



Massachusetts
4-H Foundation

FOSTERING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

FALL 2020



COMPASS

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From the President and Executive Director

Dear Members of the Massachusetts 4-H Family:

We publish this issue of *Compass* during a year like no other. Despite the pandemic's many and evolving challenges, the Foundation has advanced its mission to fund 4-H youth development programs in the state. We secured additional funding sources to underwrite increased programming in underserved urban and rural communities, launched a new, easily navigable website, and expanded and diversified our Board of Trustees, all while supporting the extraordinary work of the 4-H team at UMass Extension.

That creative and committed team never missed a beat when COVID-19 hit. They promptly developed and delivered engaging, virtual programming for youth across the Commonwealth. For example, they created Massachusetts' first-ever Virtual State Fair with judging in all the traditional categories, as well as a weekly Facebook video series covering mindfulness, healthy living, STEM, and other topics. They also offered a variety of Zoom-based programs, including a career exploration series to introduce 4-Hers to successful professionals.

Furthering its commitment to 4-H STEM programming in underserved communities, the Foundation pledged to raise \$150,000 over five years to secure the hiring of a new 4-H Program Assistant at UMass. The Program Assistant, who is expected to be on board later this month, will adapt a proven STEM after-school program for virtual delivery in both English and Spanish to youth in Holyoke, Springfield, and, for the first time, Worcester.

Making the most of the Massachusetts "stay-at-home" advisory this spring, the Foundation's staff utilized that uninterrupted time at home to redesign and modernize our website. If you have not had the opportunity to explore it, please visit www.mass4hfoundation.org. We think you will find it informative and user-friendly.

When you visit the new website, you will see a list of the Foundation's Trustees. We are pleased to report that the Board's Nominating Committee recruited six new members to our Board. Our new Trustees are a diverse group with a variety of skills and experiences that will energize the Board and create new and exciting ways for the Foundation to enrich and advance 4-H programming in Massachusetts. Brief biographies of the new Trustees begin on page 8.

The Annual Fund is the Foundation's principal source of unrestricted dollars to support 4-H programs. Last year, with the help of a \$15,000 Challenge Match, we closed the 2019 Annual Fund with a record-setting total of \$88,176. I am pleased to announce that several current and former Trustees and friends of 4-H have joined forces to offer a \$25,000 Challenge Match to incentivize each member of the Massachusetts 4-H family to increase his or her gift to the 2020 Annual Fund. See the next page for the Challenge Match details.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Compass*. Read inside about clubs that have helped their communities during the pandemic, a 4-H alum who succeeded despite the odds, and our annual Kent Lage Award winners.

With deepest gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven E. Borgeson".

Steven E. Borgeson

President, Board of Trustees
Massachusetts 4-H Foundation



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie G. Flanagan".

Laurie G. Flanagan

Executive Director
Massachusetts 4-H Foundation

\$25,000 ANNUAL FUND CHALLENGE MATCH

Several current and former Trustees and friends of 4-H who understand the value of a broad-based annual giving program and the unrestricted dollars it provides have pledged \$25,000 to support the 2020 Annual Fund. The Challenge Match has two components:

1

\$10,000 will be given if 15 or more Annual Fund donors increase their gift to \$1,000 or more in 2020. *If you did not make an Annual Fund gift in 2019 or made a gift of less than \$1,000, you are eligible to participate in the \$1,000 and Up Challenge.*

2

\$15,000 will be given to match, dollar-for-dollar, the amount by which a donor's 2020 Annual Fund gift exceeds his or her 2019 Annual Fund gift. *Participants in the \$1,000 and Up Challenge are not eligible for this component of the Challenge Match.*

Please give generously to the 2020 Annual Fund so that the Foundation may take full advantage of the \$25,000 Challenge Match.

KIM POND: STEM EDUCATOR, LEADER, MENTOR

As the State S.E.T. (Science/Engineering/Technology) Program Manager, Kim Pond had 4-H in her blood from the beginning. Her great-grandmother paved the way for Kim's 4-H career, founding a 4-H club in Sherman, ME. Her grandmother and mother later joined the same club.

Kim joined the Foster Little Twigs 4-H Club in Foster, RI at age 10. She remembers her favorite events were participating in the "Make it with Apples" contest and winning first prize in a Nutrition Quiz Bowl.

As Kim grew up, she attended the National 4-H Congress in Fashion Review and the National 4-H Conference as a Rhode Island Ambassador. A self-described "loner" in school, she found many friends in her 4-H club.

From 4-H, Kim believes she gained skills that help her in her role today, including program planning, goal setting, working on a team, confidence, and public speaking. "Where would I be without having done visual presentations or having the opportunity to be an officer?" she said.

After high school, Kim went on to Rhode Island College, earning a B.A. in Biology with a Chemistry minor.

In 1987-88, she helped pilot the 4-H educational television program Blue Skies Below My Feet in Providence elementary schools.

In 1992, after earning her Master's in Teaching Science from Rhode Island College, she became a Project Manager for Rhode Island 4-H. "My love of science made me switch to science teaching and I was fortunate when I graduated that there was an opening in 4-H, so I could give back, combining my passions for 4-H and science," said Kim.

This year, Kim noticed that there was a lot of virtual programming available for young children, but not for tweens and teens. So she created "Fun Fridays," a video series featuring topics like aquatic biology, forestry, composting, Earth Day, and more geared toward teens. She also delivered activities that focus on computational thinking, like cup stacking, allowing young people to remain "unplugged."

"Virtual learning has challenged us, but also helped to show the creativity and adaptability of our staff, volunteers and 4-H families," said Kim. "We are trying new things and learning from each other, staying connected and engaged."



In 2018, Kim Pond accepted an award for 25 years of service in 4-H from President Casey Mull at a conference for the National Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals.

Looking forward, Kim plans to work on the 4-H online membership database. She also plans to continue implementing the computer science grant awarded to Massachusetts by Google in 2019.

Whatever arises, it's safe to say Kim will continue to engage and amaze 4-H youth with interesting STEM activities!

UNSTOPPABLE

4-H ALUMNA ANGELINA MANGIARDI

For many people, a cancer diagnosis would prevent them from achieving lifelong goals. For 4-H alumna Angelina Mangiardi, 26, however, her diagnosis at age 19 gave her more determination to reach her aspirations, set her on a path to her dream job at a nonprofit, and helped her pursue a life consistent with her values. Over the summer, she shared her story with current 4-Hers as part of the Career Exploration Series via Zoom.

Growing up on a farm in Pittsfield, MA, Angelina joined 4-H at eight years old. She started out showing animals and making crafts. When Angelina became her club's president, she learned to work on a team, create meeting agendas, and facilitate conversations. While 4-H provided her with leadership experience, her drive was all her own. "A lot of my speaking skills I gained through 4-H and visual presentations," explained Angelina. "I would present on silly things, like towel origami, just to get

comfortable speaking in front of people."

After high school, Angelina left rural Western Massachusetts for New York City, where she pursued a degree at the Fashion Institute of Technology. It was in January of her second year that she learned she had Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

While in treatment at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Angelina had time to think about what she wanted her future to look like. "What is the next step? What makes me happy? What is the next thing I could do that would give me purpose?"

Angelina knew that she wanted to return to her 4-H roots and spend time connecting with others outside. To begin, she decided to pursue a degree in Environmental Science, Policy, and Social Change at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and completed her college application from her hospital room.

"If cancer and First Descents taught me anything, it's that there will be times in life when I feel frozen by fear, but if I take one more step anyway, I can challenge myself to do things that seemed impossible at the start."

**- Angelina Mangiardi
4-H Alumna**



While researching resources for cancer patients, Angelina stumbled upon First Descents, an organization that provides outdoor adventures like rock climbing and whitewater kayaking for young adults aged 18-39 affected by cancer and other serious health conditions. When Angelina joined First Descents for rock-climbing in June 2015, she experienced a life-altering week. It was one of the first times she not only met people her own age with cancer, but also began to perceive herself differently. “People see you as capable and you’re not treated as a patient, but as someone who can do physical things,” she said.

“Being a member of 4-H for 10 years allowed me the opportunities to gain foundational skills such as public speaking, leadership, and more. From planning our 4-H fair and organizing fundraisers to leading my 4-H club meetings, I learned skills that I have taken with me throughout college and my professional career.”

In 2016, Angelina’s love of travel led her to study abroad in Tanzania, where she studied wildlife management and researched vultures. While in Tanzania, she also climbed the 19,341 foot peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, a huge accomplishment for someone who was treated for cancer not two years before.

Angelina then joined AmeriCorps, an organization focused on public service work. She first traveled to Fairbanks, Alaska, where she spent seven months with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, running science camps and developing lesson plans for youth in grades K-12.

Angelina also worked as the Farm-to-School Coordinator at an immersion school on the island of Kauai in Hawaii, where she grew fresh food and developed a lunch program, teaching youth about nutrition and agriculture. While teaching the children, she also found herself enlightened. “Any experience you gain, traveling or studying, helps you figure out more about yourself and the world you’re in,” she explained at this summer’s Zoom session.

In the back of her mind, Angelina remembered her transformative experience with First Descents, based in Denver, Colorado. “First Descents was where I experienced so much joy and healing myself,” she explained. “I started wondering how I could give back to them.”

As luck would have it, two days after her AmeriCorps service in Hawaii ended, she saw a job for a Program Coordinator on the organization’s website. She applied and was offered the job. In her role as a Program Coordinator, Angelina registers participants, follows up on medical paperwork, and soothes aspiring adventurers’ anxieties. She also makes program changes and develops adaptability guides for participants with a wide range of abilities and at all different points of treatment. “I’m granted a lot of creativity and flexibility in my role,” said Angelina.

As for the future, Angelina intends to remain at First Descents for the foreseeable future. While oncology and Multiple Sclerosis programs have been put on hold due to the pandemic, First Descents saw a need and recently launched trips for healthcare workers affected by COVID-19.

Angelina has also revisited her early dreams and is once again pursuing her degree at the Fashion Institute of Technology online. She has an interest in studying adaptive clothing and seeing how the fashion industry can intersect with cancer, inspire people, and be inclusive of all different types of bodies. It may seem like a big ambition, but Angelina is ready. “If cancer and First Descents taught me anything, it’s that there will be times in life when I feel frozen by fear, but if I take one more step anyway, I can challenge myself to do things that seemed impossible at the start.”



If you are interested in First Descents, go to <https://firstdescents.org> and click on the “Join Us” button or email Angelina at programs@firstdescents.org.

“SEWING” HOPE, ONE MASK AT A TIME

Participation in 4-H teaches life lessons about compassion and resilience, and no 4-H project demonstrated these qualities better this year than sewing masks. 4-H members in two Massachusetts clubs, the Thimbles club of Cotuit and the Montague Stitchers in Montague, put their skills to work while helping their communities stay safe.

Led by Lisa Martin, Thimbles members began stitching after receiving a request from Jen Pacheco, a nurse at Cape Cod Hospital who is also a former student of Martin's from Cape Cod

Regional Technical School. After supplying the hospital with cloth masks, “word got out,” said Martin, and a movement was born.

While Thimbles club members Jennifer and Lydia, both currently high school seniors, found the first mask or two tricky to stitch, they soon became experts. Jennifer even uploaded a “how to” YouTube video on mask making.

More important than the hours spent sewing were the lessons learned by the young women during this unprecedented time. “It was good to see how we were helping,” said Jennifer. “We can see how this project is helping communities around us.”

Lydia saw the impact of her efforts firsthand when she met (socially distanced) a healthcare provider from New York who wore a mask she made. “It means I’m making a difference,” said Lydia. “It means a lot to me that I’m helping people on the frontlines.”

Thimbles has donated nearly 1,000 masks to more than 22 different groups, including hospitals on Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard; assisted living facilities; local fire departments; and the Joint Base of Cape Cod. Candy LeBlanc (pictured on next page), the Youth Program Coordinator on base, received 220 children’s masks from Thimbles.



Jennifer from Thimbles displays masks

The Montague Stitchers started a collective effort of making masks following inspiration from club members’ families. Three members sewed masks with their mothers and grandmothers, and the rest of the club caught the spirit.

Led by Kathryn Aubry-McAvoy and two other leaders, club members learned to make masks when Kathryn distributed a tutorial, 4-H fabric, and elastic to the girls (pictured at left). Kathryn also loaned sewing machines to club members, including one purchased by the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation.

Like Thimbles, Kathryn admits that the Stitchers found sewing the masks difficult initially. While the girls echoed this sentiment, they also took pride in the growth of their skills.



“It’s really nice to be able to help out the community, to help people stay safe. It definitely feels good to be part of a larger movement that is helping to make the world a better place.”

“I’ve gotten better at sewing straight seams, better at sewing through multiple layers and better at sewing around bends and curves,” said Jyn, a 9th grader and member of the club for two years. “It’s really nice to be able to help out the community, to help people stay safe. It definitely feels good to be part of a larger movement that is helping to make the world a better place.”

The Stitches have sewn hundreds of non-medical grade masks for volunteers at community food distribution centers, employees at a local hardware store, family and friends, and for a mask drive led by the city of Greenfield.

They even made masks for 4-H Educators Tom Waskiewicz and Carrie Chickering-Sears!

So many are grateful for the efforts of these 4-H club members. “The Stitches saw the opportunity to sew much-needed masks to keep their family, friends and community safe,” said Waskiewicz. “They are to be commended for their initiative, selflessness and support of others.”



Candy LeBlanc, Youth Program Coordinator, Joint Base Cape Cod

FIRST EVER VIRTUAL STATE 4-H FAIR

Massachusetts held its first ever Virtual State 4-H Fair at the end of August. 230 4-H members submitted more than 1,200 projects! While a virtual fair meant that it was unfortunately not open to the public, the quality of the projects remained every bit as high as in any “regular” year. 4-H members demonstrated the spirit of Head, Heart, Hand and Health.

Take a look at some sample projects below: a Breeding Beef (Senior Yearling), an elegantly costumed rabbit, and a beautiful quilt.

Owen is pictured with his winning Belted Galloway, Ladybug.



Clover as the Princess, owned by **AnaRose**.



The Virtual Fair featured a blue-ribbon quilt made by **Eleanor**.

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WELCOME NEW TRUSTEES

Robin Clapp

As a 10-year youth member of the Cows-n-Clover 4-H club, Robin Clapp participated in beef and dairy projects. Robin then earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth in 1996. She worked at General Dynamics as a hardware/firmware engineer for 13 years. In 2006 she started her own business, Web Design by Robin.



Robin is married to Christopher and has two boys, Daniel and Trevor, who have just completed their final year of 4-H. Robin has been a leader of the Cows-n-Clover 4-H Club where her boys were active members. She served as president of the Bristol County 4-H Livestock Advisory, Secretary of the MA 4-H Dairy Advisory, and Assistant Leader of the Massachusetts 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team. She is a true believer in growing up "green." 4-H is and always will be a huge part of who she is.



Tyler Ayer

Tyler has spent his career in leadership and service-oriented roles in the investment world, managing a Virginia-based family office and working as a Boston-based registered investment advisor. An unabashed "people person," Tyler enjoys meeting new people, building enduring relationships, and finding ways to help others. He is a member of Wellesley Connects, a non-profit that provides mentoring

services to first generation, college-bound high school juniors and seniors. Tyler holds an MBA from Dartmouth College's Amos Tuck School and a B.S. from Syracuse University, where he studied at both the Newhouse School of Public Communications and the Whitman School of Management. During his free time, Tyler enjoys tackling home projects, taking long walks with his dog, fishing for anything that will bite, and caring for his family and community. Tyler lives in Wellesley with his wife, Patti, and their three children.

Susannah Wilson

Susie Wilson has built a career at the intersection of art, business, and education. After graduating from Harvard University with a degree in the History of Art and Architecture with honors, she spent three years consulting for banks. Susie then earned her MBA from Harvard Business School. She has served as the Director of Strategy at Artnet Worldwide Corporation and the Chief Operating Officer at Greene Naftali Gallery in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. More recently, Susie managed finance, operations, and strategy at Yale University's School of Art until she joined NXTHVN, which provides artist residency and youth development programs. As a child, she was involved with the Sunny Rock 4-H Club.



Nicole Vaughan

Nicole is the Director of Development Operations & Campaign Strategy at Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) where she has worked in a variety of roles for the past eight years. Her work includes campaign management and strategy, as well as developing tools, establishing processes, and creating connections to enhance CJP's resource development efforts. Nicole grew up in a 4-H family. As a member of two clubs she was an active participant and volunteer in Worcester County 4-H, from the 4-H fair to visual presentations and leadership conferences. She credits 4-H with developing the public speaking and leadership skills that have helped in her career. Nicole currently resides in the Fenway neighborhood in Boston with her boyfriend Will.

Va Shon Wallace-Hiltpold



Va Shon has been a 4-H Extension Educator for over 20 years. Va Shon was initially hired to develop partnerships and collaborations with community organizations to deliver 4-H programs in Boston. She is currently the Interim 4-H Educator in Suffolk, Middlesex,

and Essex counties. She's known for her gift of working with and motivating teens and is passionate about the benefits of 4-H. Va Shon lives in Wakefield with her husband and children.

Erika Prah



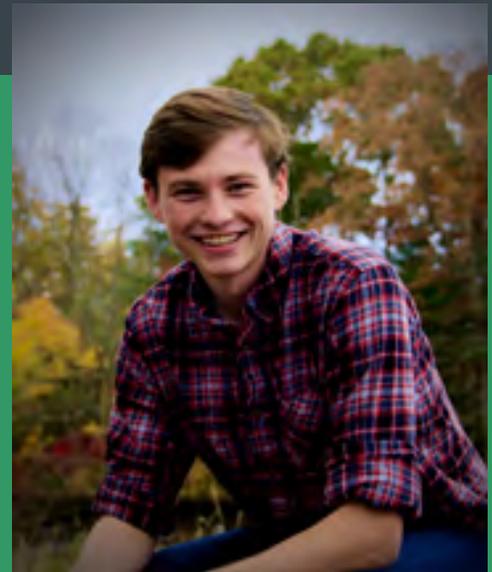
Erika was recently appointed the Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the Middlesex School in Concord, MA. She's had a 19-year tenure on the Middlesex School faculty, most recently as the Director of Admissions. Her dedication to secondary school education and the

development of each child's social and intellectual growth brings a new and valuable perspective to our Board. Erika lives on campus with her husband, Kwadwo Oforu-Barko, who is a resident at Lahey Hospital Medical Center.

2020 KENT LAGE LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Trevor Clapp

Trevor Clapp is the recipient of the 2020 First Place Kent Lage Award and a \$1,000 college scholarship. With nearly 14 years of participation in 4-H, specializing in the dairy areas, Trevor has established a leadership track record as a Masterful Massachusetts Milk Ambassador; President of his 4-H Club, Cows 'n Clover; FFA Bristol County President; and Bristol County Teen Representative for Mass 4-H Dairy. In 4-H, he has performed countless visual presentations and won many awards, including placement on the state judging team and fair accolades with his cow Tiger Lily. Trevor has also participated in community service through Bristol County 4-H Fundraisers, as a Milk Ambassador at the Big E, and Backpacks for Bases, among many others. Trevor was an honor roll student at Bristol County Agricultural High School, where he played on the soccer team. He is a freshman at the University of New Hampshire majoring in animal science - dairy management.



Sarah Jordan



As the recipient of the second place Kent Lage Award and a \$500 scholarship, Sarah values communication, teamwork, and innovation as leadership skills. She has demonstrated her leadership skills as President of the Blackstone Valley 4-H Dairy and Beef Club, Vice President of Worcester County 4-H Ambassadors Club, and as a judge for the Worcester County 4-H Visual Presentations. Sarah was also selected as a delegate for National 4-H Conference this fall. Sarah has participated in Mass Ag Day, mentored younger 4-Hers, and created countless visual presentations. Sarah's volunteering extends beyond 4-H. She has been involved with the Holden Grange since 2008 and held the role of National Grange Junior Ambassador. She has volunteered with her church and in her town of Rutland with the Historical Society and Fire Brigade. Sarah is a freshman at Kansas State University.



2020 SHIRLEY KANE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank you to the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation's trustees, sponsors and players for participating in the 18th Annual Shirley Kane Memorial 4-H Golf Tournament! 123 players were able to enjoy a fun day of golf. While different from our traditional tournament day, it was great to be able to get together to share in our common support of Massachusetts 4-H.

The Foundation raised over \$42,000 for Massachusetts 4-H, and it is all due to the generosity of our supporters. Since its inception, the tournament has raised over \$725,000, and 100% of the tournament proceeds have gone directly to 4-H programs.

See you next year!



Senator Anne Gobi, a 4-H alum and Foundation Corporator, and Priscilla Walker, also a Corporator and volunteer, enjoy the golf tournament.



2020 ONLINE AUCTION

Visit <https://www.biddingforgood.com/mass4hfoundation> from November 1-15, 2020! We are auctioning off great items such as a stay at the Charles Hotel, a Lego Mindstorms Create and Command Your Own Robot, and a personal concert with folk singer Diane Taraz.

Support 4-H while you bid safely from home!

FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

In the spring, the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation launched a new website!

Our new website offers you:

- Easy-to-use, streamlined navigation
- New FAQ, 4-H alumni, and Corporate Partner sections
- Search functionality

If you haven't yet visited, please check out:

www.mass4hfoundation.org





Massachusetts
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