

UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY
McLEAN COUNTY
PARTNER AGENCY: McLEAN COUNTY 4-H

In November 2013, 4 high school 4-H members were selected to attend the 4-H Issues Conference. While at the conference teens discussed issues that face students in today's world, and ways to make a difference. Issues Conference attendees also had to create a mock grant proposal that addressed an issue they felt was important to youth. Groups then had to present their proposals to a panel of individuals that determined whether or not they received funding and if so how much. Once teens returned to their home county, they were eligible to apply for one of four mini-grants that only conference attendees could apply for. Teens from the McLean County 4-H decided to create a grant proposal addressing obesity and lack of physical activity in our county. They created a 3 phase project that would take place at Myer Creek Park. Their proposal included installation of equipment needed for family friendly physical activity, such as a basketball court, sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, a 9-hole disc golf course and outdoor exercise equipment (which would end up being a \$50,000 project). Our 4-H Teen Club did receive the \$500 mini-grant, along with a \$1000 grant from OMHS, which will cover the cost of the basketball court, volleyball court and horse shoe pits. Once the 4-H members began to publicize their project proposal to community leaders, the support grew by leaps and bounds! These teens are now dedicated to leaving their mark on McLean County and doing their part to ensure that our county becomes more active, which all started through their involvement in 4-H and attending a 4-H conference. Since the conference in 2013, the park has grown with the addition of the basketball court, horseshoe pits, and the 9-hole disc golf course. The teens who attended the conference have also been able to start a garden club where they will be leaders for younger 4-Her's. This club will maintain the landscaping at the park and add community raised garden beds. Many families take advantage of these additions when holding reunions and other events at Myer Creek Park. 4-H has also implemented a Fitness Fun club that meets regularly at the park in the warmer months to help keep youth active. With a little hard work and dedication, the 4 individuals who attended Issues Conference made a long term impact that led to a healthier McLean County.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?

With your investment of \$100 **McLean County 4-H** can:

- Provide a 4-H Camp Scholarship
- Provide a 4-H Teen Conference Scholarship
- Provide a 4-H Team Challenge Camp Scholarship
- Provide a 4-H Issues Conference Scholarship
- Provide a 4-H Teen Summit Leadership Conference Scholarship
- Provide a 4-H Volunteer Education Program

