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# Virginia 4-H Foundation

FALL 2013

NEWSLETTER

volume 1 issue 1

## Making the best even better

Jack Tyree, 97, will tell you that helping young people take on 4-H projects and seeing them grow and learn have made a big impact on his life.

From his early beginnings as an 8-year-old 4-H member in Cabell County, W.Va., throughout his career as a 4-H agent in West Virginia and Virginia and as the Virginia 4-H program leader, 4-H has helped shape Tyree into the person he is today.

"My experience in the 4-H program provided a foundation for my life," said Tyree.

"I wanted to use the inspiration and guidelines I learned in 4-H to live according to the four-fold concept of head, heart, hands, and health and pass it along to others, which is what I have tried to do."

And to ensure that others will have similar opportunities in 4-H, Tyree and his wife have established two endowments — the Jack and Helen Tyree 4-H Teen Financial Education

Endowment and the Jack and Helen Tyree 4-H Teen Leadership Endowment — that will help support financial education and leadership development programs in Virginia 4-H.

"I believe that adults who have had experiences through 4-H like I have would also be blessed by finding ways to assist in providing 4-H programs so that the programs will even be stronger today," said Tyree. "And I'm thankful for those that had the vision and determination to create the 4-H program."



## Chair's Update

Dear Friends,

Fiscal year 2013 was one of the best ever for the Virginia 4-H Foundation! Our group of volunteer



board members and Extension staff members worked hard to reach our goals of raising money to support 4-H programming in the Commonwealth of Virginia and to tightly align our efforts with the strategic plan of Virginia 4-H.

We achieved progress on a variety of fronts related to fundraising. Notably, both new funds raised and growth of existing endowments were up significantly, with new funds raised totaling more than \$500,000 and strong investment performance at the Virginia Tech Foundation — combined with new endowment gifts — pushing the collective endowment value to more than \$3,000,000.

From a culture-enhancing standpoint, our team listened closely to the front line Extension agents and volunteers who work hard every day delivering programs to the 193,937 4-H participants in Virginia. Our future goals and activities will be directly related to the feedback our colleagues provide.

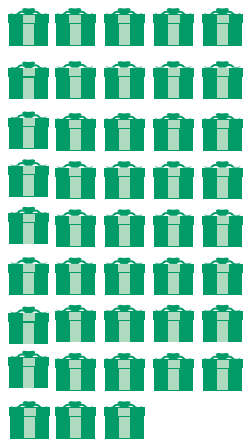
Thanks again to our board members who give time and money to advance our cause. Our organization is a fundraising body established solely to support Virginia 4-H, and our board members work hard to increase resources available statewide.

Tad Melton, Chair

## 4-H Foundation by the numbers:



In 2013, Virginia 4-H received **\$516,908** in gifts and pledges from **467** donors.



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43 endowed funds valued at more than **\$3,059,431** provided more than **\$140,967** in support to Virginia 4-H.

Virginia 4-H Foundation, Hutcheson Hall (0419), 250 Drillfield Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061

The Virginia 4-H Foundation is a division of the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., which has been granted 501(c)(3) nonprofit status by the Internal Revenue Service.

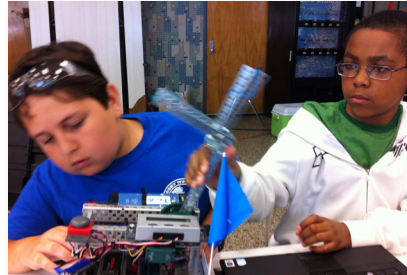
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## The Excitement of Robotics

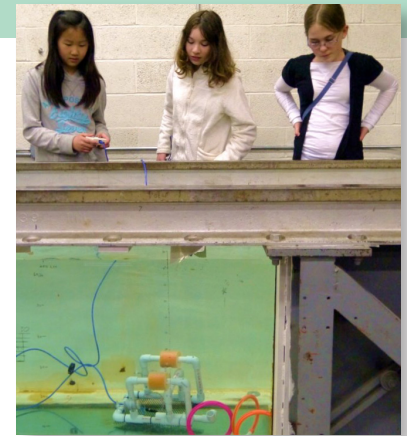
There are kids you just can't tear away from computers, building projects, or any kind of technology. These are the youth who are attracted to the new Time for Technology 4-H club in Fairfax, Va. Once they have a robot controller in their hands, their eyes are full of excitement and joy. It's even better when they have designed, built, and programmed that robot from scratch with their fellow club members.

Because of generous support from 4-H donors, the club will be building underwater, remotely-operated vehicles this fall and winter and competing in a regional middle school competition for underwater robotics. The VEX team members will be creating their own unique robots to play the VEX game Toss-Up during the winter and spring months. The robotics building, programming, and competing will likely be the highlight of many members' school year and will give



them the opportunity to develop their STEM skills in a world that desperately needs trained professionals in these fields.

The excitement is contagious when at a robotics tournament with these kids. Alison is a 10-year-old Time for Technology club member, and she gushes, "Going to a VEX competition and seeing different robots gave me a lot of new ideas to build my robot better and made me want to learn more about programming. To build a robot for the game and have it run the way you want it to is amazing."



## Funds support local programming efforts

This year, the Virginia 4-H Foundation invested in local Extension programs by providing three innovative programming grant programs.

Eleven faculty members each received a competitive grant of \$1,000 through the 4-H Innovative Programming Grant program to develop and implement innovative 4-H programming efforts. In addition, the selected faculty members have been assigned an iPad and will incorporate this technology into their programs.

The Virginia 4-H Foundation After-School Innovative Programming Awards were awarded on a competitive basis to 10 4-H faculty members. Each \$1,000 award will be used to develop and implement innovative 4-H programming in an after-school setting. Funding was provided by the National

4-H Council partnership with JCPenny stores in Virginia.

To create a high-quality, statewide electric energy program that builds upon the existing 4-H electric project, Virginia 4-H partnered with Dominion Power to create additional opportunities for increased knowledge, life skill development, and career awareness. Dominion Power is investing \$10,000 in developing a more comprehensive Virginia 4-H energy program. Seven \$1,000 grants have been awarded to faculty members to develop programs covering energy, electrical safety, energy careers, and energy conservation. The remaining funds will be used to develop project materials, competition guidelines, and an incentive plan and conduct the first Virginia 4-H Electric Challenge.

## 4-H'ers excel in school and in the sciences

### Young people in 4-H:



Report better grades, higher levels of academic competence, and an elevated level of engagement at school



Are nearly two times more likely to plan to go to college



Are more likely to pursue future courses or a career in science, engineering, or computer technology



Girls in 4-H are more than twice as likely to participate in science, engineering, or computer technology programs than their peers.