

## **4-H Summer of Service Meets with Success**

### **Issue:**

Service learning has been shown to have a positive impact on the academic skills of youth who participate as well as instilling a lasting benefit by teaching youth the importance of volunteering.

### **What Has Been Done:**

During 2002 Delaware 4-H engaged 34 at-risk youth in the 4-H Summer of Service Program, the purpose of which was to introduce youth in grades 6 and up to the idea of community service in a concentrated series of volunteer projects. Total number of youth engaged in service learning: 34 youths (were engaged in service learning. Partners included UAW /Chrysler-Daimler Region 8 Training Center, Food Bank of Delaware, Ronald McDonald House, Delaware State Parks, Delaware State Grange, Delaware State Fair, Read-Aloud Delaware, Delaware Cooperative Extension, MOT Senior Center, Newark Senior Center.

**Impact:** Upon completion of the six-week program, the teens had performed more than 1,100 hours of community service. From their journals it was evident that they learned to enjoy community service, to help others, and to see how such service could influence them later in life. Feedback from the organizations that provided community service opportunities has been very positive. In particular, the Delaware Food Bank commented on how helpful the participants were in helping run the summer food program. Important volunteer contributions included the renovation of a barn at White Clay Creek State Park and helping to prepare and serve food at the Grange Food Booth at the State Fair.

**Primary Impact Areas:** Extension

### **Funding Sources:**

Delaware Community Service Commission  
Delaware Cooperative Extension

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