

OSU Extension News

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?” – Martin Luther King Jr.. Without volunteers and support of community members, the OSU Extension, Brown County 4-H Program would not be what it is; it takes those who are committed to doing for others for us to succeed. Annually, Brown County 4-H gives out two awards to recognize individuals and businesses who are strong supporters of the youth in our county. The Friend of 4-H is given to individuals or businesses who give back with their time and/or financially at the local, state or national level. The 4-H Alumni award is given to 4-H alumnus who continue to give back to the program. Nominations are accepted from the public and the awards are selected by the Brown County 4-H Advisory Committee. This year, the awards were announced at the 4-H Awards Ceremony on Thursday of the Fair. Two individuals were awarded the 4-H Alumni Award, Jamie Loudon and Gerlinde Shelton. Howsers One Stop Shop was recognized as the Friend of 4-H.

2020 4-H Alumni – Jamie Loudon

Jamie Loudon is a Brown County 4-H alumni who now has served as a volunteer for 22 years. He is the head advisor of the Georgetown Hooves & Halters 4-H Club, which is currently the largest club in the county. Jamie is the Georgetown High School Agricultural Sciences teacher and assists in-depth with the junior fair, including serving as president of the Junior Fair Sales Committee. Throughout the year, Jamie assists with multiple 4-H events and helps members with their projects. He is continually giving back with his time, knowledge and expertise to help every member in the county, not just within his own club.

2020 4-H Alumni – Gerlinde Shelton

Gerlinde grew up in 4-H and when she had her own children, became a volunteer for the Huntington Hotshots 4-H Club. She served from that point on until she passed away in January 2019. She was a great role model for all who she came in contact with, an inspiration for youth and other volunteers. She would constantly say “I am doing it for the kids” and always had a smile on her face and would bring light and laughter to a conversation. Her nomination wrapped it up well in saying “She was a fine lady and advisor and a friend to all.” The award was accepted on her behalf by her husband Gary and two daughters.

2020 Friend of 4-H – Howsers One Stop Shop

Howsers One Stop Shop is a family owned business ran by Barb and Darren Howser specializing in screen printing, embroidery, and custom awards. Barb and Darren both serve as 4-H Volunteers and are committed to giving back to the Brown County 4-H program through their time and business. Many 4-H clubs, junior fair departments, and individuals call on Howsers for t-shirts, awards, and donations. It is rare they will tell someone no, even if it is the last minute, because they are in it for the kids.

Congratulations to all the nominees and those selected for these awards. The Brown County 4-H program is strong today because of the dedication of individuals and businesses such as these honorees who give tirelessly and selflessly year after year.



The 4-H program is part of the Ohio State University Extension services. For more information on the 4-H program and how to get involved, contact the Brown County OSU Extension Office at 937-378-6716. Our office is temporarily closed due to COVID-19, but we are available by phone. You can also find more information on our website brown.osu.edu or follow Brown County 4-H on Facebook at facebook.com/brownco4h. A list of canceled and postponed events is listed on our website.