shelby County, the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center will be the first LEED-commissioned environmental education building in the Southeast and will be an example of sustainable awareness nationally. The LEED Green Building rating system is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability, recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

To attain gold LEED certification, buildings are required to achieve a total of 39 points – the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center will qualify for 45 points. Davis Architects of Birmingham designed the building, and B.L. Harbert International, also of Birmingham, is constructing it. It is expected to open in November.

The \$7-million facility is being constructed with funds raised by the Campaign for Alabama 4-H through the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. More than 500 corporations, foundations, organizations and individuals have supported the Campaign for Alabama 4-H to date, giving \$5.8 million. The campaign also supports 4-H programs statewide.

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, established as a public charity in 1959, is dedicated to connecting people and resources with community needs and opportunities to make life better, today and tomorrow. It has helped hundreds of individuals, families and businesses put their resources to work to help others. Go to www.foundation-birmingham.org for more information.

Have a Story Idea?

Do you have a story idea for Pathways? Do you know a 4-H'er who has achieved an honor and want others across Alabama to know about it? The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. is the nonprofit fund-raising arm of Alabama 4-H. The Foundation seeks to recognize youth for their achievements. Send your story ideas to Janet McCoy, Extension development and communications coordinator, at mccoyjl@aces.edu, or call (334) 844-2298.



Thank you for your support of the Alabama 4-H Annual Fund!

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Lawrence, Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.
226 Duncan Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5612 Phone: (334) 844-2247 Fax: (334) 844-7201



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