The Citizenship Courier is a monthly newsletter established by the Global Citizenship Intern at ISU Extension and Outreach.

Citizenship is a 4-H curricula area that teaches youth about their individual role in society and government, and is divided into four topics: civic engagement, civic education, service, and personal development. The Global Citizenship Intern aspires to empower the area of civic education, primarily focusing on global and cultural competence, while also highlighting the other three topics.

Check in often to learn more about citizenship and discover the ways you can get involved like your peers!

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**THOUGHTS • INSPIRATION • ACTION!**

January 18th is a federal holiday to celebrate one of the most influential African Americans in the history of the United States: Martin Luther King, Jr. Now we have the opportunity during African American History Month to honor others like him and celebrate the endurance and persistence of African Americans throughout history despite discrimination, segregation and hate.

**African American History Month** – Many federal organizations use the month of February to “join [together] in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society” (http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/about.html). Their struggles, perseverance, and determination did not only create a new life for African Americans, but it also changed the course of history for all Americans.

Make an impact during African American History Month:
- Research racism and take action to put an end to it
- Learn about the history surrounding African Americans
- Discover the many noteworthy African Americans who made an impact in the lives of many and brainstorm ideas of how you can do the same!
- Present information to your 4-H Club

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

A list of other monthly events can be found on the Global Citizenship webpage

**January 18th**
**MLK, Jr. Day of Service**
www.nationalservice.gov/MLKDay
MLK, Jr. Day of Service is meant to honor Dr. King & his persistent encouragement for all citizens to make the country a better place. See the December issue for ideas and ways to make an impact.

**February 2016**
**African American History Month**
See article to the left.

"A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything.”
– Malcolm X
“It truly is an incredible thing to spread hope and light around the world and make a global difference.”

– Stick-To-It senior member, Audra Weber

The picture above shows one of the recipients representing Iowa 4-H: Keokuk County on the other side of the world in the African country of Nigeria.

“It really feels good to be able to do something that helps people who don’t have as much as we do.”

– Stick-To-It junior member, Isabelle Ireland

“Sticking-To-It” to Make a Global Impact

Stick-To-It is a Keokuk County 4-H Club that is well-known for their dedicated efforts in the area of Citizenship. Throughout their 90 years of existence, they have made a huge impact in their community by: raising money for several charitable organizations, donating their time to meaningful causes, and always showing their contagious smiles while making a positive difference in their rural community. Recently, the local newspaper’s headline read: “4-H Group Gives $500 to Community Organizations.” Such stories are a regular occurrence.

A few years ago, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach changed their logo which meant that anything with their outdated logo on it would need to be replaced. For some, a simple throw-it-away approach was implemented. For the Stick-To-It 4-H Club, though, they saw it as an opportunity and wanted to do what they do best: make a difference. This time, their efforts extended past their local community and impacted the other side of the world.

Over 200 t-shirts in Keokuk County needed to be disposed of so the Stick-To-It 4-H group divided them into three batches – each going to a different country. So far, one delivery has been made to Nigeria, another batch is scheduled to go to Kenya, and the third is yet to be determined by a local church mission group. Leader Gail Weber used this as a teachable moment to remind her members that the 4-H pledge ends with, “for my club, my community, my country, and my world.”

Personally, I am confident that this group’s global impact will one day match its phenomenal community efforts. As if on cue to make that point during our interview, the group was busy arranging cookie plates of appreciation to deliver to the local hospital, police and fire departments, and other places for workers and volunteers that had to work over the holidays. They are always planning some type of outreach. Way to go, Stick-To-It!!