

Union County Extension Impact Story

The state-wide theme for 4-H in 2008 was “Ignite the Flame.” We all believe in 4-H and the importance of the life skills it helps our children learn -- responsibility, organization, communication, cooperation and consensus building. This wouldn't be possible without your support. It is very important that we continue to invest in our youth, to provide the opportunities 4-H offers and to strengthen the outreach and programs of 4-H. With a spark and careful fanning from caring and supportive adults like you, 4-H in Union County can become a roaring fire of success stories like these.

Clothing selection grows five-fold – After participating in the Iowa State Fair style show, Kilee Kralik of Douglas Boosters became inspired to help younger members learn about fashion and clothing selection. Three years ago, the style show had just five members participating. In year one of Kilee's workshops, 14 members participated, and in year three, 28 4-Hers exhibited a constructed or purchased outfit in the county style show. In 2009, her goal is to have 50 members participate in a clothing project. Wow! And, it gets better. A clothing selection workshop Kilee held at the Rectory Rerun Shop inspired a new statewide “\$15 Challenge” project where the outfit selected must cost \$15 or less. Members learn what affordable (and attractive) outfits may be found in secondhand shops and at garage sales. A lesson we all can benefit from!

Changing stations at the fairgrounds – Hannah Ziffer of the Sand Creek Pioneers caught her community service flame on fire after finding there was no clean, convenient and private place at the county fairgrounds to change a baby's diaper. Hannah decided to change that and secured a grant from YACC to purchase two changing stations. She worked with fair board members to install the changing stations in fairground' restrooms. The work earned her a State Fair blue ribbon, but Hannah says the best part was having mothers thank her for the changing stations and knowing she's made a positive difference in the community.

Making old things nice and new – Brant Adamson shops for his 4-H projects in Grandma's attic. Through home improvement, Brant has refurbished many old items that have sentimental value to his family, making them nice and new. Learning about different woods, wood stains and paints and how to combine them to get a great looking final piece has been a rewarding experience for this Union County Unicorn. By exhibiting at the fair he has gained skills in communications and self confidence. And Brant says he's become involved in the community through a variety of service projects such as Open Table.