



Improving Lives of Young People

Franklin County Area United Way's mission is to improve lives by funding agencies that strengthen families, assist the elderly and disabled, provide emergency assistance, and protect and nurture children. Every day we see people in need, people who require financial assistance, have medical needs, or need transportation or a hot meal - people who are desperate to improve their lives in one way or another. Every one of our member agencies works hard to provide services that improve lives, and we appreciate each one, but sometimes the demands for help are overwhelming and seem unending. That's when we have to stop focusing on the problems of today and think about the future. Our children are the future; they will take our nation and our world to heights our grandparents couldn't imagine, and they will accomplish more than it has ever been possible to accomplish before. FCAUW is proud to partner with agencies that nurture our children and instill in them values that will enable them to become strong, sound, effective leaders for tomorrow; agencies that promote character development, and provide opportunities and learning experiences in leadership, citizenship, and life skills. Franklin County 4-H is one of those programs.

Franklin County currently has the largest 4-H enrollment in Missouri with over 750 members and more than 330 volunteers in 22 clubs. The mission of 4-H is to empower young people to reach their full potential and prepare them to make a positive impact in their communities and the world.

4-H brings youth and adults together to learn everyday skills through hands-on learning. Working on activities from animal and plant sciences to robotics, 4-H'ers learn problem-solving skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Through 4-H, young people learn to meet the diverse challenges of today's world. They build self-confidence and learn to be responsible and make good decisions. According to the 4-H website, a recently completed decade-long study by researchers at the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, Medford, MA, proves that 4-H youth excel beyond their peers (<http://www.4-h.org/about/youth-development-research/positive-youth-development-study/>).

4-H clubs are open to youth ages 8 to 18. Clubs meet monthly for group activities and club business. Each club elects officers and has an approved adult leader who supervises club activities. Club members also enroll in projects in their areas of interest. With projects on more than 75 topics, 4-H has something to interest everyone. You can see a full range of available projects on the University of Missouri Extension 4-H page (extension.missouri.edu/franklin/4h.aspx).

Children who are 5 to 7 can also experience 4-H through Clover Kids clubs. From Clover Kids, children learn how to get along with others, work in groups to complete a project, explore their interests, and build self-confidence.

Joining 4-H is easy - just contact the extension center. There are membership dues, and some projects may require a small investment to get started. Plus, there may be fees for materials, trips or other activities. That's where Franklin County Area United Way comes in. The amount allocated to Franklin County 4-H by FCAUW is used to cover expenses individual families are unable to pay. Nurturing our youth is one of United Way's primary goals. By partnering with Franklin County 4-H, we are giving our county's children the nation's most effective youth development program available.

Thought for the Day

*"When you learn,
teach.
When you get,
give."*

- Maya Angelou

15th Annual Golf Tournament

Mark your calendars for Friday, Oct. 2, to join us at Wolf Hollow Golf Club for our 15th annual Golf Tournament. Check-in and lunch at 11:00 am, shotgun start at 12:00.

For details or to RSVP, call the Franklin County Area United Way office at 636-239-1018.

United With You

Thank you for being a part of the Franklin County Area United Way. The goal of our newsletter is to show how your donations improve lives in Franklin County every day. Please let us know if you have any ideas for helping us share the newsletter.



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