



THE CLOVER

Legacy

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL 4-H HERITAGE CLUB

SPRING 2009

Jennifer R. Snelson-Wells—Inspired in Many Ways To Give Back to 4-H

“NOW is the time to give back in an easy way. You don’t have to sign your life away. You can give some to 4-H and give to others, too.”

—Jennifer R. Snelson-Wells

4-H played a pivotal role in Jennifer Snelson-Wells’ youth, teaching her many enriching, life-changing and character-building skills.

As a youth in rural Wisconsin, 4-H provided her with opportunities to engage in community and leadership projects, perform as a flutist in the 4-H state band, and attend the Citizenship Short Course in Washington, D.C. Without 4-H, these activities would have been inaccessible to Jennifer and other

young people in her community. Jennifer, a National 4-H Heritage Club founding member, and her husband, Robert, have chosen to honor her 4-H roots by bequeathing a legacy gift to National 4-H Council in their marital trust.

Although Jennifer listed 4-H in her will several years ago, she didn’t tell anyone and didn’t fill out any paperwork. When her mother passed away in 2006, she made a small contribution to National 4-H Council. Largely because of 4-H’s responsiveness to that memorial gift, she began rethinking her decision about giving anonymously. Locally, she and her sisters purchased a sign for the county 4-H building, in cooperation with the county agent, to honor her mother’s 4-H leadership.

In 2007, the Wellses revisited their will around the same time National 4-H Council was formulating its planned giving program. “We discussed what we wanted to accomplish and how we

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Jennifer grew up in northern Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, and attended The College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. She was a Human Resources Manager and Resource Development Officer before retiring early in 2000. She lives with her husband in northern Minnesota.

A Slow Economy Doesn't Have to Dampen Your Generous Spirit

Why a Gift of Stock to 4-H Makes Sense

When the economy is strained – like it is now – giving stock to National 4-H Council as a charitable gift still makes sense. If you plan well, you can lessen the tax bite and help us without sapping your cash flow. Russell Willis III, an estate planning attorney based in Portland, Ore., explains how.

Why would I make a gift of securities when the economy seems uncertain?

Even in a down market, you may have unrecognized gains in some of your stocks. By giving these appreciated stocks to 4-H, you get the benefit of a charitable deduction for their full fair market value without paying capital gains tax.

With a gift of appreciated stock, your deduction will be limited to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income in the year you make the gift. You are allowed to carry over any excess for five subsequent years. If the market downturn has brought the stock price down far enough, you may want to look at claiming only your cost basis as the deductible amount, rather than the fair

market value, which will allow you to increase the limit on your deduction to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. Your tax advisor can help you decide what's best for you.

What should I do to take advantage of this opportunity to increase my deduction?

First, consider the purpose and size of your gift to 4-H. Do you want to make an unrestricted gift that allows 4-H to direct your gift to the greatest need? Do you want to support a specific program area? Is your gift of stock an annual contribution? Do you want to use your stock to make a legacy gift? Contact Sue Fisher, 715-386-6043 or sfisher@fourhcouncil.edu, to obtain information needed to

make an informed decision about your gift.

Then, confer with your investment and tax advisors to plan your giving in a way that works best for you from your financial perspective.

How can I relieve the anxiety of giving away assets during a slowing economy?

Simply focus on the good that you can accomplish with your gift to 4-H. By making a realistic assessment of how much you need to save and how much you expect to use, you can determine how much might be given in a charitable contribution. Thoughtful giving can continue to be a part of your financial plan during this economic period.



How You Can Help

In an extended recession, support from individuals who have a passion for the 4-H program and the significant contribution that it makes in the lives of the youth it serves, becomes even more urgent. If you have resources available, now is the time to step forward and offer your support.

Participants in National 4-H Center's Opening Become New National 4-H Heritage Club Members 50 Years Later



Gladys W. Knapp, a founding member of the West Virginia 4-H Hall of Fame, was a West Virginia 4-H member beginning in 1923. Gladys worked with 4-H members and leaders as a West Virginia Extension Agent and Home Management Specialist for nearly 20 years. Gladys was married to J.O. Knapp, West Virginia Extension Director and ECOP Chair, when the National 4-H Foundation was incorporated.

Gladys W. Knapp reflects on her contribution to 4-H in Kathleen's Corner, a room that holds 4-H memorabilia, in the National 4-H Youth Conference Center.

Anita Hollmer Hodson, a New York 4-H member, is one of two 4-H members that assisted President Eisenhower with the ribbon cutting ceremony at the opening of the national center. Her 4-H experience was instrumental in broadening her horizons and personal experiences. Anita is an Emergency Medicine Doctor at Christina Hospital in Wilmington, Del., with 33 years of experience.

National 4-H Center ribbon cutting ceremony on June 16, 1959. From left to right are J.O. Knapp, Director of Extension, WV University and Chair, ECOP; President Dwight D. Eisenhower; Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture; and Anita Hollmer (Hodson), 4-H member, Saratoga County, New York.



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wanted to be remembered. It was time to make my decision known," Jennifer says. "I realized I could do this right now. I don't know how much money I will have when I die, but I feel a tremendous sense of satisfaction knowing a certain percentage will go to 4-H."

Jennifer stresses the importance of former members, leaders and volunteers giving back to the

organization that made such a difference in their lives. Large or small, your contributions can ensure that this organization will continue into the future and provide opportunities to the next generation of young adults. She asks, "If we don't do it, who will?"

"We appreciate the encouragement Jennifer provided for the establishment of the National 4-H Heritage

Club and her planned gift that supports our future," says Sue Fisher, Associate Director, Development.

 If you would like to invest in 4-H's long-term future like Jennifer has, please contact Sue at (715) 386-6043 or (651) 492-6743. You can designate a gift as unrestricted or direct it to a broad program area of your choice.

National 4-H Heritage Club Pin Shows Pride and Pledge to Future

The National 4-H Council's Heritage Club is offering members a special historic pin to show their commitment to the 4-H movement. The original pin, a replica of a small pendant given to Gertrude L. Warren, the first National 4-H Leader (1917-1952), is a keepsake and reminder of how your planned gifts will help 4-H for years to come.

Gertrude was a visionary and extraordinary leader and educator. During her decades of service to the 4-H movement, she proposed new and innovative projects for youth and channeled young people's energy into successful hands-on



learning activities. Her work is still reflected in today's 4-H program, and her legacy lives on through

A replica of the National 4-H Heritage Club pin awarded to new charter members.

National 4-H Council's mission to build a world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together as catalysts for positive change.

By wearing the National 4-H Heritage Club pin, you can share your belief in 4-H's positive future. Join the tradition of 4-H pioneers like Gertrude who inspired a movement that continues today with more than 6 million youth and thousands of volunteers dedicated to positive youth development.

Save the Date

National 4-H Council will host a luncheon and formally welcome charter members to the National 4-H Heritage Club on Oct. 9, 2009. This event will be held in conjunction with the National 4-H Hall of Fame induction ceremonies at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center. Invitations will be mailed this summer.

For more information about the National 4-H Heritage Club, contact Sue Fisher today.



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National 4-H Council works to advance the 4-H Youth Development movement, building a world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together as catalysts for positive change. National 4-H Council partners with the Cooperative Extension System of land-grant Universities, National 4-H Headquarters at USDA, communities and other organizations to provide technical support and training, develop curricula, create model programs and promote positive youth development to fulfill its mission. National 4-H Council also manages the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, a full-service conference facility, and the National 4-H Supply Service, the authorized agent for items bearing the 4-H Name and Emblem. National 4-H Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. National 4-H Council is committed to a policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, sex, religion, religious creed, ancestry or national origin, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, physical or mental disability. Mention or display of trademark, proprietary product or firm in text or figures does not constitute an endorsement by National 4-H Council and does not imply approval to the exclusion of suitable products or firms.

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