



## Michigan 4-H Founder's Fund

*Providing perpetual support for the operations of 4-H and the Michigan 4-H Foundation*

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### Addressing a Perpetual Dilemma

In the Michigan 4-H Foundation's 56-year history, our primary mission has been focused on increasing opportunities for private support of Michigan 4-H Youth Development work statewide. That mission has helped us grow in the past 20 years to an \$8 million organization and one of the historically strongest 4-H foundations in the nation, granting in excess of \$500,000 annually to support 4-H programs in Michigan's communities.

Our support of 4-H of course is driven by three primary responsibilities – ownership and management of Kettunen Center, the Michigan 4-H Foundation's volunteer training center; stewardship of permanently-endowed investments for the long-term support of 4-H; and of course annual private resource development for ongoing and new state and county 4-H programming.

As costs increase for managing these responsibilities, our ability to focus primarily on providing donors opportunities to support the community-based programming that 4-H does for and with Michigan's young people is increasingly challenged.

The perpetual dilemma for Michigan 4-H Foundation board members – and those of most non-profit boards – is how best to manage the ongoing operational costs of supporting community-based 4-H programs and ensure donor gifts support the 4-H programs they care most about. Establishing the **Founder's Fund of the Michigan 4-H Foundation** would allow us to continue to be Michigan's advocate for a strong and viable 4-H program, to encourage innovation in the work we do with Michigan's young people and be better stewards of the gifts donors make to support 4-H's work with young people.

### The Founder's Fund – A Perpetual Solution

The Michigan 4-H **Founders Fund** would provide a stable unrestricted source of revenue to meet the

ongoing needs of Michigan 4-H Youth Development. Investment in this fund would allow for increased support and advocacy for on-going 4-H programs and new 4-H program development, 4-H volunteer training, youth recognition and learning opportunities – all the things that allows 4-H to support the positive growth and development of Michigan's young people. Our goal is to establish this endowment fund that ensures well into the future the foundation's ability to be advocates and stewards for Michigan 4-H.

### Getting to \$5 million for Perpetual Operational Support

Our goal for **The Founder's Fund** is to encourage donor commitments for major and documented planned gifts over the next seven years that combined will result in the foundation having a \$5 million interest-earning reserve fund capable of generating ongoing and perpetual unrestricted support for the areas of greatest need for 4-H and the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Any year this balance grows toward that goal, this fund will be enhancing the asset growth of the foundation while providing perpetual annual support to meet operating and programming needs. It also provides flexibility to address unanticipated opportunities and challenges. Ultimately, our goal would be to ensure that when a donor makes a gift to support 4-H, most if not all of those dollars can be used for supporting the community-based 4-H programs that have helped young people grow and learn for the past 100 years.

In years when revenue is such that the interest earnings on the endowment are not all required for operational support, Michigan 4-H Foundation trustees can make investments in new 4-H initiatives that may not be adequately supported through traditional funding lines. In this way, the **Founder's Fund** would effectively position the Michigan 4-H Foundation to continue to always be change agents by helping 4-H adjust to the contemporary and ever-changing needs of young people.

*Join others in making a difference for Michigan youth by investing in the Michigan 4-H Founder's Fund!*

## **Donor Involvement and Recognition for Building the *Founder's Fund***

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This opportunity will best be realized by participation of donors giving at major gift levels – starting at \$10,000 and above. But, any gift to grow this fund for 4-H's future is welcomed. We are also encouraging potential donors to consider “a gift now and a gift later” or a combination of a current cash gift combined with a larger planned gift e.g. 25 percent now and 75 percent later through planned giving opportunities to help grow the fund. We also will seek significant match opportunities through private foundations and corporations who also believe in the importance of building capacity for non-profit organizations.

Donors that help us create and reach this ***Founder's Fund*** goal with gifts of \$25,000 or more will be permanently recognized at Kettunen Center, the foundation's signature 4-H volunteer training facility, and through an on-going listing in the foundation's annual report as members of the Michigan 4-H Foundation's Cornerstone Society.

## **About Michigan 4-H Youth Development**

Michigan 4-H Youth Development serves more than 241,000 Michigan young people, aged 5 to 19, each year as the youth educational program of Michigan State University Extension. 4-H provides non-formal, out-of and in-school community-based learning opportunities in all of Michigan's 83 counties. Programs are made accessible to youth through the leadership and support of nearly 32,000 adult and older youth volunteers who offer learning opportunities that are age-appropriate, experiential or hands-on, focused on developing life-skills and open to all youth across geography, ethnicity and ability.

## **About the Michigan 4-H Foundation**

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to encouraging and supporting Michigan 4-H Youth Development to prepare youth from all segments of society for meaningful and productive lives. The Michigan 4-H Foundation is an \$8 million organization that seeks, manages and distributes support from private individuals, organizations, foundations and corporations to support the mission and vision of 4-H youth development.

### **For more information**

For more information on this and other opportunities to support 4-H, contact:

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