Dear 4-H Families,

As my time becomes short with MU Extension and 4-H, I am reminded of the song “For Good” from the Broadway smash hit Wicked. This show has a 4-H connection for me. I feel it is extra fitting as we saw Wicked at the Kennedy Center during the 2011 Citizenship Washington Focus trip at the beginning of my time here. The lyrics are as follows:

“I’ve heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason bringing something we must learn. And we are led to those who help us most to grow if we let them. And we help them in return. Well, I don’t know if I believe that’s true, but I know I’m who I am today because I knew you.

Like a comet pulled from orbit as it passes a sun like a stream that meets a boulder halfway through the wood. Who can say if I’ve been changed for the better, but because I knew you I have been changed for good.

It well may be, that we will never meet again in this lifetime. So, let me say before we part:

So much of me is made of what I learned from you. You’ll be with me like a handprint on my heart. And now whatever way our stories end I know you have rewritten mine by being my friend.

Like a ship blown from it’s mooring by a wind off the sea. Like a seed dropped by a sky bird in a distant wood. Who can say if I’ve been changed for the better But because I knew you....

I have been changed for good.”

Today, I remember the awe and inspiration that each one of us, youth and adults alike experienced as we left the theater and returned to the 4-H Center that night. In fact, that experience we had after the show, was “Speechlessness.” I feel very much the same way now, as many of you have come up to share with me a personal story or interaction that 4-H has made in your or your child’s life. There are no words to express my gratitude that I now know those moments, changes, and growth experiences. I may not have the words to express what I am thinking, but what I do want to say, is Thank you! I will carry these experiences with me forever.

This is a job and we all work to collect a paycheck, however, what no one told me when I started and occasionally forgot while working, is that the pay in this job does not only come in dollars and cents but in memories, observations of transformations, occasional failures and the eventual successes and relationships, friendships! Although, I am changing positions and leaving 4-H and the cash paychecks are ending, I am comforted in knowing that the most important part of the pay will continue: the friendships.

I do not believe in “Good Byes”, but, only “See you laters.” Life has a funny way of bringing people back into our lives. I look forward to those future reunions and hearing about your continued growth and successes.

I would be remiss if I did not also thank the outstanding team that has supported me, coached me and gave me guidance and encouragement as I grew into this position. I must thank….

…A group of teens that have inspired me and taught me about the true power of youth.
Their vision of a better community, a stronger 4-H program and a commitment to success has been continually energizing. Thank you!

…Community Club leaders whose dedication and commitment has allowed outstanding opportunities for young people to do awesome things. You are the workhorses, and without your dedication, none of the “extras” could be possible. Thank you!

…Parents and Project Leaders whose passions, interests and skills when applied create unique and creative opportunities for young people to do awesome project work, that may lead to possible future career choices. Without you bringing your child to 4-H, and, giving your time to bring snacks, opening the meeting space, or holding project meetings the potential of 4-H is not unlocked. Thank you!

…Community members, Extension Council members, sponsors, commissioners, and legislators whose financial and public support allows the resources that make 4-H happen. Without you, there would not be the support for the 4-H organization to take form. Thank you!

On July 31st when I leave the office for the last time, I may be going but each of you are staying and you are the ones that make this program so strong. I have no doubt that you will rally around the next person and support, coach, guide and encourage the next 4-H Youth Development Specialist. They too will start out just collecting a paycheck and will soon learn that their pay will also come in memories, experiences and friendships.

Thank you for the memories and friendship, and until we meet again, know, that because I knew you, I have been changed for good.

Jeremy

**CLUB NEWS**

The **Cornerstone 4-H Club** met on June 1 at the Southwest City Library. There were five members, six leaders and one visitor present. The meeting was called to order by Jon martin. Chase martin led the American pledge and Brandie led the 4-h pledge. In old business, they discussed the 50-50 pot that we used to raise money at the Old Timer’s Day Rodeo. Brandie made a motion to make an amendment to the amount that we actually made. The city accidentally gave them the incorrect amount. The Treasurer's Report was read and a motion was made by Brittney to accept it. Jon seconded the motion. In new business, they discussed writing checks to Ronda and Tammie for materials they have purchased for the club. Brandie will be running for Fair Queen and will be sponsored by the club. Sydney made the motion for Brandie to run for Fair Queen. Chase seconded the motion. Jon will be bringing snacks for the next meeting which will be on August 3, 2015. Brittney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sydney Seconded it. They adjourned the meeting and then worked on the club scrapbook for the fair.

**Macy Reece**, Reporter

The **Crossroads 4-H Club** held a small meeting on June 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM. They discussed the upcoming fair dates and individual projects. All club members should be at the McDonald County Fair cook shack to help serve around noon on July 18. After the meeting the club adjourned and enjoyed root beer floats provided by the Garnett family.

**Katrina Eubanks**, Reporter

Send your 4-H Club News to:
Lynda DuMond at dumondl@missouri.edu
Or mail to: P.O. Box 336– Pineville, MO 64856

**COUNTY NEWS**

**Regional Achievement Day**
Regional Achievement Day will be held on August 3 at the Ozark Empire Fairground in the E-Plex. If you placed first you are invited bring your demonstration, speech or judging skills to this event. Each member is allowed to compete in one event (Public Speaking, Demonstration or Personal Development) and one judging class. To register, please call your Extension Office and tell us what you will be competing in. Newton 417-455-9500-McDonald 417-223-4775. We are encouraging car-pooling and need to know who will be driving to issue free fair entry tickets. Registrations are due by July 20!

**Farewell Party for Jeremy**
Come join us for a farewell party for our 4-h Youth Specialist, Jeremy Elliott–Engel. We will have a come and go party from 4:30-6:00 PM on Thursday, July 23 at the Newton County Extension Office in Neosho. Starting at 6:00, 4-H will have a barbeque. Please come, bring a side dish and drinks to share. Paper goods, hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided. Hope to see you there!
Kudos to Greg, Jacob and Eli!

Congratulations to Greg Vangunda, Jacob Boeglin from Newton County, and Eli Jones from McDonald County. Greg and Jacob are two of eight 4-H members in the state who serve on the Executive board to the Missouri State 4-H Council. Greg is the Vice President and Jacob is the State Council ‘Kids Helping Kids’ Coordinator. Eli Jones will serve as the Southwest Regional Representative to the State Council. What a great opportunity for these young men to learn even more about leadership. We are very proud of you guys and know you will represent us well!

Year End Paperwork

Another 4-H year is winding down. Now is the time to get serious about your year-end paperwork. If you have kept good records, this will help you very much at this point. Don't be discouraged, just sit down and get it done. For member ages 8-18, this paperwork qualifies you awards on a county, regional and state level. The Y2000, Y2100 or Y2200 can be found on-the-county webpage at http://extension.missouri.edu/newton/applicationsandforms.aspx
We suggest you fill this out on the computer and save it. Next year, all you have to do is open your saved file, and update your information. DO IT NOW!

REGIONAL NEWS

Ozark Empire Fair

The Ozark Empire Fair (OEF) will be held on July 30-August 8 in Springfield. For a calendar of events, rules and regulations go to:
http://www.ozarkempirefair.com
4-H staff will be hauling qualifying indoor exhibits to OEF on July 28. In Newton County we had 257 exhibits qualify! Whoa, that is a lot of exhibits! Thank you everyone for bringing your indoor exhibits to the fair and sharing with all of us the great things you are doing in your projects.

Save the Date:
This is an early heads up for our annual Dixie Stampede event. The event will be November 7, 2015 at the Dixie Stampede Show in Branson. Cost is $28.50 per person. The deadline is October 1 and will be strictly enforced. See the enclosed flyer for details.

STATE NEWS

Missouri State Fair

The 113th Annual Missouri State Fair will be held August 13-23 in Sedalia, Missouri. To register fair entries or to see what is on the calendar for the 2015 state fair go to: http://www.mostatefair.com.

Show Me 4-H Wares

The 8th Annual Show Me 4-H Wares sales booth is accepting applications for young entrepreneurs to sell their 4-H products and services at the Missouri State Fair on August 13, 14, 15 or 16. Any member age 11-18 is eligible to apply to market or sell original products or services. Register to be a youth exhibitor at the state fair. Apply on-line between May 1 and July 1, or until all booth slots are filled. Selected youth will be notified by July 15 and invited to participate. For more information go to http://4h.missourii.edu/events/fair/showmewares.htm.

State Fashion Revue

This event will be held on September 26, 2015 in Columbia and is for all members who placed first in their county contest. If you qualify, you can register for this event at https:\mo.4honline.com

State Public Speaking

If you competed in public speaking at county achievement day and placed first in your county, you are invited to compete at the state competition in Columbia on October 24, 2015. Public Service Announcements (PSA) has been discontinued at the state competition because of low participation. All other categories remain the same. You can register for this event at https:\mo.4honline.com

Sponsoring our Newsletter
If your business would like to sponsor our newsletter we will run a quarter page add for you in our monthly newsletter and send it to every 4-H household. Cost is $60 for the month or $150 for three months. This advertising is tax deductible, as well as, a great way to help support 4-H and Extension by paying for publication and mailing expenses.
Clover Kid Corner

Discovering Our World at Home

Visit your public library. In the children’s section, find a book about growing up in another country. Read the book with your clover Kid. Then go to the cookbook section and find a cookbook with recipes from the same county you just read about. Make sure your Clover kid is with you when you shop for the ingredients for your ethnic cuisine and give them a role in preparing the meal. Using a world map, or a globe, find the county is in our world.

Researching and investigating is a fascinating way to teach youngsters about our world, different foods, geography and other cultures.

(North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Shirley McNeill)