

# **How Can You Help Support Youth in Your Community?**

*By: Tricia Heary 4-H Program Educator Allegany County*

You can positively influence the youth in your community in a variety of ways. 4-H is a positive way to reach youth. The program brings groups of youth together to experience different activities in animal rearing, natural resources, technology, crafts and home & careers.

We have many activities and programs taking place throughout the busy 4-H year! Public presentations, knowledge competitions, fundraising, fair projects, clothing revue, produced in New York (cooking program) and state fair. These are just a few of the yearly opportunities offered to 4-H youth.

Our Knowledge Competitions are in Dairy, Horse, Canine and Livestock. Youth study project materials at practice sessions and participate in a regional competition with opportunities to compete at state and even national events.

Most market animal projects start after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year and give the youth a chance to learn by doing for several weeks with adult supervision and 4-H staff guidance. 4-H youth assume the daily responsibility of ownership, caring for, grooming and training a steer, pig, goat, lamb, poultry or rabbit. They are also required to keep written records of the expenses associated with their animals. The Market Animal sale takes place in July at the Allegany Fair grounds.

4-H is always looking for adults to empower youth to reach their full potential. 4-H is a place where youth and adults learn to grow, and work together in a partnership. Our motto is “make the best better”.

Adult volunteers play an important role in the 4-H program. Volunteers coordinate local community clubs and help to plan and conduct local, regional, state and national 4-H events. The public can support 4-H members by ordering items from their fundraising events or buying market project animals at fair.

If you are interested in volunteering in Allegany County please contact Tricia Heary at our Belmont office at 585-268-7644 ext 16 or Bonnie Moore in Cattaraugus County at 716-699-2377 ext 120.