Members of the Winnebago County 4-H Leaders Association Board of Directors....

Thank you for your support in several discussions leading up to the listening and visioning session for the next Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development Educator. Below is a summary of the comments shared at the All County Meeting and February Board of Directors. I hope in my attempt to capture the information in more of a summary did not miss an important point you expressed.

At the Visioning session on March 24, 3-5 representatives of the Board will have the opportunity to share thoughts on what the needs of youth in Winnebago County are. The information below and information shared at the Listening Session on March 17 are a list of needs that youth do have in Winnebago County that 4-H is currently fulfilling and 4-H is uniquely designed to meet many, but not all, of the needs listed below.

Winnebago County 4-H All County Meeting – Future Opportunities

- Promotion
  - Continue partnerships with schools, including parochial schools to expand understanding of 4-H from is history to beyond traditional views of cows and cooking
  - Recognize the traditions of 4-H while informing public, partners, potential members diversity of opportunities

- Provide a welcoming environment for new families and volunteers – promote as a family organization
  - New family nights/newsletters/mentors
  - Publish an annual calendar

- Increase the number of project opportunities
  - Fun/Enrichment Days
  - Publish a list of resource leaders

- Involve alumni in 4-H
  - Resource/project leaders
  - Fund raising

- Leadership Development
  - Develop understanding of youth and adult partnerships
  - Increase number of youth and adult partnership
  - Encourage more youth (and adult) participation in leadership opportunities and recognition

- Important Focuses
o YOUTH are the center of our work – understand their unique needs and listen to them
o Build trust and show respect show for individual youth needs
o Relationships are fundamental in inspiring our youth to grow and succeed
o Opportunities are identified and pursued to meet local needs within the given structure of 4-H

Winnebago County 4-H Board of Directors – Unique Opportunities Offered through 4-H Community Club Program and Strengths of 4-H that may also be present in other youth organizations

- Opportunities to develop friendships in an inclusive environment that includes people across ages and generations, throughout the county and state; sometimes nationally and internationally
- Self determination of goals and development of confidence to succeed with adult guidance through project work and member of a 4-H club or group
- Variety of Project opportunities expand interest beyond what is offered by schools and by other youth organizations. Project focuses include agriculture and natural sciences; family and consumer education; leadership; Science, technology, engineering and math;
  o Exposure to wider variety of opportunities increases preparation for broader options of careers
- Opportunities to develop leaderships within environments including peers and adults from elementary age on
- Youth are in decision making roles that determine what happens within their 4-H club, their community and the county 4-H program
- Travel opportunities develop youth confidence to interact with individuals of different cultures and lifestyles
- 4-H members are engaged in serving and giving back to their community
- Youth develop increased confidence in new and familiar situations