Honoring Clyde F. Jackson

On Oct. 19, 2015, Clyde F. Jackson was inducted posthumously into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. Jackson was a pioneer in every sense of the word. Jackson grew up in the 4-H program and often spoke of the importance his 4-H experience had in shaping his life. He was elected the first president of the Black Virginia 4-H Youth Program, serving from 1967 to 1968, and was one of seven African-American youth leaders to attend the first integrated State 4-H Congress. Jackson went on to attend the National 4-H Congress.

He served for more than 29 years as a 4-H agent in Fairfax and Prince William counties. He was president of the National Association of 4-H Agents and a member of the board of directors of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals. After retiring in 2008, he continued to follow his passion by establishing 4-H Clubs on military installations and working with the geographically dispersed military youth through programs and resources to help them deal with the deployment of a loved one. Jackson's extraordinary work was recognized with several awards, including the Meritorious Service Award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents for his leadership and work with at-risk youth.

Throughout his career, Jackson was a positive role model for youth and adults. His was extremely talented in making people feel at ease, finding common ground, and forming partnerships. He listened to each person and valued what each said. Jackson reminded us to remain flexible and to watch for opportunities to help people grow. He said more than once that if you try to plan everything, you'll miss some great opportunities that just happen to come by.

Jackson is remembered as a pioneer and as a champion for youth from all walks of life. He is also remembered for his gentle leadership style and his ever-present smile that warmed any room he entered.

Chair’s Update

Dear Friends,

4-H continues to be one of the most successful and positive youth development programs ever evaluated. You certainly don't have to look far to see the impact — Virginia is blanketed with outstanding 4-H agents, volunteers, and programs that make a difference.

The vision of the Virginia 4-H Foundation is to invest in 4-H to ensure that this important work continues in the future. Virginia needs what 4-H has to offer, and with your help we can expand our reach and increase enrollment.

One specific area where we are making progress is in helping counties and unit offices establish local endowments. Local county endowments put resources directly in the hands of the local 4-H agent, where they can be used as needed. Today, 33 localities benefit directly from local endowments, and several more are underway. We won't be satisfied until every locality has a local endowment. I know this is a reachable goal; we just have to start the conversation and get the creativity moving.

Establishing a local endowment requires an investment of at least $35,000, which can be raised over a five-year period. Some examples for funding include five people pledging $1,000 a year for five years, 250 people giving a one-time gift of $100 each, or a little of both pledges and gifts. In any of these cases, the endowment can be established. Some localities have chosen an individual to honor, and others have named the endowment for the locality. There are so many wonderful opportunities to consider, and the local offices can determine what works best for them.

Imagine a 4-H endowment in every locality. I know I do! And, I know for certain that this goal is within our reach. When we reach this goal, I'm sure we'll ask ourselves, “Why didn’t we do this sooner?” Come, join with us, and invest in 4-H now to create a lasting legacy. I welcome the opportunity to visit with you and learn more about your ideas on how we are going to ensure 4-H forever. I suspect you agree with me that “4-H forever” is a vision worth our investment.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mary Miller, Ph.D.
Chair, Virginia 4-H Foundation
Celebrating the Marcia B. Meador
4-H Memorial Endowment

To everyone who knew her, Marcia Meador was a warm, genuine, outgoing, and caring person who dedicated her life to teaching and serving others. For more than 30 years, she worked for Cooperative Extension in Maine, Florida, and Virginia, providing leadership for youth and adult programs. Meador loved people. She especially loved working with young people as they learned new skills and lessons that would extend to their adult lives. In Virginia, she was a 4-H agent in James City, New Kent, and Charles City counties for more than a dozen years. She valued the camping experience and served as director of the Jamestown 4-H Center for nine years.

Beyond devoting her life to her family and a busy career, she made time to serve others by volunteering as a founding member of the Chickahominy Ruritan Club and as a leader in the American Camp Association. By any measure, Meador was a rare and exceptional person.

In early 2014, a number of Meador’s family, friends, and colleagues began working on an endowment to honor her and benefit the 4-H programs in James City, New Kent, and Charles City counties. The Virginia 4-H Foundation is thrilled that the goal has been exceeded, and the Marcia B. Meador 4-H Memorial Fund is fully endowed with more than $26,480 in gifts and pledges. As with many endowments, gifts can still be given to grow the fund and increase its future impact.

Thank you to all who invested in the future of 4-H’ers in these three counties and who helped honor Marcia Meador’s legacy with this lasting resource.

To learn how to honor someone in your community with a local endowment, please contact the Virginia 4-H Foundation today.