



**PRESS RELEASE
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Wood County 4-H to Hosted Inaugural Hands to Larger Service Day on April 6

More than 600 Volunteers Completed Community Service Projects for Local Organizations

Bowling Green, OH – April 8, 2025 – When youth join a 4-H club, they learn and live the 4-H pledge, which includes: “I pledge my hands to larger service...for my community, my country, and my world.” On April 6, Wood County 4-H members, their families, and the general public fulfilled that commitment to service during the inaugural Wood County Hands to Larger Service Day at the Wood County Fairgrounds.

This first-of-its-kind community service event was hosted by Wood County 4-H and supported by the Wood County Clover Legacy Foundation and 4-H Committee. Volunteers completed hands-on projects benefiting eight local organizations, including:

- Built headboards and bed rails for 30 beds for [Let's Build](#)
- Packaged 10,000 meals for [Kids Coalition Against Hunger](#)
- Stuffed and sewed 255 pillows for [Hospice of Northwest Ohio](#)
- Created 136 origami animals, 33 Easter coloring sheets, 68 bunny crafts, and 80 pipe cleaner butterflies to send as “Senior Smiles” to the [Wood County Committee on Aging](#)
- Made 143 greeting cards for [Flag City Honor Flight](#)
- Assembled too many to count dog treats and toys for the [Wood County Humane Society and Wood County Dog Shelter](#)
- Planted and decorated numerous flowerpots for area *nursing homes and senior centers*

Inspiring Youth to Give Back

The concept for a county-wide service day was initiated by longtime 4-H club leader Karen Kotula, whose club, *Dowling Stitch, Stir, and Stock 4-H*, previously participated in a *Let's Build Beds* event. Inspired by the impact, she proposed expanding the initiative to include more Wood County 4-H clubs. With the support of a generous anonymous donation to the Wood County Clover Legacy Foundation, this vision became a reality.

“When Karen introduced the idea to the Wood County Clover Legacy Foundation, it was a perfect opportunity to highlight how 4-H youth give back to their communities through their clubs and service projects,” said Ashley Vetter, president of the Foundation. “This initiative showcases how 4-H extends far beyond agriculture. Through hands-on community and leadership projects, 4-H empowers young leaders to make a lasting impact.”

The anonymous donor, a lifelong 4-H member and Wood County 4-H alum, shared, “The 4-H Pledge calls us to use our heads for clearer thinking, our hearts for greater loyalty, our hands for larger service, and our health for better living. This donation reflects that commitment. Our family is honored to give back to an organization that continues to identify and meet community needs. We hope this support helps future generations experience the same growth, service, and leadership that 4-H has provided us.”

Get Involved

All community members were welcomed to participate in Wood County Hands to Larger Service Day. Whether for an hour or the entire afternoon, volunteers made a difference and experienced the impact of 4-H firsthand.

For more information, visit cloverlegacy.org/serviceday.

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About Wood County 4-H

[Wood County 4-H](#) is part of America's largest youth development organization that empowers nearly six million young people with skills to go beyond the expected. In Wood County, the program, which teaches youths skills and abilities to be resilient, adaptable and ready for work and life, is delivered through the Ohio State University Extension Service. 4-H members are 2x more likely to have the goal of being a leader, 3x more likely to participate in community service, and 2x more likely to report living life with intentionality and purpose. Wood County is proud of its commitment to the 4-H pledge and thankful for the supporters that make the best better.



Clover Legacy Foundation
& 4-H Committee