All the Rage and Craze about Citizenship

Jasper County – When you recite the words, “I pledge . . . my hands to larger service,” what does it mean to you? To a few dedicated 4-H leaders in Jasper County, that meant tackling the issue of hunger in their community. Now, they have their whole county involved.

Three years ago, after multiple 4-H leaders suggested that Jasper County 4-H should get involved with Meals from the Heartland, Stacey Wilson (Jasper County CYC) wanted to make it happen! “After all, Community Service and Citizenship are staples of the 4-H program and what better way to use our hands for larger service, for our community, our country and our world,” declared Stacey.

In order to purchase the supplies, each club was asked to provide $100. After receiving additional support from businesses, Jasper County packaged 6,480 meals in 2013, their very first year! In 2014, more clubs got involved and an abundant amount of money enabled them to package 23,544 meals! This year, dollars and volunteers kept flowing in – allowing Jasper County to package 31,104 meals! To further their impact, the kids made Valentines for residents of local nursing homes. “I am so proud of our 4-H’ers and families,” celebrates Stacey. Jasper County had 11 of 14 clubs involved this year – a great example of youth making a difference. Outstanding efforts!

How will you put your hands to larger service?

Upcoming Events

March 22nd
World Water Day
unwater.org/worldwaterday/home/en
~ Celebrate clean water, make a difference for those who suffer from water issues, and plan for the future of our world’s water!

March 28th
Earth Hour
www.earthhour.org
~ Turn off all power for an hour to protect the planet and save electricity! ~

Be the change you wish to see in the world. – Mahatma Gandhi

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Each November, delegates from all over the country travel to National 4-H Congress, held in Georgia, during the week of Thanksgiving. “The recognition event includes dynamic keynote speakers, community service in the Atlanta area, workshops on leadership, cultural issues, and team-building. Participants also get a chance to see the city of Atlanta.”¹ For the Iowa delegates, that includes attending a service inside Ebenezer Baptist Church. Martin Luther King, Jr. grew up in Ebenezer Baptist Church where his father served as the Reverend, and later MLK, Jr. would serve the same role at the same pulpit. Attending this service is a cultural experience for all of the delegates. With Martin Luther King, Jr. Day recently occurring, here are some quotes from the 2014 Iowa delegates as they discuss the impact of attending a service in Ebenezer Baptist Church.


“I felt very humbled just to be in the place where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. got his start. During the service I was very, very touched and moved at how welcoming they were of us . . . I was stopped by one of the women from the choir. We got to talking about music . . . and we shared this wonderful moment of one past teacher sharing with a future teacher. . . At that moment and for that day I didn’t think about race or age. That woman was so caring and supportive of my choices for the future that it really just felt honest and sincere. . . . She will live in my thoughts as I continue on my path to becoming a teacher.” – Jenna Short, 2014 Delegate

“I’ve never felt more welcomed and appreciated in my entire life than when we were at Ebenezer Baptist. . . [There was] a skit about Michael Brown and the anger everyone in the room felt about the crime. The pastor tied how Dr. King wanted everyone to protest peacefully into his sermon that day. . . Ebenezer Baptist was not only a new opportunity, but also a new life experience that I will forever be grateful I was provided with.” – Olivia Young, 2014 Delegate

“Going to Ebenezer Church was a very powerful experience – one that I don’t think the kids will forget anytime soon; I know I won’t. We didn’t go simply for a religious service. It’s an important part of our nation’s history. A man who was HIV positive spoke in honor of World AIDS Day, a young woman who had been a victim of sex trafficking also spoke about the sex trafficking problem in Atlanta. The time we were there was also concurrent with the Ferguson conflict so it was included in the service; you can’t have a better place to discuss racial tensions. Each segment was very powerful. We were welcomed with absolute open arms.” – Phil Heckman, 2014 Chaperone

“Going to the Ebenezer Church was definitely one of the highlights of the trip for me . . . It was different for me to be the minority race but everyone was so welcoming and I loved the music. It really just filled me with so much joy and happiness.” – Kara Schueler, 2014 Delegate

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Accepting any questions, comments, or ideas regarding events, global citizenship or featured stories! Share with me today!!
February: a month of valentines, love and sweethearts or a month honoring the struggle, movements and momentum of African-Americans? February is celebrated as Black History Month; a chance to pay tribute to the African-Americans who dedicated their whole life to make a difference among the people of their race. Because of each of their commitment, the African-American race has made significant progress and achievement. Iowa State University claims several successful alumni whom have each made a difference.

Iowa State alumnus Frederick Douglass Patterson (1901 – 1988) made a substantial impact on the lives of several African-Americans. Graduating from Iowa State College in 1927 with a PhD in Veterinary Science and a Master’s Degree in Science, Patterson was Iowa State’s only African-American student at the time. He began his career at Virginia State University, and quickly became Director of Agriculture. In 1928, Patterson began teaching at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (now Tuskegee University); first as a professor, then as President after just seven years. During his Presidency, the School of Veterinary Medicine was established at Tuskegee which now accounts for 75% of the nation’s African-American veterinarians. “Dr. Patterson also brought the Tuskegee Airmen flight training program to the Institute. The all-Black squadrons of Tuskegee Airmen were highly decorated World War II combat veterans.”

Making a difference in the lives of African-American students was a passion of Dr. Patterson’s. He established the United Negro College Fund, “which to date has raised more than $1 billion for student aid.” He also began the George Washington Carver Foundation, which is “a non-profit organization that [offers] scientific research grants to African-American students.” George Washington Carver, also an Iowa State Agricultural College graduate, “was the first black student, and later taught as the first black faculty member.” “Carver’s reputation is based on his research into and promotion of alternative crops to cotton, such as peanuts, soybeans, and sweet potatoes, which also aided nutrition for farm families. He wanted poor farmers to grow alternative crops both as a source of their own food and as a source of other products to improve their quality of life. The most popular of his 44 practical bulletins for farmers contained 105 food recipes using peanuts.”

Dr. Patterson retired from his position as President of Tuskegee in 1953, after serving for 18 years. However, he continued to make a difference. “Four years later, he became president of the Phelps Stokes Fund, an educational sponsor for minority students. Patterson left the position in 1970. In 1975, he was responsible for founding the College Endowment Funding Plan. The plan encouraged educational funding from private companies, using the incentive that the federal government would match those businesses’ contributions.” Individuals continue to benefit from Patterson’s unselfish dedication to making a difference and leaving a positive impact on the world.

George Washington Carver and Frederick Douglass: two powerful change agents – how will you make a difference?

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