

## Indiana 4-H Tackles Pandemic-Related Community Needs

Two women tossing bags of fabric to each other in a parking lot. A police escort for a vehicle full of sack lunches. These are unusual sights, but the COVID-19 pandemic has made these unusual times. Despite the challenges, the Indiana 4-H community is finding a way to help those around them.

**Amy Crispin** is a 4-H club leader in Hamilton County. She also teaches youth to sew. When her friend Dr. Karla Loken Bohm approached her to help make fabric masks, Crispin jumped at the chance. "I see so many people doing amazing things to help others on mission trips," said Crispin. "I was so glad I could use my little talent of sewing to help."

Crispin, also known as Mrs. Sew and Sew, did more than start sewing. She launched an effort via Facebook and provided a

video tutorial. She mobilized more than 100 people from 4-H, her sewing classes, her neighborhood, her kids' school, her church, and even her gym. Some are sewing masks. Those who don't sew are helping by cutting fabric and donating cotton fabric, including bedsheets and dishtowels.

"The medical staff are using these masks over personal protective equipment (PPE) to extend the life of that equipment, which is already in short supply," said Loken Bohm. Among those requesting masks are Eskenazi Health, Riley Children's Hospital and IU Health.

"I didn't know her well, but I just knew Amy's heart and knew she would help. When I delivered masks to IU South the other day, the staff who received them were so grateful they started to cry," said Loken Bohm.



When 4-H club leader Amy Crispin was approached to help make fabric masks, she jumped at the chance.

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### FEATURE

*Tackling Community Needs*

#### PROGRAM LEADER SPOTLIGHT

*Introducing Casey Mull*

#### TAX LAW CHANGES

*Charitable Giving and Your IRA*

#### CORPORATE DONATION FEATURE

*Duke Energy*

#### INDIANA 4-H ENDOWMENTS

##### Indiana 4-H Foundation, Inc.

**Christy Denault**, President

**Sean Sharma**, Vice President

**Sharon Hutchison**, Treasurer

**Tim Birky**, Secretary

**Shelly Bingle**, Executive Director

*The Indiana 4-H Foundation provides resources that give the opportunity for all Indiana youth to develop life skills that benefit their communities.*

##### Partnered with:

*Purdue Extension Specialists and county-based Extension Educators who deliver 4-H youth development educational programs to over 130,000 Indiana youth.*

##### Purdue Extension 4-H Youth Development Program

**Dr. Jason Henderson**, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Director of Extension

**Dr. Casey Mull**, Assistant Director of Purdue Extension & Indiana State 4-H Program Leader



Learn more at [www.in4h.org](http://www.in4h.org)

Follow us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/indiana4hfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/indiana4hfoundation)

## Indiana 4-H Tackles Pandemic-Related Community Needs (continued)

When **Gail Peitzmeier**, Crawford County Purdue Extension Director, learned that schools and the local Boys and Girls clubs would be closed, she knew that would leave young people in her communities hungry. She and Molley Scott, Crawford County 4-H Extension Educator, mobilized 4-H Youth Development Association volunteers. In partnership with Schwartz's Family Restaurant, volunteers donated and packed 140 sack lunches for children without access to their regular school lunch program and set up a drive-through distribution.

When only 50 lunches were distributed in the first half hour due to people following the Governor's order to shelter in place, the Leavenworth Police Department stepped in with a friendly escort. With their help, the 4-H volunteers were able to visit apartment complexes and neighborhoods in English, Marengo, and Milltown, Indiana, to distribute all 140 sack lunches.

The Crawford County Extension office will work to provide lunches as long as they are needed.

**Jeanette Merritt** of Miami County, a 4-H alum and parent of three 4-H youth, was approached by a nursing home in Peru, Indiana, to sew gowns when supply grew short. Merritt was glad to help.

"This time of year my machines are usually for the kids' sewing projects," said Merritt. "Levi, my youngest and in his first

year of 4-H, had been sewing his shorts when I told him I was taking back the machines!" She has provided 10 gowns for the facility so far and is making masks in her spare time while still working remotely for her full-time job.

**Abby Heidenreich**, Orange County Purdue Extension Director, saw that some in her community did not have transportation to get to local sites providing school lunches during the school closure. So she took the food to them with the help of adult 4-H volunteers.

The local Paoli Walmart agreed to set up a drop box for donations, and Heidenreich publicized the effort on Facebook. Families in need were able to use a secure Google app to register confidentially for assistance.

"When face-to-face programming stopped, we looked for alternative ways to do what we could with what we had," said Heidenreich. "4-H is a family that supports each other in good times and in bad, so we quickly began helping with food insecurity in families with school age children."

Through generous food donations and \$500 in monetary support from four individual donors, eighty-three children and thirty families were supplied with one week's worth of groceries.

*All of these people are helping their communities in different ways, but they have one thing in common:*

**They learned to work together to solve problems through 4-H.**

"No matter what a young person's experience with 4-H is, the program teaches them to serve their communities," said Dr. Jason Henderson, Associate Dean and Director of Extension at Purdue University. "They learn leadership and organizational skills along with practical life skills, and we are seeing those skills in action right now. Now, more than ever, we need 4-H."

*"The true spirit of the 4-H pledge was put into action in response to social distancing obstacles and immediate needs of our neighbors. Amazing local partnerships shared the mission distributing healthy lunches to help make a difference in our community."*

**GAIL PEITZMEIER**  
CRAWFORD COUNTY  
PURDUE EXTENSION DIRECTOR



Crawford County Extension and the Leavenworth Police Department work to distribute over 100 sack lunches in Crawford County.

# Duke Energy is SPARKing youth interest in STEM education

*Duke sponsored programs introduce STEM to Indiana youth*



Over the past eight years, Duke Energy's support of the Indiana 4-H Program has totaled nearly \$200,000, providing countless opportunities for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programming to reach more youth in rural, suburban, and urban communities with programs like the 4-H Robotics SPARK Program and the 4-H Maker Kits.

The resources have been a hit with 4-H youth, adult volunteers, and even those outside 4-H clamoring for more. Last year in Hendricks County, 92 youth attended the 4-H Robotics Encounter, and 86 of those finished their first year of 4-H Robotics. Each one participated in 8 hours of volunteer-led robotics learning. A demonstration of Miami County's new Maker Kit in 2018 at the

Butler Busy Bee's 4-H Club saw 45 4-H youth, 25 adults, and another 15 youth in attendance. Public libraries and service organizations, after hearing about the excitement and buzz that have been created with these new learning tools, have also asked for 4-H to come demonstrate the Maker Kits.

From the outset, when Maker Kits were a new idea in 2017, Duke Energy led the way with its contributions to the Indiana 4-H Foundation providing the kits to numerous counties. Maker Kits include a wide variety of tools, including a Sphero app-controlled robot; Ozobot robots and "coding" markers; Keva Planks for building items like catapults, towers and bridges; Makey Makeys invention kits; kinetic sand; 3D printers and 3D pens; a Raspberry Pi computer programming system; and tablets and laptops to support these tools. Having these kits on hand gives 4-H Extension Educators





grab-and-go tools to teach youth about engineering and design, coding, and electrical circuits, and the opportunity to not only reach more under-served and new youth audiences, but also to identify new adult volunteers.

Hancock County received its first Maker Kits in 2019 thanks to Duke Energy's contributions. Luke McCartney, a sophomore and Junior Leader, and his father, Pat McCartney, who works in computer programming, have been leading the charge with Hancock County 4-H since then to introduce more and more youth to the possibilities of the Maker Kits.

Pat and Luke have seen that the Maker Kits help pare down sometimes daunting concepts like computer coding or robotics into tangible and fun activities.

"The kits really help in communicating with kids in a meaningful way," Luke said. "It helps communicate to them about the basic concepts of STEM."

At Hancock County's 4-H STEM Night, Luke and others showcased Hancock County's recently acquired Maker Kit. Luke showed children as young as first and second grade how to "code" for an Ozobot—a wheeled gadget the size of

a golf ball that zooms along, guided by its sensors that follow tracks the children write on paper in special markers. Each color of marker acts like a line of "code" that instructs the Ozobot to take different actions: move forward, spin, move backward. It's a real-life illustration of the tangible effects of STEM concepts.

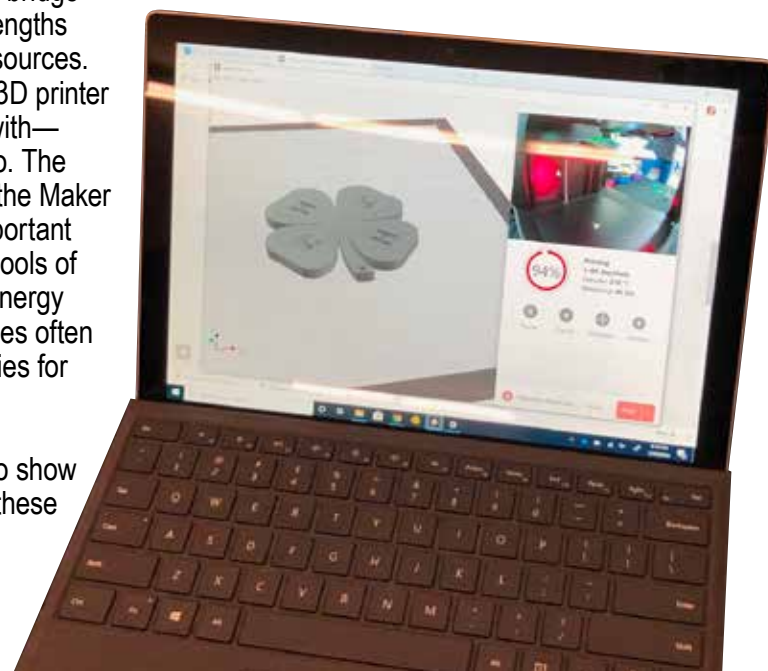
"We can see this forging new grounds on how to collaborate and reach new kids," Pat says.

The Maker Kits help bring 4-H to new participants by creating a bridge between the different strengths of existing community resources. Schools may not have a 3D printer that students can tinker with—but the 4-H Maker Kits do. The opportunities created by the Maker Kits will be especially important in the rural and small schools of communities that Duke Energy serves. These communities often lack hands-on opportunities for STEM exploration.

"One of our big goals is to show kids how they can apply these tools into their real lives," says Luke.

Pat points out that a 3D printer does not just have to be used for stereotypical STEM pursuits. It can be used to build things like accessories for costumes in drama productions—showing that STEM concepts can integrate into all parts of life.

Volunteers are still needed to lead these county-based programs and are being recruited from Duke Energy families and in counties. For more information, please contact: Danielle Sands, Extension Specialist for 4-H Engineering and Technology at [dsands@purdue.edu](mailto:dsands@purdue.edu).





# Your Endowment Protects the Future of Indiana 4-H

*We are so grateful to the donors who recently established these endowments!*

Louis and Mary Luzar

The future of Indiana 4-H will be secured through endowments. Endowments invest the original gift and use only the interest for the endowment's stated charitable purpose. For example, every \$25,000 invested will generate roughly \$1,000 every year forever. The interest is a permanent source of income for Indiana 4-H. Endowments can be established for a multitude of 4-H needs:

- **Your county 4-H program**  
(EX: JACKSON COUNTY 4-H PROGRAM ENDOWMENT)
- **For the benefit of the Indiana 4-H Foundation to use where needed most**  
(EX: ROBERT ABEL ENDOWMENT FOR THE INDIANA 4-H FOUNDATION)
- **A passion area endowment to support thousands of youth in a mission area**  
(EX: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT/LEADERSHIP, STEM, HEALTHY LIVING)
- **Give the gift of life skills to new, first generation 4-H youth**  
(EX: HELPS OFFSET PROGRAM FEES OR SUPPLIES TO PARTICIPATE IN 4-H)
- **A scholarship endowment provides \$1,000 for one student for every \$25,000 given**
- **Support your county by endowing a new or existing 4-H Educator position**

Please contact **Shelly Bingle** at shellyb@purdue.edu or 317-445-7977 to discuss how you can make sure Indiana 4-H is here forever with a gift through your will, life insurance, appreciated stock, land, or cash.

## BENEFITS OF THE Indiana 4-H Endowment

All funds are invested with the Purdue Research Foundation (PRF) through a special arrangement with the Indiana 4-H Foundation

PRF currently pays 4.5% interest annually

No overhead and administrative fees are charged to the donors or counties! (Local community foundations generally charge 1-2% annually in fees.)

Only the Indiana 4-H Foundation has the special authority to raise funds using the name and emblem of 4-H.

## RECENTLY ESTABLISHED ENDOWMENTS *Thank you to these generous donors!*

ENDOWMENT NAME	DONOR NAME	SOURCE OF FUNDS	PURPOSE
Grant County 4-H Program Endowment	June Ladd	\$12,889 raised out of \$25,000	Grant County 4-H Program
Louis and Mary Luzar 4-H Scholarship for Putnam County	Jim Luzar and Ella Ingram	\$25,000 cash	Scholarship for Putnam County 4-H Youth
Robert E. and Maurine K. Anderson 4-H Endowment for Hamilton County	Robert E. Anderson	Planned gift in estate plans	Hamilton County 4-H Program
Polk Family Scholarship Endowment for Kosciusko County	Dennis Polk	\$25,000 cash	Scholarship for Kosciusko County 4-H Youth
Don and Jackie Kremer Family 4-H Scholarship Endowment	Don and Jackie Kremer	\$26,000 planned gift through life insurance	Animal Science Accomplishment Scholarship with preference for a 4-H youth in swine
Stubbe Truitt 4-H Scholarship Endowment for Leadership	Kathleen Truitt	\$25,000 cash	Leadership Accomplishment Scholarship with preference for 4-H youth in Jr. Leaders
Jackson County 4-H Program Endowment	Anonymous past board member, Jackson County Jr. Leaders, 4-H Club Committee & Excel Manufacturing	Pledged close to \$25,000. Way to work together, Jackson County!	Jackson County 4-H Program

# 4-H Welcomes New State Program Leader

## Casey Mull Looks Forward to Building Partnerships



Purdue Extension named Casey Mull, an extension military specialist for 4-H youth development at The University of Georgia, as its new Assistant Director and Program

Leader for 4-H youth development. Mull also will hold a clinical associate professor position in the Department of Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication.

Jason Henderson, Director of Purdue Extension and Senior Associate Dean of Purdue College of Agriculture, is excited to have Mull bring his expertise and passion for youth programs to Indiana 4-H.

"I am thrilled to have Dr. Casey Mull as our 4-H Youth Development Program Leader. His personal story of how 4-H shaped his life as a youth and now through his professional career is a testament to the

impact of 4-H on people's lives. He is a respected leader nationally in 4-H and I look forward to seeing how his fresh ideas will expand our programs," said Henderson.

Mull earned his bachelor's degree in business from Wake Forest University, and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Georgia. Since 2009, he has been the extension military specialist for 4-H youth development at the University of Georgia. There he coordinated and co-coordinated programs serving over eight thousand people in 53 states and territories and six countries, secured more than \$10 million in grants, gifts and donations, and trained or presented to more than three thousand individuals.

No stranger to Purdue, Mull has worked with Purdue Extension's leadership for the past ten years on the following programs: Military Teen Adventure Camps and Extension Military Partnerships.

"I'm most excited to work with the people of Indiana, especially since the 4-H program here is so well recognized regionally and nationally," said Mull. "My 4-H experience started in the fifth grade, but what I didn't know at the time was that it would become my career. I'm eager to partner with the incredible young people, educators and volunteers across the state to impact their lives and make their communities better, just like 4-H has done for me."


Mull will continue to serve as Deputy Chief in public affairs for the 94th Airlift Wing in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, where he leads twelve full-time and part-time photojournalists and broadcasters to engage various audiences in media relations and community engagement. He is an active member of the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals (NAE4-HYDP) and served as president of NAE4-HYDP from 2017-18. Mull is also a third-generation auctioneer and enjoys working with local communities at benefit and charity auctions.

## Tax Law Changes+Give from Your IRA=Help 4-H Youth

As a youngster I was shy. When my mother was about 8 months pregnant with twins, she pulled curbside to the local Dairy Queen. She ordered me an ice cream cone from the car window, handed me the change and expected me to walk the short distance and pick up my cone. I was too timid. A few years later, our family joined a local 4-H club. Thanks to the kindness of a teenage mentor, I began to come out of my shell. I can now order my own ice cream and have confidently achieved many things since this day. How does one give back to an organization that provides so much? One way is to educate others on how to utilize their financial resources in efficient and tax effective ways.

Recently, within the new tax law changes from December 2019, the amount a taxpayer is required to withdraw from their retirement

account, known as the required mandatory distribution (RMD), has been pushed back to age 72. The amount of this withdrawal is usually added to taxable income. To potentially avoid this, withdrawals paid directly to charity, known as tax free qualified charitable distributions (QCD), beginning at age 70 ½ and older (up to \$100,000.00 annually) are still available from a Traditional IRA. Most likely, the money we spend and give comes out of after tax dollars. For example, if the distribution required is \$1,000.00 and the tax rate is 20%, the net amount to charity may be \$800.00. However, if paid directly to charity as a QCD from our Traditional IRA we consider giving the full \$1,000.00. This allows the distribution to not be taxable income. Of course, individuals need to review this with their tax advisors since every situation is different.



**David M. Weidmayer, CFP®** is a financial advisor located at 9850 Westpoint Drive, Suite 550 Indianapolis, IN 46256. He offers securities and advisory services as an Investment Adviser Representative of Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. He can be reached at (317) 579-9400 or at [dave@wealthsolutions.com](mailto:dave@wealthsolutions.com).

*This material has been provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute either tax or legal advice. Although we go to great lengths to make sure our information is accurate and useful, we recommend you consult a tax preparer, professional tax advisor, or lawyer.*