

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## University Extension

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### 4-H volunteer finds joy, satisfaction helping “big, extended family”

Clio, Iowa resident, Missy Petty, spent nine years as a Wayne County 4-H'er in her youth. During that time she took home her share of ribbons from the county fair, participated in youth council and even had an opportunity to visit the nation's capitol in Washington, D.C. through a 4-H sponsored trip.

It was a fun time and years later, with a family of her own, Missy looked back fondly on those memories, realized what a strong influence 4-H had been in her life and decided it was time to give something back to the organization she loved. Today, with just one of her own children still in club work, Petty reflects on 12 years as a 4-H volunteer and says the rewards have been tremendous.

“I feel like I've got this big, extended family and I just love my kids,” says Petty, whose day job is Consumer Information Coordinator for Hy-Vee Foods in Chariton. Her local club, the Clio Southwesters, is 25 members strong and, according to Missy, job one is simply making each child and family feel that they belong. “It's a great feeling helping youngsters find individual success and self esteem through the opportunities 4-H has to offer,” says Petty. “It's something that's brought me a lot of [joy through the years.](#)”

Each year Iowa 4-H involves more than 11,000 adult and older teen volunteers providing mentored, hands-on learning opportunities to over 123,000 Iowa youth. If you'd like to share your knowledge and talents with young people in a fun, creative atmosphere, contact your local ISU Extension county office. You can help build memories and skills that last a lifetime.



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**“I feel like I've got this big, extended family,  
and I just love all my kids...”**

-Missy Petty, volunteer leader, Clio Southwesters 4-H club, Wayne County

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For more information about this and other ISU Extension programs, contact Karen Pattison, 4-H & Youth field specialist, 641-342-3316, [kpatti@iastate.edu](mailto:kpatti@iastate.edu), or, Pat Swartzlander, Wayne County Extension Education Director, 641-872-1755, [pswartz@iastate.edu](mailto:pswartz@iastate.edu)

... and justice for all

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