



The Prairie Professional

A Newsletter for KAE4-HA Members

Summer 2009

A Note from the President...

Youth Development can be defined as:

"...the ongoing growth process in which all youth are engaged in attempting to (1) meet their basic personal and social needs to be safe, feel cared for, be valued, be useful, and be spiritually grounded, and (2) to build skills and competencies that allow them to function and contribute in their daily lives."

(Pittman, 1993, p. 8)

This definition accurately describes youth development as a process that all young people go through on the way to adulthood. As the definition implies, it is a process or journey that automatically involves all of the people around a youth—family and community. A young person will not be able to build essential skills and competencies and be able to feel safe, cared for, valued, useful, and spiritually grounded unless their family and community provide them with the supports and opportunities they need along the way. Thus, youth development is also a process in which family and community must actively participate.

Youth development, then, is a combination of all of the people, places, supports, opportunities and services that most of us inherently understand that young people need to be happy, healthy and successful.

Youth Development does not just happen. It takes caring people, such as yourselves, to devote your time and effort to providing opportunities for the youth. I applaud all of you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to the 4-H Program.

I am ending my tenure with Extension after 10 ½ years. It has been a fun ride and one that I will always treasure. I appreciate all of the friends and co-workers that I have gotten to know and work with over the years. Thank goodness for Facebook so that we can still keep in touch! ☺

I wish you all the best and I am looking forward to being a 4-H mom, volunteer and judge!

**Thank you for your leadership
Shawna!**

All of us in KAE4-HA will miss you!!



Shawna Mitchell

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Youth Benefit From Strong Families Regardless of Income

Submitted by: Sarah Maass

When families make the news, it is often for negative reasons such as violence or abuse. However, families are critical to the positive development of children and youth, as well as to problems that may affect development. A new Child Trends brief, *Exploring The Links Between Family Strengths and Adolescent Outcomes*, finds that family strengths are associated with significantly better outcomes for adolescents in both lower-income and higher-income families. Family strengths include emotional/subjective strengths (such as close and caring parents); behavioral/concrete strengths (for example, parental monitoring and parent involvement); and passive parenting strengths (for instance, positive parental role modeling).

Among the findings:

* Adolescents who reported having close and caring parents are significantly more likely to perform well in school. Higher parental monitoring and parent involvement are also associated with better school performance.

* These patterns were found in both lower- and higher-income families.

* Adolescents in families with higher parental monitoring are more likely to avoid risky behaviors. Also, risky behaviors are significantly lower when parents are more close and caring and more involved.

* These patterns were found for both lower- and higher-income families.

Focusing on family strengths identifies what we value and seek in families. It also clarifies the behaviors and supports families can provide building close and caring relationships, monitoring, being involved, and setting a good example. Moreover, it provides insights for funders, policymakers and service providers on ways that the strengths of families can be leveraged to improve services and, subsequently, outcomes for youth. This brief is based on data for adolescents ages 12-17 from the 2005 Every Child Every Promise Study conducted by America's Promise Alliance.

"You never know when one act, or one word of encouragement can change a life forever."
~ Zig Ziglar

Announcing the 2009 National Science Experiment: Biofuel Blast!

On 4-H National Youth Science Day, October 7th, young people across the nation will get a chance to examine one of the most important issues facing our nation today—energy. Youth will discover, learn and have a blast exploring alternative fuels through Biofuel Blast, the National Science Experiment.

Developed in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension and Wisconsin 4-H, the experiment is designed to spark an early interest in the sciences—all part of 4-H's bold goal to engage a million new young people in science, engineering and technology programs by 2013.

You can find everything you need to participate in 4-H National Youth Science Day online at www.4-H.org/NYSD. The site has lots of useful information, including the experiment facilitator's guide, interactive tools, event planning kits and much more. Plus, new features, information and promotions will be added in the months and weeks leading up to October 7th—so make sure to register to receive event updates today.

We're looking forward to another successful 4-H National Youth Science Day!



Announcing 4-H's New Online Grants Management Portal!

Submitted by Sarah Maass

National 4-H Council is pleased to announce our new grants portal! This portal will be a one-stop resource, housing a wide variety of funding opportunities and related forms (applications, reports, etc.). The site can be found at <http://grants.4-H.org>. You will need to register to begin using the system and to review the benefits this new software provides (below is a brief instructional guide on how to register and apply for grants).

Grants and award information will continue to be available on our program Web pages (http://4-h.org/programs_mission_mandates.html), but this new system will be the primary resource for all funding opportunities.

Additionally, the first grant to utilize this new system has been posted - The Wal-Mart Foundation Healthy Living Youth Grants. More programs and opportunities will be listed soon, so be sure to log in for those updates.

This new portal will make learning and applying for funding opportunities, submitting reports, and receiving information from National 4-H Council much easier.

If you have any questions concerning the new portal, you can email 4HGrants@fourhcouncil.edu.

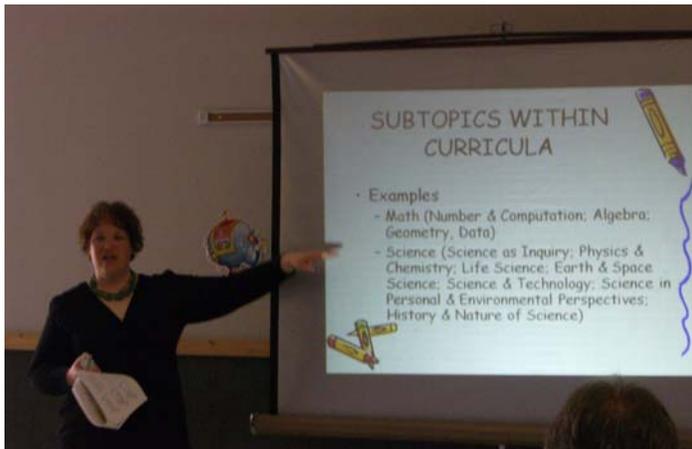
How to Register through WebGrants:

1. Log on to <https://grants.4-h.org>
2. Click the 'Register Here' link
3. Enter all required information
4. Click 'Register'
5. You will receive an email confirming your registration
6. Once approved, you will receive another email from National 4-H Council with a username and temporary password
 - a. Follow the instructions in the email
 - i. Log on to <https://grants.4-h.org> and sign-in with username and temporary password

How to apply for a Funding Opportunity

1. Log in to system
 - a. <https://grants.4-h.org>
2. Click on Funding Opportunities
 - a. Find the program you wish to apply to
 - i. Click on the appropriate Opportunity Title
 - b. Review Opportunity Details
 - i. If this is the Opportunity you wish to apply to, proceed; otherwise go back to step 2
 - c. Click on Start a New Application Process
 - d. Enter all required information
 - i. Some fields will automatically be populated with your information
 - e. Click Save
 - f. Confirm information
 - g. Click Return to Components
 - h. Click on next component to be completed
 - i. Click Edit
 - i. Enter all required information
 - ii. Click Save when complete
 - iii. Review information for completeness
 1. Click Mark as Complete
 - j. Repeat steps h-i
 - k. Make sure all Components are Complete; a checkmark will appear under "Complete?"
 - l. When all Components are complete, click Preview
 - m. If accurate and complete, click Submit
 - n. Click OK

Fun Times at the 2009 KAE4-HA Spring Workshop



4-Her's are AMAZING!!!

4-H members can do amazing things and we bet that you can figure out this corn field maze. The first one to the Clover in the center is the winner!!!

Start
here

